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THIS WEEK

DIVERSIONS



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FOOD



PERSONAL CHEFS
Experts can plan, cook meals for you
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Inside!

today's homes

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KEEPING CLOSE WATCH

Independent candidates Mary Marusek and Rosemary Palicki look over election results on Tuesday night at Palicki's Niles home. Palicki's race against incumbent Al Weel was within a few votes. PAGE 8. | Allison Williams-for Sun-Times Media

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Local News

Managing Editor: Matt Schmitz
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THIS WEEK: HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW. BYE TO BARBER | AREA: CHILD DIES ON INDOOR ROLLERCOASTER IN NORRIDGE | BUSINESS: EATERY SUED IN CHILD'S DEATH | ECONOMY: JOBLESS RATE DOWN

VILLAGE BOARD

After \$1.5M in cuts, budget all but balanced

By TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

As a result of department-by-department cuts, the general fund budget deficit for the village of Niles was reduced from \$1,625,000 to about \$175,000.

The goal of the village trustees was to have a balanced budget. Department heads made presentations on proposed budget cuts to achieve that goal at the village board's third budget workshop on March 31.

The proposed cut list that reflected a balanced budget included eliminating a \$230,000 landscaping project to beautify Touhy Avenue between Milwaukee and Harlem avenues. But trustees expressed their desire to keep the item in the budget, so it will remain.

The revised budget also includes a 2-percent raise for nonunion full-time and part-time employees, as opposed to a 3-percent raise.

Items less than \$1,000 and on the list to be eliminated totaled less than \$16,000 and were restored back to the budget Thursday evening. Trustee Louella Preston was concerned about eliminating several items from the budget, including about \$2,000 for a professional photographer for village affairs. She felt a professional photographer was important in order for the village to promote the fact it was recently named the "best place to raise kids" by Bloomberg Businessweek. That item was also restored to the budget.

"I'll find a way to save \$16,000," said Village Manager George Van Geem, who said he would make

cuts during the year.

The original cut list also included eliminating the transfer of \$149,000 from village funds to the Niles Family Fitness Center to pay for employee memberships.

"Is this fair?" questioned Trustee Andrew Przybylo of putting that burden on the fitness center. "I don't think it's fair."

After some discussion trustees voted to cut the amount the village gives to the fitness center for employee memberships to \$62,000 as opposed to taking it out completely.

The budget also includes about \$50,000 for a marketing program that includes banners stating that the village is the "best place to raise kids," according to Bloomberg. The village's dine-in program to support local restaurants will be incorporated into that budget.

Mayor Robert Callero applauded village staff for working hard to come close to a balanced budget. If sales taxes are higher than anticipated and other factors come into play, the village will may still reach a balanced budget.

At the previous budget workshop on March 22, Niles trustees nixed a proposed 7.5-percent water-rate increase and cut \$60,000 in village expenses for bus services.

If trustees had approved the proposed 7.5-percent water-rate increase, it would have created an average increase of about \$46 for the average homeowner and brought in about \$780,000 in revenue for the village. Trustees did

Budget, PAGE 7



Reporting for duty The Niles Police Department welcomed three new police officers on Friday. The officers include: Daniel Borkowski, 22, who grew up in Niles and is the son of Acting Niles Fire Chief Steve Borkowski; Timothy Naleway, 24, of Chicago, who is the son of a Chicago police lieutenant; and Edward Beauvais, 26, of Des Plaines, who most recently worked as code-enforcement officer for Maine Township. | Contributed photo

CHILDREN'S LEARNING WORLD MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Student fundraisers put themselves in shoes of Japan disaster victims

By NICKY MARIA PRIOVOLOS
Contributor

Niles elementary schoolchildren at Children's Learning World Montessori School held a week-long fundraiser to raise money for victims of the March 11 earthquake in Japan.

The students held daily bake sales in the school last week, from March 28 to Friday. Gift cards from local stores and a movie theater were also sold.

According to assistant teacher Terry Nuccio, the students came up with the idea for the fundraiser. When such disasters happen, the school makes it a point to speak to the students about what is going on.

During the discussion about the earthquake and tsunami, the children were asked how they would feel if they were in that situation. As a group, the elementary students immediately responded that they would want

food and water.

Thus, they came up with the idea of a bake sale to raise money so the children in Japan can get basic necessities.

Parents and other volunteers manned the bake sale from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The elementary classes each picked two days of the week to buy and submit goods to the fundraiser.

Nuccio, who is in charge of all fundraising activities at the school, said the goal was to make \$500. As of Saturday's tally, the students raised more than \$825, she said.

All of the goods sold at the bake sale were donated by parents, teachers and local businesses. More than 15 stores contributed food items.

Kappy's Restaurant and Produce World provided multiple fruit platters for the sale, which Nuccio said the children loved. Booby's, Pinocchio's Pizza Pub, Pizza Hut, Chaser's, The Works

and Himalayan Restaurant also contributed food to the bake sale.

The local Taco Bell, Wendy's, Great American Bagel, Costco, Nancy's Pizza and Maier's Bakery were also among the nearby stores to donate edible goods. The Dunkin' Donuts on Touhy Avenue contributed, as well.

Dominick's and two Jewel locations in Niles provided gift cards for the fundraiser, which the school used to purchase juice boxes and similar snacks available for purchase at the sale.

A 21-year-old woman named Darlene, who attended the school from the time she was 4-years-old through sixth grade, donated gift cards for her online store, tripleddecor.com.

The small school, at 8101 Golf Road, Niles, has about 100 students ranging from infants to sixth-graders. All of the students and teachers contributed to the

Japan, PAGE 7

NAME OF THE GAME

Des Plaines casino officially 'Rivers'

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

It's the "Des Plaines Casino" no more.

The area's new gaming haven, long nicknamed after its location on the southeast side of Des Plaines, now has an official name: Rivers Casino.

Midwest Gaming and Entertainment announced the name March 24. The casino is scheduled to open in the summer at River Road and Devon Avenue.

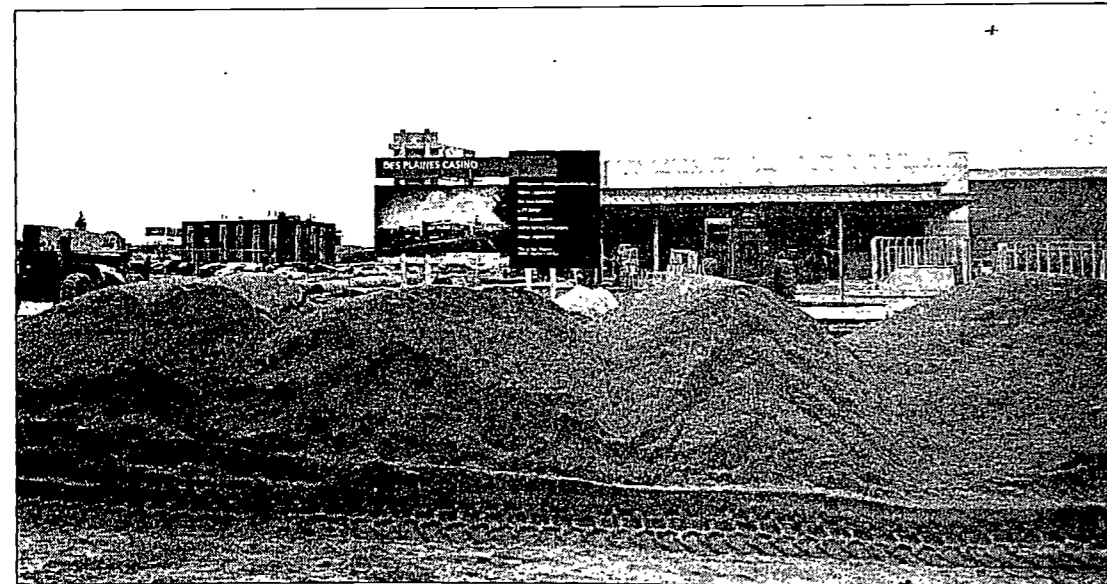
According to Midwest Gaming, the name for the casino represents its location near the Des Plaines River, as well as "green" elements incorporated in the construction. An affiliate company of Midwest Gaming also reportedly owns and operates Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh.

The \$445 million Rivers Casino is expected to generate millions of dollars in annual gambling-tax revenue for the state, city of Des Plaines and a number of lower income communities in the Chicago area. The facility will also feature 1,200 gambling positions, restaurants and bars, including Hugo's Frog Bar and Chop House, operated by the Gibson's Restaurant Group.

A job-information fair is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 8 at the Rosemont Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, in Rosemont. The casino is expected to create about 1,000 jobs, including management positions, dealers and restaurant personnel. No paper applications or resumes will be accepted and job seekers are asked to apply online at www.riverscasino.net.



The Des Plaines Casino near Park Ridge is now named Rivers Casino. Construction is still going on. The casino will be located on the corner of River Road and Devon Avenue. | Tamara Bell-SunTimes Media



The sign at the Des Plaines Casino will be changing to Rivers Casino to reflect the unfinished business' new name. | Tamara Bell-SunTimes Media

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

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LAST WEEK

TOP WEB STORIES

1. Meet your library trustee candidates

On April 5 voters were slated to choose from three candidates to fill two six-year trustee terms in the Niles Public Library District.

2. Trustee hopefuls discuss goals at candidates forum

Candidates for the Niles Village Board of Trustees answered various questions during a candidates forum March 24 at Culver School in Niles.

3. Candidate Bio: Ray Czarnik

Ray Czarnik was elected to the Niles park board in 2003.

4. District 71 School board candidate profiles

Four candidates, including two incumbents and two challengers, were vying for three four-year terms in school-board seats in Niles Elementary School District 71.

5. District 71 school board hopefuls greet voters at event

Four candidates vying for three open seats on the board of Niles Elementary School District 71 attended a "meet the candidates" event hosted by Culver School's PTA on March 14.

Read these and other articles at pioneerlocal.com/niles

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BUSINESS

Final cut

Owner of half-century-old barbershop to hang up his shears

By NATALIE HAYES
Contributor

A fixture in the community for more than half a century, Jack's Barber Shop in Niles has sat on the corner of West Oakton Street and Prospect Avenue.

Not much about the shop, which is marked by a modest blue awning and a striped barber pole, has changed since father-and-son duo Jack and Ed Luppino opened it in 1961 after moving to Niles from Chicago.

Walking into the shop is like entering into a place from a time long ago. The year 1961 is marked on the same three original barber chairs that have sat in the same spot since the shop opened, along with a faded putting green and worn-in chairs at the back of the shop.

The only aspect of the shop that seems to have changed during the last 50 years is the price of a haircut. In 1961 it was just \$1.50 for a haircut at Jack's, and now it costs \$15.

After Jack Luppino died more than 20 years ago, Ed has run a one-man barber shop. But Ed is more than just your neighborhood barber. Regardless of whether they need a haircut, men come by all day long to hang out, chat with Ed and just shoot the breeze.

"On any day, we always have three to four guys hanging out," Ed explained as he worked on giving long-time neighbor and customer Jim Hennelly a fresh buzz cut.

Another friend and customer, Jerry, who said he preferred not to give his last name, lounged at the back of the shop and occasionally chimed in while Ed finished the haircut.

Ed's daughter, Tina Reedy,

described her dad as more of a therapist than a barber.

"I know an awful lot about people, but I can't tell you anything — it's confidential," Ed said with a playful smile. "People confide their trust in me, but it's not for me to talk about."

After spending 41 hours a week for the past 53 years cutting the hair of local gentlemen, Ed has decided to take a well-deserved retirement, and will close Jack's Barber Shop on April 30.

Despite the shop's old-school charm and dedicated clientele, vintage-style barber shops across the United States are disappearing quickly as they're replaced by modern, upscale salons. Ed, who followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a career as a barber following high school, acknowledges the reality that his lifelong profession is quickly becoming obsolete.

"These shops are a dying breed," Ed said. "There are no young guys learning this trade anymore."

Despite the barber's declining popularity during the past few decades, Jack's Barber Shop has maintained a solid base of clientele, many of them loyal customers. Ed has cut the hair of many generations, from grandfathers to grandsons. Maybe it's Ed's appeal — or the charm of the shop — that keeps his loyal customers coming back.

The shop looks sharply identical to the way it has always looked, with the exception of wood paneling on the walls that was added shortly after the shop opened. Ed also still uses the same 1950s-style barber tools that he was trained with so long ago.

"Barbers like me, the old-fashioned guys ... well, the innovations of today, they

don't apply to me," Ed said as he finished Jim's haircut.

Jack's Barber Shop has made a lot of memories during the past 50 years. One of the most memorable moments for the local community was in spring 2008, when Ed stayed in the shop late one night to give buzz cuts to more than 40 young students at Eugene Field Elementary School. Their classmate, who had been diagnosed with leukemia, had lost his hair, and his classmates decided to cut theirs off to show their support for him.

"He really enjoyed that night," Tina said. "To be able to help out like that was great for my dad — he must have given 40-50 haircuts for free."

After he retires next month, Ed is looking forward to spending time with Tina and her family, who live across the street from the same house he has lived in since 1968. He has one other son, Frank, who owns a local company, Luppino Plumbing and Sewer Co. in Niles.

Though it is clear Ed will be missed among his many clients and friends who see Jack's Barber Shop almost as a second home, Ed isn't hesitating about his decision to retire.

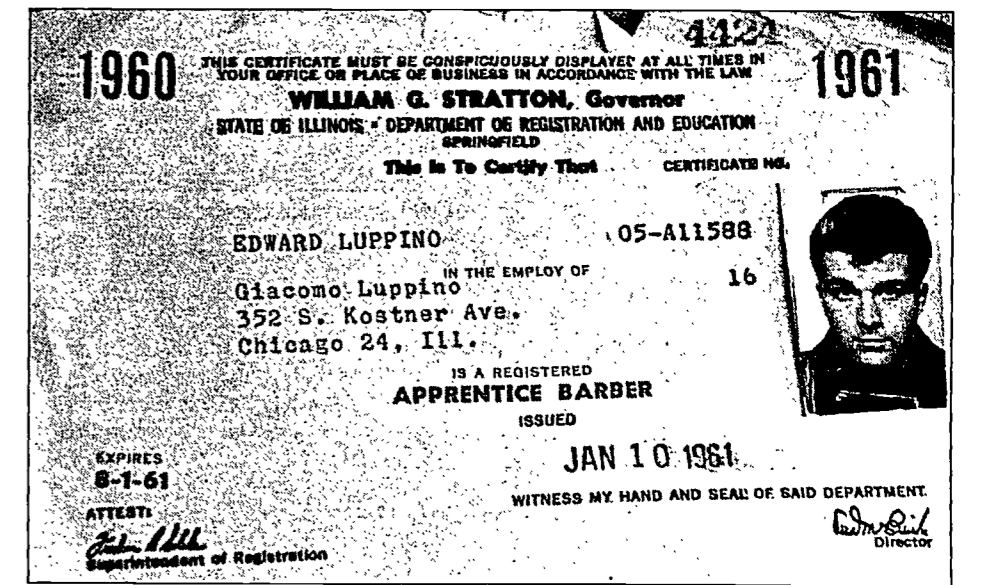
"After 53 years of being on my feet cutting hair, I deserve a little time off," he said. "What I will miss though are the people — that is my favorite part of what I do. This is a people job; it really is."

As Jim climbed down off the barber chair, he thought about what he was going to do next time he needed a haircut.

"I think I'll get my sideburns cut off and grow out a ponytail like Willie Nelson," Jim said.



Ed Luppino, owner of Jack's Barber Shop, is closing after being in business a half-century. Luppino opened the store with his father in 1961. He cuts customer Jim Hennelly's hair. The shop will be closing at the end of April. | Tamara Bell-SunTimes Media



Ed Luppino, owner of Jack's Barber Shop is closing after being in business for a half-century. Luppino opened the store with his father in 1961. This is Ed's license from 1960. The shop will be closing at the end of April. | Tamara Bell-SunTimes Media

NORRIDGE

Boy, 3, dies in fall from roller coaster at entertainment center

By Mary Houlihan, Rosemary Sobol, Sandra Guy and Allison Horton

It was just a Saturday night out with the kids when a south suburban family trekked from their home in Dolton to Go Bananas, an indoor family entertainment center in northwest suburban Norridge.

The center's small roller coaster is a popular ride,

and it caught the eye of the three-year-old Dansby twins.

Then the unthinkable happened.

While on the ride, about 7 p.m., Jayson Dansby somehow freed himself from the safety bar and became wedged between two of the cars, according to Norridge police chief James Jobe. Jayson then fell about 3 or

4 feet from the moving roller coaster.

"For some reason, he crawled out from underneath the safety bar, and he fell and died from head injuries," the chief said.

On Sunday, grief circled the Dansbys' small brick home in Dolton as family and friends arrived.

"This was a precious child ... a fun child full of spirit and

joy," said the boy's great uncle, the Rev. Carl Jones, of Jesus Saves Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, who spoke on behalf of the grieving family. "Everything has a time and reason, and the family is dealing with this loss now."

An autopsy Sunday determined Jayson died of multiple injuries, according to the medical examiner's office. His death was ruled an accident.

The entertainment center, at 4516 N. Harlem, was "packed" with weekend patrons Saturday evening. The boys were riding the "very small" Python Pit roller coaster, Jobe said.

Go Bananas owner Jerrold Marks called the death "a very sad tragedy."

"My heart goes out to the family," he said Sunday. "I can't imagine what they are going through."

The ride is in an area that is "walled-off" from the rest of the business and the building is divided into several sections. The highest off the ground the roller coaster goes is about 8 feet.

"It's dark but it's not pitch dark," said Jobe. "Part of the ride goes behind another wall and that's where he fell."

All rides at Go Bananas are for children, he said. The business also has skee ball, bumper cars and video games.

Marks said he was not there Saturday night when the incident occurred but was called. He said he has owned the business for six years, and does not own any other similar establishments.

"We are going to cooperate 100-percent through the investigation," Marks said.

An inspector from the Illinois Department of Labor was sent to Go Bananas on Saturday night and will remain until all circumstances are reviewed, a solution found or "substantial evidence" collected as to what happened, spokeswoman Anjali Julka said.

The inspector will determine whether the roller-coaster ride met safety and manufacturer requirements, she said. Go Bananas will remain closed during the in-

vestigation.

"The inspector is working with (Go Bananas) owner and operator to see whether there was a mechanical error or operator error involving the ride itself," Julka said.

Ronald Amodeo, co-owner of Amlin TV Sales and Service in Norridge, said he held his son, Christopher, while they rode the Python Pit roller coaster for the first time three months ago. Christopher turned 4 on Friday.

"The ride makes constantly jerky turns," Amodeo said. "I braced Christopher's neck and head. I vowed not to take him back on the ride until he was older."

Lisa Winkates, a neighborhood resident who was planning to take her 3- and 5-year-old nephews from Indianapolis to Go Bananas when they visit in the future, set a stuffed panda bear at the entry door.

"It is very sad," she said. "It could happen anywhere. It makes me appreciate my nephews even more."

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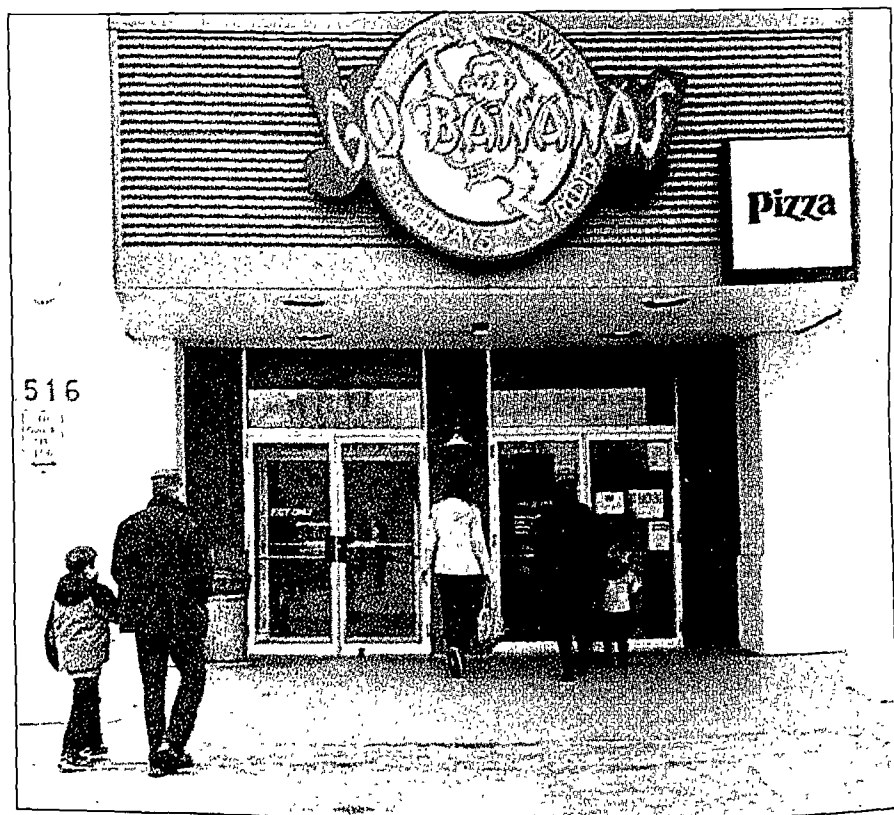
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On Sunday morning parents and children arrived at children's indoor amusement park Go Bananas only to find the doors closed and a sign from the village of Norridge. | Allen Kaleta-For Sun-Times Media

CHINESE INN, 7505 N. MILWAUKEE AVE.

Lawsuit alleges allergic reaction to restaurant's food caused girl's death

By TRACY GRUEN Contributor

A lawsuit against Chinese Inn restaurant, at 7505 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, has been filed by the family of a 13-year-old girl who died from an allergic reaction after eating food from the restaurant.

Katelyn Carlson went into anaphylactic shock after eating food at a class party the past December at Edison Regional Gifted Center.

Carlson's teacher, Jack Matsumoto, told Chinese Inn to make sure there were no peanuts or peanut products in the food they or-

dered for their school party, according to the lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, on Dec. 17, Chinese Inn "vicariously, through its agent, servant and employee informed Mr. Matsumoto that it would provide food for the class that was free from peanuts and all peanut-related products, including but not limited to peanut oils, peanut derivatives and peanut flavorings."

"The Cook County Medical Examiner and the University of Nebraska tested the food products and found there were significant amounts of peanut product," said Gil Ross, the Carl-

son family's attorney.

The family is suing the restaurant for three counts: wrongful death, survival and family expense with a total of more than \$50,000. Ross said the exact amount of the lawsuit can not be disclosed at this time.

"This was a beautiful, talented and spontaneous girl," Ross said. "This is truly a terrible tragedy."

Calls to the owner of the Chinese Inn, Xiang Zhong Mei, were not returned on March 24 and March 25.

"I have no doubt that they will turn this over to their attorney very shortly," Ross said of the restaurant.

Budget

Continued from PAGE 3

not want to burden residents with rate increases due to the state of the economy.

"The fund balances were built for a rainy day and I believe it's here," said Trustee Joseph LoVerde.

The board also directed staff to cut \$60,000 from what the village pays for the Niles bus system. The village has to remove \$166,666 from the expenses in order to save the village \$60,000, because Pace pays for 64 percent of it.

Staff will consider ways

to decrease the bus operation costs, such as decreasing routes on the weekend from eight to three routes, making route adjustments and personnel changes. Several months ago staff recommended the possibility of eliminating routes with low ridership to save money.

Pryzbylo said that he remembers in the past community members had come before the village board to state that they would rather pay to ride the bus than see services being cut.

"We just took away (more than) \$150,000 worth of services, but we're not willing to charge \$1 based on testimony," Pryzbylo commented.

The fiscal year 2012 budget will also include a pension contribution of the statutory minimum plus \$50,000, which would equal \$1,912,484 in the fire pension and \$2,193,600 in the police pension contribution.

Callero said that within five years his goal is to be at least 85-percent funded in both pensions.

The budget also includes \$20,000 for a desk audit of each department that will be run by the village manager in order to examine the efficiency of village employees.

A public hearing for residents to comment on the proposed budget will take place in May.

Japan

Continued from PAGE 3

bake sale's success.

The students in Dayani Pieri's elementary class participated in making sandwiches from beef and bread

donated by a local restaurant. They formed an assembly line and each child was assigned a specific task. One student added sauce to the bread, and then it would get passed to the next student, who would put in the beef, and so on. It was a lot of fun for the kids, Nuccio

said.

Individual classes took turns visiting the bake sale and purchasing fruit, baked goods, sandwiches, juice boxes and other goodies. During lunch and snack time students were also permitted to buy snacks from the fundraiser.

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VILLAGE BOARD

Challenger Palicki snatches seat from incumbent slate

Seats retained
by Hanusiak,
Hynes, LoVerde

By TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Incumbents Joseph LoVerde and Chris Hanusiak, and independent Rosemary Palicki have won four-year seats on the village board, according to the unofficial results from Tuesday's election.

Incumbent Jim Hynes won the two-year seat over independent Mary Marusek. Palicki beat out incumbent Alan Weel.

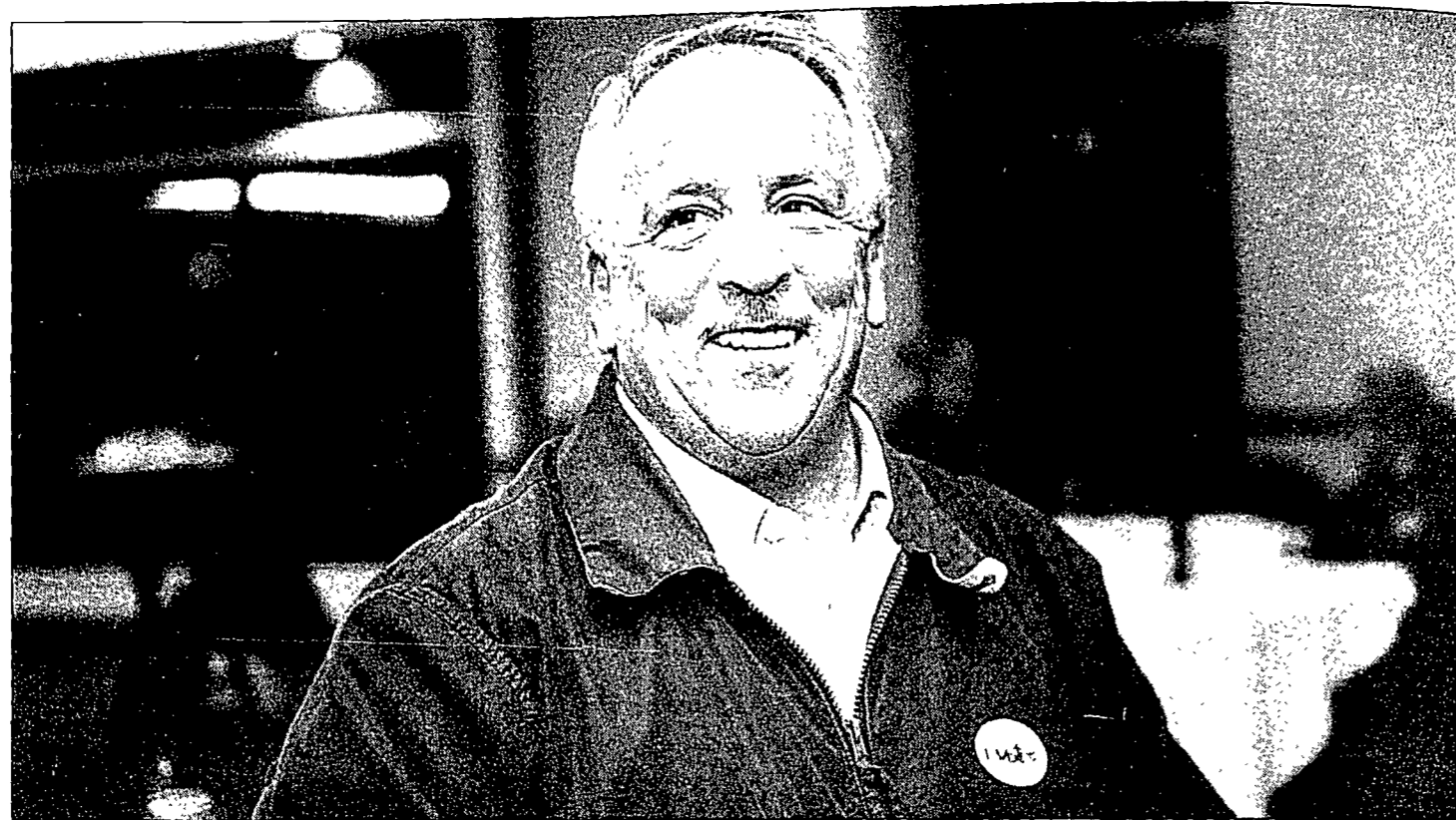
"I'm certainly honored and very proud the citizens elected me again to serve for four more years," LoVerde said. "I'm sure our slate is going to continue with the issues of transparency and pensions. We're committed to continue that."

"I'm thrilled," said Palicki, who commended Weel for his work on the board. "I think both Mary and I really made a good, strong showing. I think it shows people are open to an independent candidate."

"I hope it will encourage more people to get involved in government in whatever way they can."

Hanusiak said: "It's been a very exciting race. It was exciting because we ran as a team."

Hynes said he had expected a close race.



Village board incumbent Joe LeVerde talks with friends while waiting for election results on Tuesday night at the Howard Leisure Center. | Allison Williams-For Sun-Times Media

"It's nice to see people run in elections and not be negative," he said. "Everybody talked about issues in Niles that people care about."

LoVerde was elected to the village board in 2007. He said he aims to protect, support and enforce the newly adopted Ethics Code. He is also chairman of the stormwater committee and has been the executive director of the Niles Park District for 14

years.

Hanusiak was sworn in as a village trustee at the start of 2010. He is committed to making Niles an even better place to live and raise kids. He feels budgeting should be the village's major priority and he feels the board has been making major progress in the areas of transparency, balancing the budget and ethics.

Palicki has been an active

resident who has attended the village board meetings for the past five years and felt there should be more diversity on the board. Through being a high school administrator, she learned the importance of being a good listener in order to collect the facts and make decisions that are in the best interest of the community.

Hynes was appointed as a village trustee in 2009. He served

more than 12 years as a Niles Park District commissioner, including four years as president. He has 35 years of experience being an attorney and indicated he is not afraid of making a decision that is necessary, though it may not be popular.

Vote totals: LoVerde, 1,325; Hanusiak, 1,263; Palicki, 1,005 and Weel, 988.

Hynes, 920; Marusek, 840.

DISTRICT 64

Tight race ends in defeat for six-year incumbent

Borrelli, Heyde,
Collins and
Zimmerman for
school board

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

It was a close race Tuesday night between a six-year mem-

ber of the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education and the Park Ridge Public Library trustee hoping to unseat her.

In the end, with all precincts reporting early Wednesday morning, Anthony Borrelli had claimed incumbent Genie Taddeo's seat on the board. According to unofficial vote totals, Borrelli received 19.5 percent of the vote to Taddeo's 18.6 percent.

Incumbent John Heyde and newcomer Dan Collins, both with 23 percent of the vote, were the projected winners of two other four-year terms on the board, according to the unofficial vote totals.

Scott Zimmerman, appointed to the board in August 2010, was the winner of a two-year term on the board with 60.3 percent of the vote over challenger Kristie Bavaro's 39.7 percent, the unofficial totals

showed.

The new board members will be sworn into office on May 2. One of the first duties of the reorganized board will be to review a draft of District 64's proposed 2011-12 budget on May 9.

Unlike neighboring East Maine School District 63 and countless others in the Chicago area, District 64 is reported to be on relatively solid financial footing, thanks to a referendum approved by voters in

2007. Collins, Heyde and Zimmerman have said they will honor a promise made during the last referendum campaign to avoid going back to the voters for at least 10 years. Borrelli has stated that without long-range financial planning District 64 will need to seek out revenue, but he does not anticipate a referendum will pass in the future and believes the district needs to operate with that presumption in mind.

PARK DISTRICT

Czarnik, Heinen, O'Donovan take park board seats

By TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Incumbents Ray Czarnik and Elaine Heinen were re-elected to serve two, four-year terms on the Niles Park District Board, along with new candidate Dennis O'Donovan who was elect-

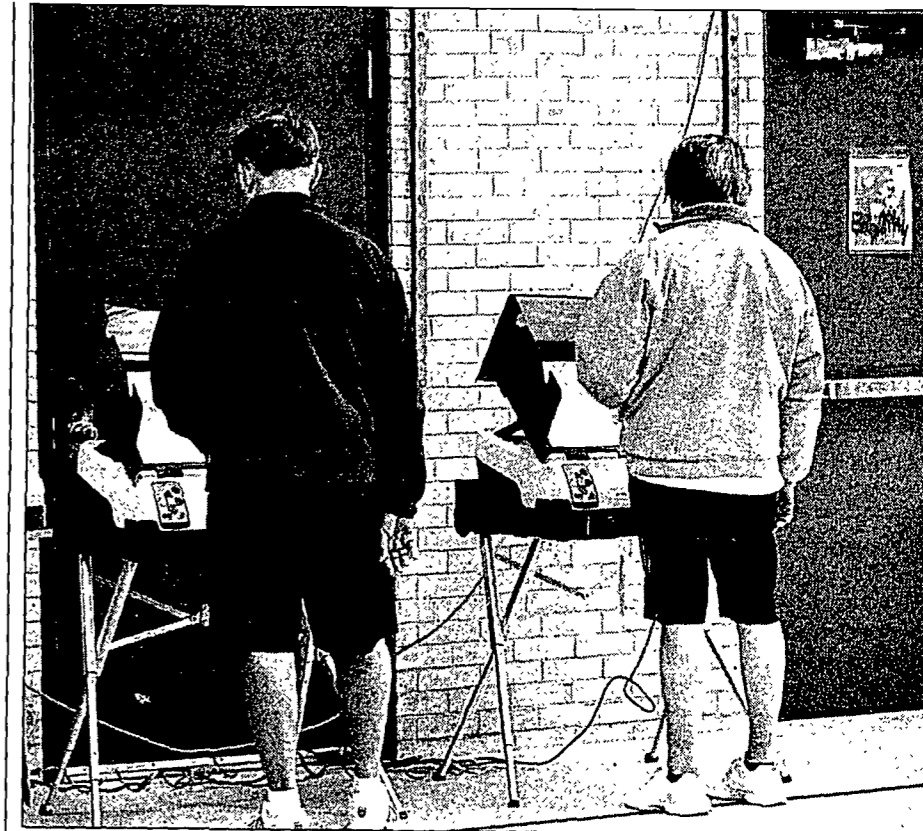
ed to a two-year term.

According to the unofficial results on election night, Czarnik took first place with 39.9 percent of the vote and Heinen had 36.4 percent of the vote. Jeff Sok was defeated with 23.6 percent of the vote.

O'Donovan had 51.4 per-

cent of the vote over challenger Joseph Romano, according to the unofficial results. All precincts were reporting.

"I think people obviously like the way the park district is run," said Czarnik. "We're straight-forward and tell them what it's all about."



Nakanishi, Matyas win library seats

Incumbent Barbara Nakanishi and new candidate Danette Matyas won the two seats on the Niles

LIBRARY BOARD

Public Library board of trustees Tuesday night. According to unofficial vote totals, Nakanishi received 38.1 percent of the vote and Matyas had 31.4

percent of the vote.

Douglas Bressler came in a close third with 1,016 votes or 30.9 percent.

Both trustees will serve a six-year term.

DISTRICT 207

Incumbents sweep school board race

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Voters backed three incumbents for re-election to the Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education on Tuesday night.

With 122 of 123 precincts reporting, Donna Pellar-Ryden, Joann Braam and Sean Sullivan were the projected winners over newcomer Eric Poders and former board member Marijo Bustos, unofficial vote totals showed.

Pellar-Ryden, of Park Ridge, has served on the school board since 1995. Braam, a Des Plaines resi-

dent, was elected in 2003, while Sullivan, of Park Ridge, will begin his second term. The elected members will take the oath of office May 2.

The incumbents weathered a storm of controversy last year when the board voted to cut more than 130 teaching and staff positions due to financial troubles. Last month the board voted to lay off 24 more teachers, citing a projected decrease in enrollment.

One issue that could come before the school board shortly after the board's May 2 reorganization is the future of class rank in the district. Staff is currently

studying whether to eliminate the ranking of students based on their grade-point averages and a tentative proposal to do away with the system exists.

The district's finances will also likely continue to be an issue. During the race, all three incumbents said they would not support a referendum to raise property taxes.

District 207 covers all of Park Ridge and unincorporated Maine Township, large sections of Des Plaines and Niles, and portions of Glenview, Morton Grove, Harwood Heights, Norridge and Norwood Park Township.



Poll position

Martin and Barbara Johanson consider their choices at the electronic voting booths at Field School on Tuesday. | Jon Langham-for Sun-Times Media

Voter John Pembroke ponders his choices Tuesday at Field School in Park Ridge's 1st Ward. | Jon Langham-for Sun-Times Media

DISTRICT 71

Mahoney, Nielsen, Grammas take school board seats

Incumbent James Mahoney and newcomers Tina Nielsen and Jim Grammas were elected to serve on the Niles Elementary School District 71 Board of Education, according to the unofficial results of Tuesday's

election.

Nielsen took the lead with 27.29 percent of the vote, or 391 votes; followed by Grammas with 24.98 percent of the vote, or 358 votes; and Mahoney with 24.49 percent of the vote, or 351 total votes.

Incumbent Paul Heck,

who was elected to the school board in 2007, came in fourth with 333 votes.

Niles Elementary School District 71 is a one-school district. Culver School is kindergarten to eighth grade and serves more than 550 students.

— By Tracy Gruen

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Decline in unemployment continues in most suburbs

Workforce is smaller than in 2010 despite improvement

By LYNNE STIEFEL
lstiefel@pioneerlocal.com

Unemployment rates continued to decline for suburbs covered by Pioneer Press, mirroring positive data in Illinois' metropolitan areas reported last week by the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

The February unemployment rate fell in every county in Illinois for an unprecedented third consecutive month, according to the department.

Area unemployment statistics

Unemployment was down or stayed even in February from a month earlier among residents of all but one of these Chicago-area suburbs served by Pioneer Press, all with a population of at least 25,000. The unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

| Community | Labor force (as of Feb.) | Feb. 2011 | Jan. 2011 | Feb. 2010 | Monthly change | Yearly change |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Buffalo Grove | 22,955 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 8.8 | 0.0 | -2.0 |
| Elmwood Park | 12,742 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 11.1 | -1.0 | -3.1 |
| Evanston | 41,923 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 7.9 | -0.4 | -1.4 |
| Glenview | 23,425 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 7.7 | -0.3 | -2.2 |
| Highland Park | 15,317 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 7.6 | 0.0 | -1.5 |
| Morton Grove | 11,405 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 8.7 | -0.3 | -2.1 |
| Mundelein | 17,536 | 11.4 | 10.9 | 13.7 | 0.5 | -2.3 |
| Niles | 13,686 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 9.6 | -0.1 | -2.6 |
| Northbrook | 16,669 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 7.2 | -0.1 | -1.6 |
| Oak Park | 31,441 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 7.5 | -0.4 | -1.8 |
| Park Ridge | 18,708 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 8.0 | -0.1 | -1.6 |
| Skokie | 33,085 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 8.6 | -0.4 | -1.9 |
| Wilmette | 12,309 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 6.7 | -0.2 | -1.5 |

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security

Pioneer Press

"The record-setting declines in the unemployment rate shares the story of a

growing Illinois economy as much as it reflects the breadth and depth of the

National Recession," IDEs Director Maureen O'Donnell stated. "Even though the employment rate could tick up in the coming months as the growing economy encourages others to re-energize their job search, the trend shows our outlook is improving and Illinois is moving in the right direction."

The unemployment rate for Pioneer Press communities rose in February from a month earlier only in Mundelein — by 0.5 percent. At 11.4 percent, Mundelein had the 27th highest rate out of 137 municipalities tracked.

At 5.2 percent, Wilmette's unemployment rate was the lowest among Illinois communities in the IDEs data, followed by Glenview at 5.5 percent; Northbrook at 5.6

percent; Carbondale and Oak Park at 5.7 percent and Wheaton at 5.8 percent.

The non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates do not take into account seasonal fluctuations in the work force and hiring patterns. So IDEs compares the 2011 month's data to the same month of the previous year.

By that measure, the 13 north and west suburbs served by Pioneer Press all saw continued improvement in the number of residents employed, with jobless rates increasing between 1.4 percent and 2.6 percent from February 2010 to February 2011.

But in all but two of the towns — Evanston and Wilmette — the size of the workforce in February 2011 was lower than a year ear-

lier — by 222 residents in Buffalo Grove, by 198 residents in Glenview, by 88 residents in Highland Park, by 83 residents in Morton Grove, by 177 residents in Niles, by 22 residents in Northbrook, by 96 residents in Oak Park, by 82 residents in Park Ridge and by 145 residents in Skokie.

The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work. A person not collecting benefits is reflected in the rate if they continue to look for work.

Statewide, the February not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.4 percent, down from the January 2010 peak of 12.1 percent. Nationally, the rate was 9.5 percent in February, down from the January 2010 peak of 10.6 percent.

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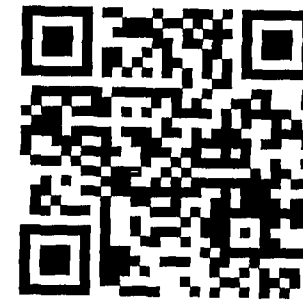
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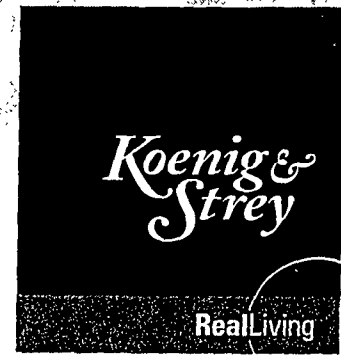
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DES PLAINES

10039 Linda Lane Apt 2n, Federal National Mortgage Assn to Abdur Rahman Safia Khatun, \$26,000, March 3
10059 Linda Lane Apt 2n, Federal National Mortgage Assn to Robert Redlinski Bozena Redlinska, \$27,500, March 3
10118 Holly Lane Apt 1s, Us Bank Na to Leonard Thorne Diane Thorne, \$29,000, March 8
1348 Brown St. Apt 10, Kevin Shepherd to Stephanie M Bay, \$33,000, March 3
1389 Perry St. Apt 502, Frew Trust to Wieslaw Szymulski Krystyna Szymulski, \$150,000, March 4
1623 Ashland Ave. Apt 3e, North Star Trust Co Trustee to Tadeusz Laska Leokadia Laska, \$71,000, March 3
170 E Northwest Highway Unit 1, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Ioan Florea, \$65,000, March 3
2032 Westview Drive, Antoinette Braun to Zenon Heldak Irene Heldak, \$200,000, March 3
2166 Douglas Ave., Mathews Abraham to Jihan Khoury,

\$450,000, March 3
2269 S Wolf Road, Bank Of America Na to Norma A Thompson, \$81,500, March 3
524 Crestwood Drive, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Ketsia Laquerre, \$155,000, March 3
8884 Steven Drive Apt 2d, Fannie Mae to Elzbieta A Michalczyk, \$52,500, March 3
8894 Knight Ave. Unit G415, Us Bank Na Trustee to Kristen Szpinalski, \$45,000, March 3
9396 Landings Lane Unit 203, Fannie Mae to John Koroyanis, \$61,000, March 3
9437 Bay Colony Drive Apt 3s, Federal National Mortgage Assn to Ewa Piiwowska; \$70,000, March 4

DUNNING

3251 N Pacific Ave., Brindis Trust to Edward Stega, \$166,000, March 8
3535 N Harlem Ave. Apt 403, Pasqua Trust to Jose Paulo Mendoza Garcia, \$155,000, March 4
3804 N Newcastle Ave., Geralfi Trust to Lon Christian Cogley, \$270,000, March 3
3954 N Oriole Ave. Apt 304, Jan Harezga to Michael D Voegeli Barbara Voegeli, \$165,000, March 3
7417 W Belmont Ave., M & T Bank to Barbara Rudzki Daniel Rudzki, \$120,000, March 3

EVANSTON

1501 Dewey Ave., Mark D Crantz to Rachel J Webster, \$358,000, March 8
2720 Central St. Apt 4c, Irwin L Coskey to Hyung Jung Ahn Andrea Ekyung Ahn, \$365,000, March 3
870 Forest Ave. Unit C, Meeta Kratz to Georges P Roumain, \$288,000, March 8
9200 E Prairie Road Apt 204, Mark R Gould to Yvonne Smith, \$215,500, March 3

FOREST GLEN

6315 W Estes Ave., Kiro Serovski to Alexander E Shlepakov, \$430,000, March 3
6320 N Kolmar Ave., Kaiser Trust to George Paleologos Cindy S Stuyvesant, \$419,000, March 4

FRANKLIN PARK

3113 Sarah St., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Patricia Montes, \$130,000, March 3
3436 Emerson St., Theodore A Weber to George E Judge Jr Lori A Judge, \$155,000, March 3

GLENVIEW

1421 Evergreen Terrace, Stephen J Redden to John V Legittino Tonja Gies, \$1,035,000, March 3

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

MORTON GROVE

6112 Washington Court, Fannie Mae to Elke Purze, \$230,000, March 3
1806 Westleigh Drive, Karen E Weil to Richard Tekip Jennifer Stitzell, \$517,000, March 8
1808 Potter Road, Mb816 Llc to Aqeel Virani Salimah Virani, \$385,000, March 8
1955 Tanglewood Drive, Mikhail Zarkhin to Kahyun Kim, \$200,000, March 3
2757 Porter Court, Charlotte R Lewis to Maria Pappas George Roumeliotis, \$800,000, March 8
3814 Glenview Road, Lasalle 115 Holdings Llc to Helen S Choi, \$385,000, March 8
3838 Glenview Road, Gloria A Przybylski Estate to Mariam M Moshe, \$195,000, March 3
710 Waukegan Road Apt 301, Fifth Third Bank Trustee to Natalia Popova, \$170,000, March 3

INVERNESS

1210 Barclay Circle, Jeannette M Selligren to Rajeev Chandrasekharan Jayashree Ramachandran, \$670,000, March 8

IRVING PARK

4417 W Leland Ave., Jena Roberts to Noel Desierto Kelly Mullen Desierto, \$350,000, March 3

JEFFERSON PARK

5427 N Parkside Ave., Noferi Trust to Erick A Duran, \$300,000, March 3
5454 W Gettysburg St., Thomas A Rogoza to Thomas Larsen Bridget Larsen, \$128,000, March 3

KENILWORTH

139 Abingdon Ave., Blaine A Crissman to Anthony Brewer Carla Brewer, \$1,600,000, March 3

LINCOLNWOOD

6815 N Tripp Ave., Jadrick Trust to Zejnepa Perezic, \$280,000, March 4
6943 N Kolmar Ave., John Cold- ea to Flavius Schiopu, \$385,000, March 4

MAYWOOD

1200 S 2nd Ave., Bertha Macias to Erick N Carranza Erika C Carranza, \$79,000, March 8
124 S 11th Ave., Fannie Mae to Juan Franco, \$34,500, March 3
22 S 18th Ave., Federal National Mortgage Assn to Scott Thompson, \$32,500, March 4
36 S 19th Ave. Apt 3e, Aurora Loan Services Inc to Marlin M Kunkel Elliott T Kunkel, \$22,500, March 4
716 S 7th Ave., Us Bank Na Trustee to Greg Batelli, \$35,000, March 4

MOUNT PROSPECT

520 S Main St., Bartell Trust to Thomas Wind Kirsten Wind, \$189,000, March 4
946 N Boxwood Drive Unit A, Zdzislaw Bigos to Ashok L Patel Simabhen A Patel, \$115,000, March 3

NILES

6923 W Birchwood Ave., Pawel Kozub to David A Clarke, \$323,000, March 3
8103 N Greenwood Ave., Dupont Trust to Tina F Oraham, \$170,000, March 3
8239 N Odell Ave., Teresa Maria Wrobel to Michael D Schmidt Katherine Schmidt, \$235,000, March 3
9031 N Grace Ave., Natalia Popova to Piyushbhai C Patel Rinaben P Patel, \$161,000, March 3

NORRIDGE

4652 N Osage Ave., Margaret A Walczak to John A Wasilenko, \$270,000, March 3
4929 Ne River Road Unit 2a, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Henry Michna Lisa Michna, \$59,000, March 3
5045 N Ozark Ave., Fannie Mae to Andrew J Kortas, \$216,000, March 3

NORTHBROOK

2163 Brentwood Road, Barbara Funk to Alexander Naryzhny Elena Naryzhny, \$256,000, March 3
2524 Oak Ave., Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee to Jaroslaw Motko, \$181,500, March 8
318 Voltz Road, Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Joseph W Marini, \$187,000, March 3

NORWOOD PARK

5111 N Sayre Ave., Borgardt Trust to David R Martinez Anna Wica, \$225,000, March 3
5245 N Natoma Ave., Henryk Lopata to Jonathan Joseph Gula Lidsey Rose Gula, \$360,000, March 3
5960 N Odell Ave. Apt Ga, Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Susan A Kozik, \$70,000, March 8

O'HARE

4600 N Cumberland Ave. Unit 401, Federal National Mortgage Assn to Henry Michna Lisa Michna, \$62,000, March 3
5310 N Chester Ave. Apt 523, Rafael Grullon to Yurly Margulis,

WILMETTE

\$62,000, March 8
8752 W Berwyn Ave. Unit 2s, Fannie Mae to Ljijana Filipovich Slavojka Ratic, \$60,500, March 4

WINNETKA

72 Woodley Road, Fitzsimons Trust to Harold Francke Madeline Francke, \$2,478,500, March 3



HOT PROPERTIES BY ROB PISKAC

Deep impact

Updated 2-story occupies large lot

8111 Prospect Ave., Niles — \$369,000

Built in 1950, this two-story comes with a large, updated kitchen that features newer appliances and ample cabinetry. An adjacent breakfast area has French doors that open to the rear of the home.

The dining room has a chandelier and direct access to the kitchen, while tall windows are found in the living room, which has hardwood floors and built-in shelving.

The spacious property comes with a single-car garage and is two miles from both the Park Ridge and Dee Road Metra stations.

Beds: 4
Baths: 2.5
Listing agent: Marty Piot, RE/MAX City, (847) 430-8456, martypiot@sbcglobal.net



The two-story Niles home includes a one-car garage. It is also close to two Metra stations.

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ON THE MARKET

A ROUNDUP OF NEW LISTINGS

A four-bedroom, 2.5-bath home at 9117 Belleforte Ave. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$239,000. The brick ranch contains a finished basement that holds a fourth bedroom, a family room and ample storage space. The home has hardwood floors throughout, and a new furnace and central air were installed in 2007. Jack Cohen of Century 21

Marino Inc. is the listing agent.

A four-bedroom, 2.5-bath home at 8651 W. Normal Ave. in Niles is on the market for \$399,000. The home has hardwood floors throughout and a modern kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances and a separate eating area. The windows are about two years old. Dotti Ellis of RE/MAX Properties Northwest is the listing agent.

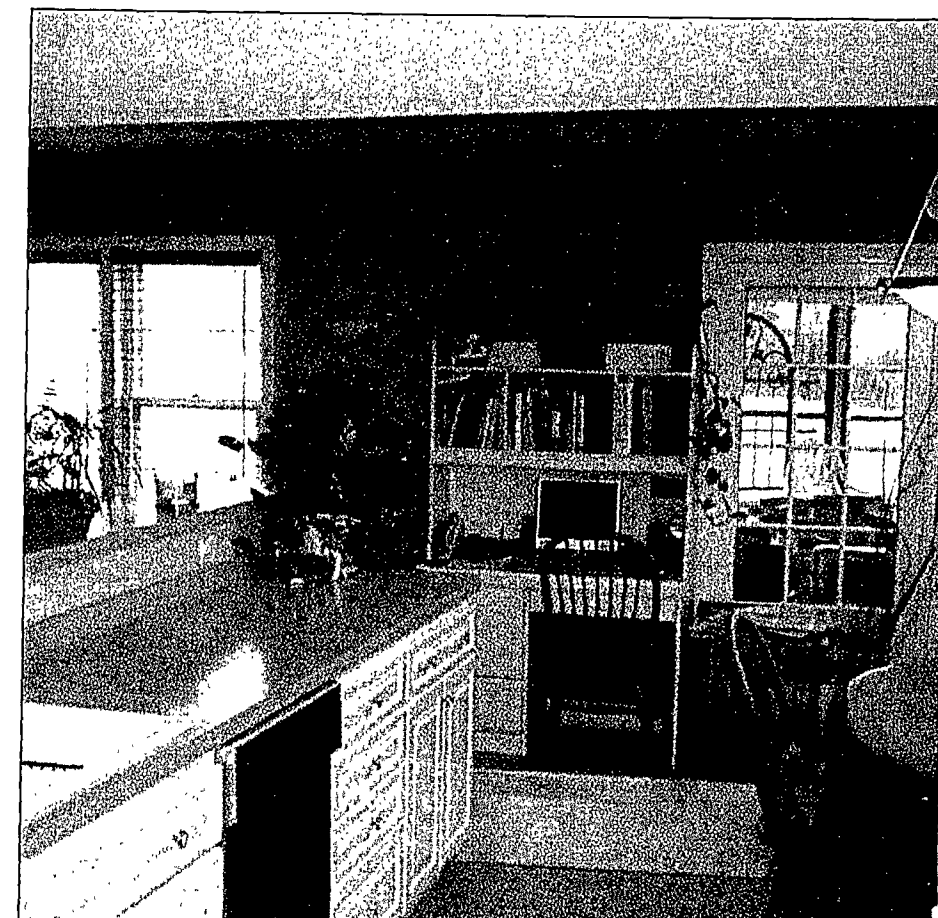
A two-bedroom, two-bath condo at 6330 W. Lincoln Ave. in Morton Grove is on the market for \$159,900. Unit 3G, a recently updated third-floor corner unit, is one of the larger condos in the complex. It has newer appliances and ceramic tile flooring in the kitchen. The condo has a large balcony and is near train and bus lines. Karen Foster of RE/MAX Team 2000 is the listing agent.

— Matt Pelc

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

| City | For sale | Median price | Foreclosure rate | # of sales | # of foreclosures |
|--------------|----------|--------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Des Plaines | 3.37% | \$189,000 | 35.41% | 706 | 250 |
| Edison Park | 2.23% | \$257,500 | 8.14% | 86 | 7 |
| Evanston | 3.65% | \$315,750 | 16.16% | 724 | 117 |
| Forest Glen | 1.08% | \$373,000 | 10% | 20 | 2 |
| Glenview | 3.37% | \$400,000 | 14.9% | 577 | 86 |
| Lincolnwood | 2.97% | \$281,750 | 13.14% | 137 | 18 |
| Morton Grove | 3.36% | \$250,000 | 25.24% | 210 | 53 |
| Niles | 2.86% | \$217,500 | 25.19% | 262 | 66 |
| Norwood Park | 2.57% | \$284,750 | 20.81% | 173 | 36 |
| Park Ridge | 2.88% | \$350,000 | 10.34% | 387 | 40 |
| Skokie | 2.94% | \$250,000 | 29.08% | 564 | 164 |
| Wilmette | 2.81% | \$618,500 | 5.06% | 316 | 16 |

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



The renovated kitchen comes with modern appliances, ample cabinet space and a breakfast room.

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NILES POLICE

Saturation patrols soak up citations

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The Niles Police Department in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation conducted "saturation patrols" on March 11, 12 and 13, and again from March 17 through March 20.

Officers participating in the additional patrols made several arrests and issued multiple traffic citations. Among the these were:

- four arrests for driving under the influence. Two of the arrests involved drivers had previous DUI offenses.

- four arrests for suspended or revoked driver's licenses.

- two arrests for possession of marijuana.
- 13 tickets for speeding.
- 17 seatbelt violations.
- two child safety seat violations.
- 37 tickets for other traffic offenses.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed in the official reports of 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.

BURGLARY

A 43-year-old Niles man told police he was asked to watch the victim's home on the 8100 block of Merrill between March 31 and April 2. The man said that when he entered the victim's home he discovered the rear door was opened and the window was broken. Several items were missing, but the value of the items is unknown at this time, police said. The incident was under investigation.

IDENTITY THEFT

A woman discovered that between Jan. 21 and Feb. 19 someone fraudulently charged \$4,066 on her credit

card at various locations in Niles.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Someone on March 25 damaged a home on the 6800 block of Lexington. A 79-year-old woman said she heard glass break in the front of her home and saw six to eight males running from her residence.

DUI

Richard Watson, 27, of 7542 Cleveland, was arrested March 28 at Oakton and Osceola on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol after being stopped for driving 51 mph in a 35-mph zone. His court date is April 14.

RETAIL THEFT

Amanda Grzetic, 20, of 8716 Elmore, was charged April 2 with retail theft at Golf Mill Center. Grzetic allegedly put \$150 worth of clothing in her purse and walked out of the store with-

out paying.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Frank Wagner, 39, of 8233 Oketo, was charged Sunday with disorderly conduct and cost of emergency services, police said. Police said he called 911 to "find out if he could burn the Koran in public." The man allegedly had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath.

THEFT FROM VEHICLE

Someone stole the license plate from a vehicle on Friday in the parking lot in the 5700 block of Touhy.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Leon Hester, 38, of 5215 Galitz, Skokie, was charged March 31 with domestic battery after allegedly choking a female and grabbing a child and then running out of the food court at Golf Mill Center. The man and the child were found outside near the north end of the mall, police said.

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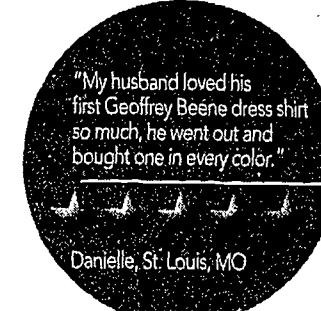
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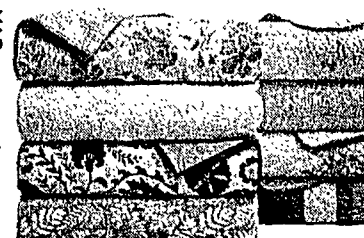
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Teens charged in car burglary

Three teenagers were arrested March 26 after a Park Ridge man reported that one of them had burglarized his car, Park Ridge police said.

According to police a resident of the 2800 block of Mayfield Drive said he discovered a man entering his parked car about 5:40 a.m. When the resident confronted the suspect the man ran down the street but later returned, got into a gold vehicle and drove away, Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen reported.

The resident was able to get the license-plate number on the vehicle and Niles police stopped the car on the 7100 block of Dempster Street. The driver, Jehad

Sanduka, 19, of the 8900 block of Lyons Street, unincorporated Maine Township, was identified by the resident as the person he had seen burglarizing his vehicle, Jogmen said.

Sanduka was charged with burglary to a motor vehicle, illegal transportation of alcohol and driving with a suspended license. His next court date is April 19.

Two passengers inside the vehicle were each charged with theft after they were allegedly found in possession of stolen items. They were identified as Alex Bevell, 18, of the 8500 block of Roseview Drive, Niles, and a 17-year-old boy from unincorporated Maine Township. Bevell's bond was set at \$1,000 and the 17-year-old

was released to his parent. Both have an April 19 court date.

Jogmen said police found several items that had been removed from at least two vehicles in the Mayfield Estates area and left on the roadway. They included a designer purse and wallet, which contained the owner's driver's license.

Vandalism suspects headed for Peer Jury

Video surveillance helped Park Ridge Police identify four boys who stand accused of tagging several buildings with graffiti last month.

Two 13-year-old boys from Park Ridge were taken into custody March 15 and two boys from Niles, ages 12 and

13, were taken into custody the following day on criminal damage to property charges. They are scheduled to appear before the city's Peer Jury, which will hear the case and assign a community-service sentence.

Park Ridge Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen said the boys are accused of spray-painting "substantial" graffiti on six businesses on the 600 block of Busse Highway and on the rear of an office building on the 900 block of North Northwest Highway in late-February. The graffiti was not gang-related, Jogmen said.

Investigators were able to identify the suspects based on surveillance footage of one of the targeted locations, he said.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

The following incidents in unincorporated Maine Township were compiled by the Cook County Sheriff's Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

Jenkins an angry look and she allegedly made a remark about shooting him, police said.

BURGLARY

Police said that on March 15 the friend of a resident of the 8900 block of North Western Avenue entered the home, stole a computer and then demanded \$200 from the resident in exchange for the stolen item. Police were called and the computer was returned without payment from the victim, police said.

DRUG POSSESSION

Jonathan Hernandez, 18, of the 10000 block of Michael Todd Terrace,

Glenview, was charged with possession of marijuana March 22 following a traffic stop at Central Road and Milwaukee Avenue. According to police the officer who stopped the car detected an odor of marijuana and asked Hernandez if he had anything illegal inside. A small amount of suspected marijuana was recovered from the vehicle, police said.

THEFT

On March 21 a resident of the 9200 block of Aspen Drive accused her 47-year-old son of stealing a gold and pearl necklace from the residence. Police said the son denied taking the \$1,000 necklace and the

resident said she had not misplaced it.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Criminal damage to property reports were made March 20 at Crestwood condominiums and apartments on the 9900 block of Holly Lane and March 25 at Bay Colony on the 9400 block of Bay Colony Drive.

HIT-AND-RUN

Hit-and-run accidents were reported March 18 on the 8700 block of Ballard Road; March 23 at Federal Court and Kennedy Drive; March 24 on the 9100 block of Potter Road; March 26 at Robin Drive and Ballard Road; and

March 26 on the 10000 block of Linda Lane.

ASSAULT

An 18-year-old woman told police that on March 13 three men flashed gang signs and made threats against her while she was walking in the parking area of the 8800 block of Robin Drive. The men reportedly told the woman they knew where she worked and they were going to "get" her, police said. The woman told police she did not know the men.

BURGLARY

A residence on the 9100 block of Kennedy Drive was burglarized between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. March 11. Police said the owner returned home to find a sliding-glass door open and two bedroom ransacked. More than \$500 was reported stolen.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Damage was reported to a vehicle March 10 on the 8800 block of Church Street.

A criminal damage to property report was filed March 14 on the 9200 block of West Emerson Street.

THEFT

The landlord of an apartment on the 9300 block of Bay Colony Drive reported on March 11 that two tenants stole furnishings and other items belonging to her when she evicted them from the apartment. The stolen items included a dining-room table with six chairs, bathroom curtains, a toaster oven, a coffee table, fire extinguishers and a propane tank.

HIT-AND-RUN

Hit-and-run accidents were reported March 10 on the 9000 block of West Oaks Avenue and March 15 at Dee Road and Harrison Street.

DRUG POSSESSION

Jim Kim, 28, of the 10000 block of Holly Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and battery on March

6. According to police, officers were called to Kim's apartment after a friend accused Kim of punching him in the head. Inside Kim's apartment police reportedly found bags of suspected marijuana in an open closet and in the living room; a bowl containing suspected marijuana in a bedroom; and a small dish containing suspected methamphetamine in the living room. Several syringes and other drug paraphernalia were also found inside the residence, police said.

BATTERY

A man told police that on Feb. 20 his former girlfriend followed him home from a bar and then punched his current girlfriend in the head at Golf Terrace Apartments on the 9600 block of Golf Terrace. The suspect was gone by the time officers arrived and the victim did not show signs of physical injury, according to police.

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE

A vehicle was reported burglarized March 1 on the 9000 block of Golf Road.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

A vehicle was reported damaged March 4 on the 3500 block of Central Road. Criminal damage to another vehicle was reported March 7 on the 8700 block of West Ballard Road.

THEFT

A criminal damage to property report was filed March 5 on the 9400 block of Noel Avenue.

THEFT

A vehicle was reported stolen March 5 from the 9600 block of Lois Drive.

THEFT

On the evening of March

7 a man reported that three boxes containing personal belongings were stolen while he was moving into an apartment on the 9600 block of North Dee Road. The boxes were reportedly left in the lobby area for about 15 minutes while the man moved other items into his new apartment. The boxes contained immigration documents, clothing, a stroller, a fishing rod and other items valued at \$800, according to police.

HIT-AND-RUN

Hit-and-run accidents were reported March 5 on the 9200 block of West Golf Road and March 7 on the 9500 block of North Terrace Place.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Criminal damage to property complaints were filed Feb. 17 at Courtland Square on the 8800 block of Jody Lane and on Feb. 22 on the 9100 block of Stevenson Drive.

Two vehicles parked on the 8900 block of Kennedy Drive and the 9000 block of Terrace Place were reported damaged Feb. 21.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

A theft from a vehicle was reported Feb. 20 on the 8900 block of Robin Drive and Feb. 23 on the 9500 block of Dee Road.

HIT-AND-RUN

Hit-and-run accidents were reported Feb. 16 on the 8800 block of Carleah Drive and at Ballard Road and Kennedy Drive; and Feb. 20 on the 9500 block of West Harrison Street.

FIRE

A car fire was reported just after 7 a.m. Feb. 25 on the 8900 block of Kennedy Drive. According to the North Maine Fire Department the vehicle's owner started the engine with a remote starter device and discovered the vehicle on fire several minutes later. The fire caused extensive damage to the vehicle, according to the Fire Department.

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Opinion

Paper, plastic or a clown suit?



PAUL SASSONE

Last night I dreamt I was grocery shopping.

I had been grocery shopping that day, so there probably is a connection. We all spend a lot of time grocery shopping, so why not dream about it?

This came on the heels of Jewel's proclamation to restrict grocery bags.

The chain can save millions, it contends, if it no longer gives customers the choice between paper and plastic. It also will not double-bag and won't bag up any item with a handle. Customers can ask for waivers.

I already ask that Jack the cat's litter be put into a plastic bag. A 10-pound bag of cat litter is easier to carry in a bag with handles. And a bag with handles helps prevent litter bombs when a clumsy shopper drops a bag of litter in the parking lot — not that I have ever done that, of course, but I've heard stories, shopping myths.

Though my shopping that day had gone off without a hitch (no items with handles, whew!), who knew what confrontation the next day's shopping would bring?

That's why I think I had the dream.

In the dream I am

"Plastic or pocket? Would you like your groceries in a plastic bag or should I just cram them into your pockets?"

waiting in line at checkout. The checker speaks to me: "Plastic or pocket?"

I'm sorry, what did you say?

"Plastic or pocket? Would you like your groceries in a plastic bag or should I just cram them into your pockets?"

My pockets aren't big enough to hold all the groceries. Besides, I can't put ice cream in my pockets.

"Perhaps you'd be interested in an item we have on sale the next few weeks to help introduce our new Plastic or Pockets Program?"

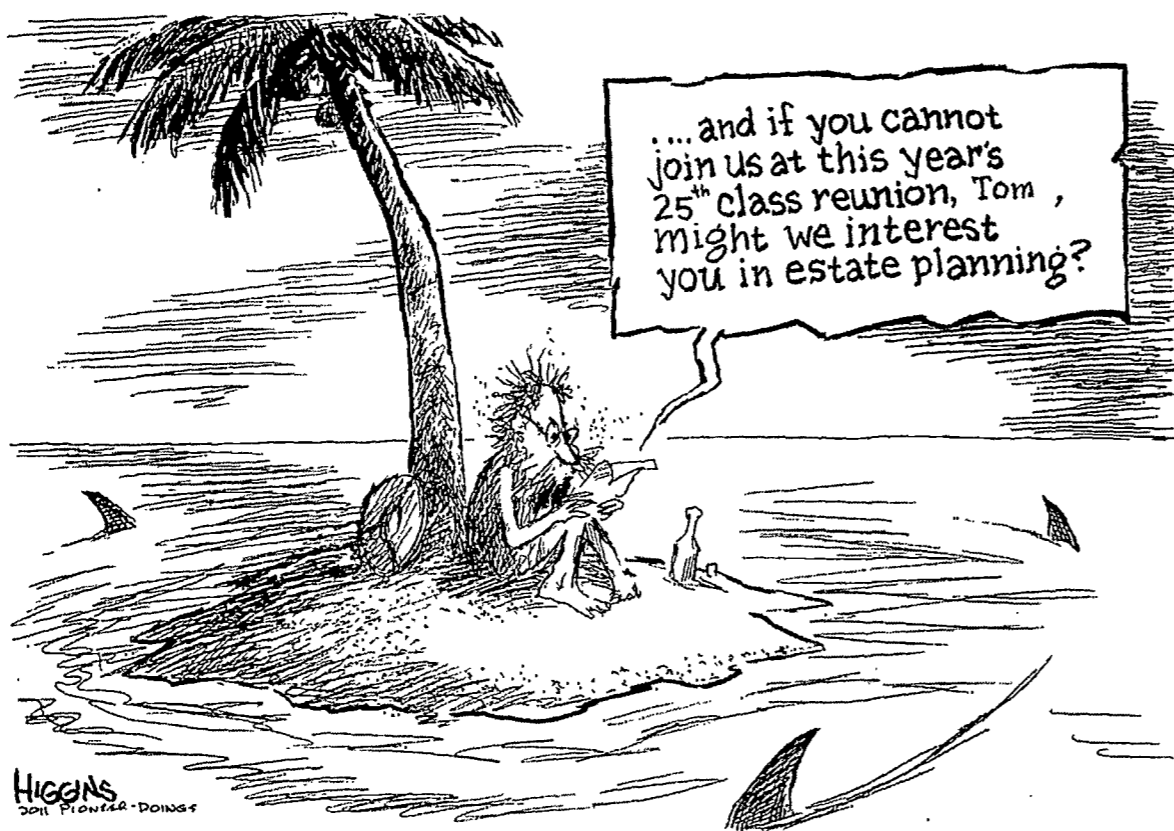
What's the item?
 "Environmentally friendly, green shopping jackets with extra-large insulated pockets. They're biodegradable and can hold up to a total of 97 pounds. They are endorsed not only by Ralph Nader, but by clowns in the Ringling Brothers Circus.

"You just put the jacket on when you go shopping. We load up your pockets at checkout. And no bags of any kind have been used."

In the dream I buy two jackets, one for me and one for my wife. I decline to buy a big red nose, though.

Then, I wake up.

1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS



HIGGINS
 Don Prewitt-Dowse

What is affordable housing?



RANDY BLASER

The people of Winnetka are debating a plan that would allow building what they are calling affordable housing in the village.

The plan would call for the village to preserve some properties for housing stock that would be affordable to someone earning at least \$75,000 a year.

For most of us who do the living, dying and

working in our communities, that's a pretty decent salary. Think of a police officer, teacher or firefighter who has been in their career for a while and has done a good job, earning raises and promotions.

Apparently, for some folks in Winnetka, the hard work that earns those folks \$75,000 a year is akin to a handout. I say so because that's how they've phrased the debate.

The problem with the plan, as far as I can see, is the phrase "affordable housing."

Say "affordable housing" and most rich white people think poor minority people with no job, no money and subsidized housing.

But that's not the issue in Winnetka. The issue is whether some portion of the village housing stock should remain, as it apparently once was, affordable for the regular working man and woman.

Over the years, many of those homes in Winnetka have been bought up, torn down and replaced with mansions.

So what's affordable to the average working man? For fun, let's say a home worth \$300,000, with a buyer putting down 10 percent and financing the rest.

In some suburbs, that's a really nice house with four bedrooms and two and a half baths.

But in Winnetka, where

there are 152 houses for sale as I write this article, that's a two-bedroom and one-bath house. One is for sale at \$314,000 and another at \$330,000. That's two homes out of 152 for sale that maybe a working person could afford.

Of the 24 condos and town houses for sale, seven are under \$300,000, and all but two are one bedrooms.

Should there be more such homes in Winnetka? That's the essential question for Winnetka. It is a fair one for a community to talk about and debate, because it gets at the heart of what type of community residents want their town to be.

I can't answer that for the people of Winnetka. But having such a debate is a good sign.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Benefit

The Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation will host the 20th Annual Play for the Cure Golf Outing on June 20 at Evanston Golf Club, 4401 Dempster St. in Skokie. With proceeds going toward breast cancer research, the event invites golfers of all skill levels to enjoy a day of fun in the sun as they "putt for pink." The 18-hole outing begins with registration at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Tee-off is at 1 p.m., and the day is capped off with an evening cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception. The cost is \$900 per person, and sponsorships are available from \$2,500 to \$20,000. The first golfer/s scoring an ace on any of the four Par 3 holes at Evanston Golf Club will win a luxurious automobile. Call (312) 926-7133 or visit www.lynsage.org.

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays - Income tax preparation, by appointment. Mondays, April 11, 18, and 25 - Employment counseling, by appointment. Monday, April 11 - Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 19 - Medicare counseling, by appointment. Wednesday, April 20 - Grief and loss support group (call first). Saturdays, April 9 and 23 - Legal counseling, by appointment. Saturday, April 30 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed). Join the "Celebrate A Job Well Done" event honoring Mary Schurder, retired executive director of the Center of Concern, from 6-9 p.m. April 8 at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Cost for the dinner reception and benefit is \$50. Call Dawn at (847) 823-0453, Ext. 125.

Low-cost income tax preparation will be available by appointment at the Center of Concern on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. Adults of all ages with annual incomes under \$40,000 (excluding Social Security benefits) are welcome. The fee for basic federal and state returns, including Schedules A, B, and D and forms for the Earned Income Tax Credit, is \$35. More complex returns cost up to \$50. The center's offices are at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite #310, in Park Ridge. Call (847) 823-0453 to make an appointment. Homebound residents may ask to have a tax preparer come to their home.

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 long-time-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption. **Preparation of simple wills** and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays. 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.

Civic

State Representative Rosemary Mulligan, R-65th, has opened her new 65th District office at the following address: 1420 Renaissance Drive, Suite 306, Park Ridge IL 60068. Her other contact information remains the same. Phone: (847) 297-6533; fax: (847) 297-2978; e-mail: repmulligan@usa.net; website and E-News sign-up: <http://repmulligan.com>. The 65th District includes all or portions of Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Mount Prospect, Rosemont, Norridge, Harwood Heights, Niles, Elk Grove Village, and the northwest corner of the 41st Ward of Chicago.

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

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

Classes

To strengthen your brain and learn about cognitive fitness, CogFit-Quest invites you to a free, 1 1/2 hour, interactive workshop on April 8, 12 or 15 in Skokie. Expert trainers at CogFit-Quest will guide you through a series of engaging and fun activities. You'll enjoy games that target long- and short-term memory, concentration, word recall, and other cognitive skills. For details, call (847) 674-8060 or visit CogFitQuest.com. Space is limited. **Niles Township Government Com-**

puter Training Center is offering computer classes. Computer Lab Sessions: Practice & tutoring one-on-one with an experienced teacher. (Optional for current and former students; recommended for all students). The Computer Lab fee is \$30 per student and is open noon-2 p.m. Fridays through April 22. Course fees include an instructional workbook. Students must bring their own USB Flash Drive to save and transfer files needed for all classes. All ages are welcome. A Certificate of Completion is awarded last day of class. Call (847) 673-9300.

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 Dorinda King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs

The Park Ridge Catholic Women's Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. April 11 at the Park Ridge South Recreational Center, 833 Talcott Road, Park Ridge. The program will be a presentation by Jean Thiry on "Living Gratefully by Passing on our Family Heritage." Dessert, coffee and tea will be served following the program. Remember to bring items to donate to Infant, Inc. **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.

I Chiacchieroni Italian-language dinner group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Salerno's, 1716 E. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect. The next meeting will be April 14. This is a casual evening of conversation in Italian. Call Gabriella, (847) 292-0089, or e-mail: ichiacchieroni@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

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4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for
the coming week

1. Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents "Baroque Bash," with Victor Huls, cello soloist, at 2:30 p.m. April 10 at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. The program includes Bach: Brandenburg #1 in F major; Boccherini: Cello Concerto; and Haydn: Symphony #49 in F minor. \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO.

2. "Bus Stop" will be presented by The Guild Theater Company through April 17 at the Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. \$18; \$15 for students and senior citizens. Reservations are recommended; call (847) 420-8079. For information, visit www.theguildtheater.org.

3. BritBeat Beatles tribute band presents "Back to the Sixties" at 8 p.m. April 9 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. For information, call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com.

4. The Park Ridge Chorale will present a concert of music selected by audiences at 7 p.m. April 9 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. \$16, \$14 for seniors. Call (847) 825-5499.

Actress traces stage roots to Niles West

'El Nogalar'
Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, Chicago. Through April 24. \$10-\$42. (312) 443-3800 or visit www.goodmantheatre.org.

By **STEPHANIE FOSNIGHT
REGISTER**
Contributor

When Sandra Delgado started her freshman year at Niles West High School back in 1988, she longed to perform.

"I tried out for the cheerleading squad because my best friend was doing it," Delgado said. "I didn't make the squad so I said, 'I'm going to go audition for the play.'"

Delgado, who grew up in Niles, did make the play, and was soon fully immersed in the theater world at Niles West. The dance ensemble and show choir followed and, finally, so did a successful entry

onto the cheerleading squad.

Two decades after being crowned the 1991 Homecoming Queen, Delgado still loves to perform. A professional actor, she is now a fixture on the Chicago theater scene. She's a member of the Collaboration and Teatro Vista ensembles, and also appears on other stages all over the city and region, as well as doing television and commercial work.

New play

Delgado is currently co-starring in "El Nogalar," a new play by Mexican-Chicagoan playwright Tanya Saracho. Commissioned by Teatro Vista and produced in partnership with the Goodman Theatre, "El Nogalar" runs at the Goodman until April 24.



Cecilie Keenan, (from left), directs Christina Nieves and Sandra Delgado in "El Nogalar."

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

{diversions}

B1

THURSDAY,
APRIL 7, 2011

Sandra Delgado

"I would love everyone from the Niles community to come down and see it," said Delgado, who now lives in Logan Square with her actor-director husband Anthony Moseley and 3-year-old daughter. "I'm really proud of it, it's going to be wonderful."

"El Nogalar" is inspired by Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" but is set squarely in March 2011, among the pecan orchards of a wealthy Mexican family who live near the U.S. border. As the drug violence in northern

Mexico increases and traditional class roles shift, the family and their servants must come to terms with a changing world and their own roles within it. Delgado plays 29-year-old Valeria, the older daughter left at home to guard the family estate as her mother Maite raises her younger sister in America and Europe. (Saracho wrote the role of "Valeria" with Delgado in mind.) Despite her privileged education in England and watching the family fortune dwindle,

Valeria (modeled after Chekhov's Varya) has put her own life on hold as she waits for Maite to return. When Maite finally comes home, it's to a vastly different northern Mexico than she left 15 years before.

"Things have changed since Maite left and now she wants to come back and take the reins again, and really it doesn't exist in the same form as before," said "El Nogalar" director Cecilie Keenan, producing director of Teatro Vista.

Playwright Tanya Saracho and the Teatro Vista ensemble have spent nearly three years workshopping the play, which has not only given all of the actors, including Delgado, a real sense of ownership for the show. But they've also allowed current events to shape the script.

Drug wars

Although "El Nogalar" originally focused on the personal relationships of the characters and the breakdown of class distinctions, as did Chekhov's work, Saracho's conversa-

tions with her family and firsthand accounts of how the citizens of northern Mexico have reacted to the drug wars influenced her writing.

"The drug violence has escalated so much," Keenan said. "What the play might say is that ultimately there are other choices besides running away, like staying and putting a mark on the soil and saying, 'This is mine,' as opposed to running away from or joining the evil forces that are at work."

One of Teatro Vista's goals in commissioning the play was not only to create more strong parts for the Latino community, but also to help people broaden their understanding of the Latino culture.

"We did a reading of it early on at Millennium Park and at a talkback this man, with no malice said, in his ignorance, 'Wow I had never thought about rich Mexicans,'" recalled Delgado.

Actress, PAGE B22

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Animal artifacts are among the "Wild Things" that tell about Morton Grove's history.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Get your hands on the history of Morton Grove

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

A packed trunk leads to adventure when the Morton Grove Historical Society Museum presents: "Wild Things, a Traveling Trunk Show about Nature," 2-3 p.m. Saturday, April 9 at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. "We have information on the geologic history of Morton Grove," said Museum Curator Mary Busch. "We have some samples of rocks and fossils that were found at a local site. We have all kinds of wonderful hands-on artifacts from animals that are found in this area."

There are pelts and skulls, and devices for hearing bird calls or frog calls. Participants can examine a bat skeleton and learn about this creature. "There's a lot of misinformation out on bats," Busch said.

Children can create a bookmark, stamping it with pictures of animals that are found in Morton Grove, including the great horned owl, red fox and alligator snapping turtle. "We educate on the animals and the plants in Morton Grove," Busch con-

cluded. "And the fun part is it's really local natural history. From small children to adults, there's something there that's fun and hands on."

For details, call (847) 965-4220 or visit www.webrary.org.

Make merry

Gather your kids, warm up your voices and head to Joel Frankel Musical Meritment, 2 p.m. Sunday, April 10 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. The award-winning musician will present an interactive show for all ages. Call to reserve free tickets or pick them up at the Youth Services desk during business hours.

For details, call (847) 663-6623 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

They made their mark

There's another special family event, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, April 9 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. The Bookmark Award Ceremony and Illustrator Presentation will honor winners of the 11th annual Bookmark Contest. Drop-in to see the bookmarks and hear illustrator Tom Lichtenheld talk about his craft.

For details, call (847) 663-6623 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

Scarry story time

Reading and eating will make for a great morning at Breakfast with Books: Richard Scarry, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Saturday, April 9 at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Scarry is the author of the books that became the TV series, "Busytown Mysteries." A breakfast snack will be served and there will be coffee for parents. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or visit www.skokieli-brary.info.

Great escape

A charming bandit meets a beautiful teen who is trapped in a tower and they escape together, thanks to her 70 feet of magical golden hair in "Tangled." The teenager and the handsome thief have a series of adventures in this 100-minute, PG-rated animated film. Your family can watch it a 7 p.m. Friday, April 8 in the Petty Auditorium, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. For details, call (847) 324-3149 or visit www.skokieli-brary.info.

MOVIE REVIEW

Deadly daddy's girl

By BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

HANNA
★ ★ 1/2

Few films begin as promisingly and end as disappointingly as this enigmatic, dazzlingly stylized, galvanically paced, ultimately frustrating and seemingly pointless ultra-violent action thriller.

There's no denying, though, that "Hanna" is a blast while it's going strong. And it does make a strong argument in favor of the effectiveness of home schooling.

Director Joe Wright, apparently out to prove that he can make a full-tilt action movie with as much artfulness as his previous films ("Atonement," "Pride and Prejudice," "The Soloist"), sets the hook right away with an opening sequence that's as visually arresting as it is mysterious. Young Hanna (extravagantly talented 16-year-old Saoirse Ronan, who was Oscar-nominated for her key role in Wright's "Atonement"), dressed in roughly stitched furs, stalks a large stag through a snowy forest near the Arctic Circle, kills it with her bow and arrow (Sarah Palin eat your heart out), and is efficiently field-dressing it when she is attacked by a similarly attired man twice her size. Hand-to-hand combat ensues, during which Hanna more than holds her own.

The man turns out to be her father, Erik (Eric Bana), a rogue CIA agent who has been training Hanna in much the same way Cato trained Inspector Clouseau in the "Pink Panther" movies — but without the laughs.

"Adapt or die," he tells her. "Think on your feet;



Saoirse Ronan in "Hanna."

even while you are asleep." Gradually, we learn that the girl has been isolated in that frozen wilderness with her father all her life, learning to hunt, fight, kill, speak a half-dozen languages and generally become "the perfect soldier." She has no mother and no friends. She has never heard music or seen an electric light. But she can snap your neck before you say "Daddy's a crazy man." All so she will be prepared to survive against a relentless enemy whose only aim will be to destroy her. But who is this spooky, deadly girl? What is her origin? Who wants to kill her and why? And what will prevent her from going gaga over Justin Bieber as soon as she leaves and just forgetting about the whole thing?

Wright takes his time answering those questions and, as long as he does, "Hanna" exerts a powerful fascination. Especially since the plot unfolds with extreme rapidity after Hanna's nemesis turns out to be a CIA villainess named Marissa (Cate Blanchett looking cold, ruthless and plagued by mother issues) and an exotically imagined, spectacularly staged chase develops, hustling from the Arctic to Morocco to Berlin.

Everything works remarkably well for the first half of "Hanna." Wright's showy stylistic touches energize the story without overwhelming it, the performances (especially by Ronan and Blanchett) are first-rate and there's even a welcome touch of humor as Hanna falls in with an English OMG mall-teen girl (Jessica Barden of "Tamara Drewe") who's vacationing with her bickering family in Africa.

Unfortunately, the second half doesn't live up to the first. Sometime around the introduction of a blasé, soft-spoken, quietly degenerate henchman (Tom Hollander) Marissa hires to do her wet work, Wright begins to indulge in freaky surrealism, the chase becomes protracted and the story becomes increasingly dismal and confusing. Even a comic book requires some sort of coherent logic and satisfying resolution — and "Hanna" never supplies much more than vague partial answers.

"Hanna" looks good though, right up to the final frame, and it's got one undeniable upside: This Hanna has absolutely nothing to do with Montana.

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STAGE

"Bus Stop" will be presented by The Guild Theater Company through April 17 at the Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$18; \$15 for students and senior citizens. Reservations are recommended; call (847) 420-8079. For information, visit www.theguildtheater.org.

"Crazy for You" will be presented by Rising Stars Theatre Co. May 7-22 at The Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$16; \$14 for children under 12 and senior citizens. Mother's Day special, May 8. All seats \$12. Visit www.risingstarschicago.com or call (773) 736-2490.

"Hairspray! The Broadway Musical" will be presented at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. April 7-8, 7:30 p.m. April 9 and 2 p.m. April 10 at Wilbur Wright College's Events Theater, 4300 N. Narragansett Ave., Chicago. Tickets are \$10, with discounts for seniors, students and children. Call (773) 481-8037 or e-mail StageWright@ccc.edu.

"Night and Her Stars," through April 24 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

"Sense & Sensibility" will be presented by Northlight Theatre through April 17 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except no 7 p.m. performance on April 17). Tickets: \$40-\$50. Tickets for those 25 and under are \$10. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

"Steel Magnolias" will be presented by the Saint Sebastian Players April 29-May 22 at St. Bonaventure, 1625 W. Diversey, Chicago. Curtain at 8 p.m. Fri-

days and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$15; \$10 for students; \$7 for children younger than 12 and senior citizens. For information, call (773) 404-7922 or visit www.saintsebastianplayers.org.

"Unveiled" will be performed at 11 a.m. April 16 at the Muslim Community Center, 8601 N. Menard St., Morton Grove. The one-woman show features Samina Hussain taking on roles of several Muslim women learning to live in a post-9/11 world. The program is for women only. Tickets are \$7 in advance; \$10 at the door. Call (773) 653-9933 or (224) 595-1873.

CLASSICAL

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. www.arsviva.org. (847) 673-6300. \$35-\$70, with discounts for seniors and students. May 1, 4:30 p.m.: "A Rising Star," featuring violinist Alexandra Switala, the winner of the Music Institute of Chicago Young Artist Competition. The program includes James Stephenson: Concertino and Fanfare; Carl Maria von Weber: Overture and March from "Turandot"; and Paul Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber. Chicago Chamber Musicians. (312) 225-5226. www.chicagochambermusic.org. Concerts are held at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on Northwestern University's campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Tickets: \$20-\$40 for general admission; \$10 for students. May 8: CCM performs 20th century French chamber classics, including works by Francis Poulenc, Darius Milhaud, Andre Jolivet and others. The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$20-\$75. April 17: "Going for Baroque," with David Schrader, guest conductor, and Alyce Johnson, piccolo, guest soloist. The program includes Vivaldi's Concerto for Piccolo and Strings in C Major and CPE Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor.

Music of the Baroque presents Handel's "Messiah" at 3 p.m. April 17 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Music of the Baroque Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Jane Glover, will be joined by Elizabeth Futral, soprano. Catherine Wyn-Rogers, mezzo-soprano, John McVeigh, tenor, and Christopher Nomura, baritone. Tickets are \$38, \$45, \$60. Call (312) 551-1414 or visit www.baroque.org.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. April 10, 3 p.m.: American bass-baritone Ryan McKinny performs Franz Schubert's "Winterreise," accompanied by pianist Elizabeth Buccheri. "Winterreise" (Winter Journey) is a cycle of 24 poems by Wilhelm Müller, which Schubert set to music for voice and piano. \$25; \$15 senior citizens; \$10 students. April 16, 7:30 p.m.: Pianist Alexander Djordjevic performs works by Schumann, Liszt, Faure, Rachmani-

noff and Chopin. \$25; \$15 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. May 7, 7:30 p.m.: Cellist Wendy Warner and pianist Irina Nuzova will perform works by Nikolai Miaskovsky, Andre Previn and Felix Mendelssohn. \$25; \$15 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. May 14, 7:30 p.m.: "Concerto Extravaganza." Pianist Marta Aznavoorian, violinist Desirée Ruhstrat and cellist Wendy Warner perform the top three concertos of the 2010-11 season, as voted on by MIC audiences. The program includes works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Tchaikovsky. \$25; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. May 21, 7:30 p.m.: Pacifica Quartet performs an all-Beethoven program. \$25; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students.

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermeil, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. www.northwestsymphony.org. April 10: "Russian Triumph," featuring bassoonist William Dawson. The program includes Mozart's Concerto in B-flat for Bassoon and Orchestra; Debussy's Petite Suite; and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 in D minor. May 22: Pops concert, showcasing military opera and Broadway themes. Featuring Stephanie Block, viola, winner of the Paul Vermeil Young Artist Award.

The Orion Ensemble performs in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$26; \$23 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. Free for children 12 and younger. Call (630) 628-9591 or visit www.orionensemble.org. May 8, 3 p.m.: "Mahler's 150th Birthday," featuring Gustav Mahler's Piano Quartet in A Minor; William Bolcom's "Little Suite of Four Dances"; John Williams' "Air and Simple Gifts"; and Mozart's Quintet in G Minor.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861. April 10, 2:30 p.m.: "Baroque Bash," with Victor Huls, cello soloist. The program includes Bach: Brandenburg #1 in F Major; Boccherini: Cello Concerto (Gruetzmacher); and Haydn: Symphony #49 in F minor (La Passione). May 1, 2:30 p.m.: "Homage to Mozart," with Sarah Hibbard, soprano soloist, Jessye Wright, contralto soloist, Peder Reiff, tenor soloist, Peter Van De Graaff, bass soloist and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus, the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir and the Algoma Festival Choir of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. The program includes Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" and Requiem Mass in D minor.

Rembrandt Chamber Players present "Mixed Melodies," a program of works by Schoenfeld, Fauré and Argentinian composer Ginastera, at 7:30 p.m. May 15 in Nichols Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave.

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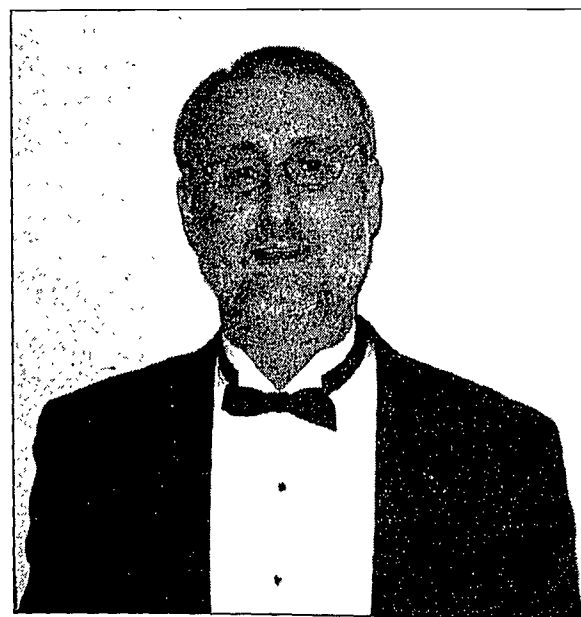
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Park Ridge goes baroque

Gene Arnold will be one of the trumpet soloists with the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra for its "Baroque Bash," 2:30 p.m. April 10 at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. The program includes Bach: Brandenburg #1 in F Major; Boccherini: Cello Concerto (Gruetzmacher); and Haydn: Symphony #49 in F Minor (La Passione). Tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861.



Mozart and Shostakovich

William Dawson, bassoonist, will be the soloist when the Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermeil, music director, presents "Russian Triumph," at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 10, in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. The program includes Mozart's Concerto in B-flat for Bassoon and Orchestra; Debussy's Petite Suite; and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 in D Minor. Pre-concert commentary by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member of radio station WFMT, begins one hour prior to the concert. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. www.northwestsymphony.org.

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Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. April 8, 8 p.m.: Jack Miuccio presents "The Dean Martin Songbook." \$10. April 9, 8 p.m.: BritBeat Beatles tribute band presents "Back to the Sixties." \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door.

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Evanston. Tickets are \$37.50. Call (312) 360-3145 or visit www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org.

Segovia Classical Guitar Series, presented by the Northwestern University Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music and supported in part by the Chicago Classical Guitar Society. All Segovia series events will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, on Northwestern's Evanston campus. For information, call (847) 491-5441 or visit www.pickstaiger.org. April 9: A program by the Beijing Guitar Duo, comprised of Meng Su and Yameng Wang, will conclude the Segovia series. \$22/\$19/\$10.

Six Piano Ensemble performs at 8 p.m. April 16 and 3 p.m. April 17 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. The program features works by Bach, Mozart, Dvorak, Grieg, and Scott Joplin, all arranged for multiple keyboards by founder and conductor Glenna Sprague. Also, Robert Vandall will guest conduct Oakton Toccata, a composition he wrote for the group. A reception follows each performance. Tickets: \$17 for general admission; \$14 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 635-1900.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are \$23-\$37; \$10 for children. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:45 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.svsso.org. May 15: "Strauss and Tchaikovsky," including the Pathétique Symphony.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. April 19, 7 p.m.: Ricky Martin. \$40.50, \$60.50, \$90.50, \$126.50. May 6, 7:30 p.m.: Sugarland - The Incredible Machine Tour with guests Little Big Town and Matt Nathanson. \$36, \$46, \$66. May 10, 8 p.m.: Rammstein. \$49.50, \$69.50, \$89.50. May 14, 8 p.m.: Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band. \$75. May 25, 7:30 p.m.: News Kids on the Block and Backstreet Boys. \$29.50, \$49.50, \$69.50, \$89.50. June 3, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and June 4, 8 p.m.: "Glee Live!" \$49.50, \$89.50. July 8, 7:30 p.m.: Katy Perry - California Dreams 2011 world tour. \$35, \$45, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.: Keith Urban and Jake Owen. \$25, \$59.50. Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave.,

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go, PAGE B9

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By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Tom Galantich earned his Actors' Equity card at Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire 30 years ago. Since then, the New York native has enjoyed a string of Broadway successes, including "Into the Woods," "City of Angels," "Mamma Mia!" "Dirty Rotter Scoundrels" and "Boeing Boeing." Now he's back at the Marriott playing Broadway director Julian Marsh in "42nd Street" by Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble (book), Harry Warren (music) and Al Dubin (lyrics).

"I happened to see that

they were doing the show here," the Northwestern University graduate said. "I love the role so much; I contacted them and said, 'Hey, would you guys be interested in seeing me?'" He auditioned for the role in New York and was cast. Galantich previously played Julian Marsh at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in New York. The actor said he loves the role because, "To use sort of a cliché popular term, he's 'old school.' I love the fact that he's single-minded of purpose. He doesn't suffer fools and he's not there babysitting anybody. He's a bit of a drill sergeant in what he wants. I love the drive of the character."

What he wants is another hit show. That goal seems elusive when aging leading lady Dorothy Brock (Cathy Lord) breaks her ankle on opening night. But then they call back young

42nd, PAGE B9



Tom Galantich and Kaitlyn Davidson in "42nd Street."

42nd

Continued from PAGE B8

newbie to Broadway Peggy Sawyer (Kaitlyn Davidson) — who was previously fired — and she takes over the role.

The actor admitted that he's not afraid to have audiences dislike Julian Marsh. "He's not in this to make any friends," Galantich said. "He's in this to get back on top. He's a bit desperate in his career and life, and it shows."

Along the way, we see a

change in Marsh. "There's a great arc in the show for him, going from sort of a desperate tyrant to sort of a fulfilled individual at the end," Galantich said. "I really enjoy that old movie feel."

Audiences have loved that feel, too, since the musical debuted on Broadway in 1980. "For a couple of decades, Broadway and musical theater had experimented with different things. It had begun to move into the Sondheim era and sort of more cerebral musicals," Galantich said. "'42nd

Street' was an unabashed return to the great splashy spectacle Broadway musical."

The show is set just after the Depression and it opened during another time of economic struggles.

Galantich believes, "It touched a nerve in people in that aspect of the show. Obviously we've gone through our share of economic difficulties now and I think the show has something to say about keeping your chin up and getting through — and getting back to the things that we enjoy."

go.

Continued from PAGE B7

door, April 10, 2 p.m.: Esther Hana. April 10, 7 p.m.: Pianist and singer Tanya Melamed with Eyes Manouche, a gypsy jazz band. April 13, 1:30 p.m.: Tony Bernard's tribute to Elvis. April 15, 8 p.m.: Kevin So presents blues, folk and soul. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. April 16, 7 p.m.: Catherine O'Connell. April 20, 1:30 p.m.: Bucky Walker's "Great American Folksongs." April 22, 8 p.m.: Jazz trio Sam Grossner, piano, Al-

fonso Ponticelli, guitar, and John Bany, bass. \$15. April 23, 8 p.m.: Reely Dan (Steeley Dan tribute band). April 27, 1:30 p.m.: Tom & Beckie's "Isn't It Iconic?" April 30, 8 p.m.: An Evening of Rockin' Blues with The Inetta Visor Blues Band and The Artesian Wheels. \$20-\$25, with proceeds to benefit the Niles Township Food Pantry.

"Some Enchanted Evening: The Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein" will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through April 30 at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood (Rogers Park), Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 7 p.m., Sundays. Tickets: \$25-

\$30. Three-course dinner available for \$20 (plus beverages, taxes and tips). Visit www.theoubique.org.

ART GALLERIES

Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-4000. www.block-museum.northwestern.edu. April 8-Aug. 14: "I Myself Have Seen It: Photography and Kiki Smith." April 27, 9:30 a.m.: "Educating the Eye: Seeing Kiki Smith's Art Through Photography," led

go., PAGE B13

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go.

Continued from PAGE B9

by Elizabeth Brown, chief curator of the University of Washington's Henry Art Gallery, 510. Reservations are required; call (847) 491-7540. April 27, 5:30 p.m.: "Curator's Lecture: Photography and Kiki Smith." May 12, 7 p.m.: "A Conversation with Kiki Smith." May 21, 2 p.m.: Block Cinema presents "Kiki Smith: Squatting the Palace," a 2006 documentary film. April 8-Aug. 14: "Social Mobility: Collaborative Projects with Temporary Services." Through social actions, do-it-yourself projects, publications and public interventions, artists Brett Bloom, Marc Fischer and Salem Collo-Julin aim to raise awareness about social, economic, environmental and political issues.

Dittmar Memorial Gallery at Northwestern University's Norris Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston. www.norris.northwestern.edu/dittmar.php. (847) 491-2348. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Through May 8: "On the Edge," works by Chicago-based and Nigerian-born artist Nnenna Okore. Most of the works are constructed from handmade paper layered with fibrous materials and dyes.

Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. (847) 674-1500. Through May 3: Skokie Art Guild members' spring exhibit, "Nature's Palette." For information, visit www.skokieartguild.org.

Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit www.lincolnwoodil.org/artgallery.cfm. Through April 30: "Pete's Lens," photographs by Peter J. Nussbaum. Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through April 22: "OakArt 2011," paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, digital art and photography by student artists.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Artists are invited to jury to be among the exhibitors in the 21st Annual An Arts & Crafts Adventure, to be presented by the American Society of Artists from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 7 on the grounds of Hodges Park, Prospect and Vine, Park Ridge. For information, call (847) 991-4748 or visit www.americanartsocietyofartists.org.

Call for artists for the Skokie Art Guild's 50th annual Art Fair, to be held July 9-10 on Skokie's Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton. Fine art only; prizes and awards available. For more information or an application, visit www.skokieartguild.org or call (847) 677-8163.

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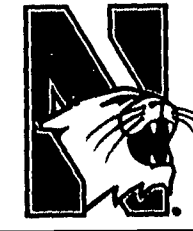


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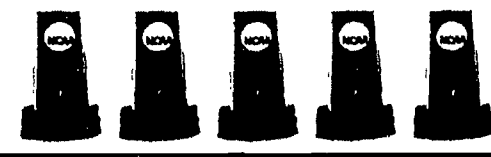
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Continued from PAGE 13

nual "Raising the Roof" at 8 p.m. April 29-30 in Lieberich Hall, 2559 N. Sayre, Chicago. The evening includes a mini concert by local singers, a comedy production by The Harlem Nights Players, food, and a Chicago Media Auction with items donated by Steve Dahl, Gary Meier, Tom Skilling and others. \$8 at the door. Call (773) 637-6565, ext. 37. "Grace," a musical tribute in honor of Michelle Nicastro Stark, will be presented at 12:30 p.m. May 1 at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. Performers include cabaret artists John Mahady and Beckie Menzie. Proceeds will benefit a scholarship fund for musical theater students at Northwestern University. Tickets are \$25. Call (866) 468-3401 or visit www.maynestage.com.

BOOKS & POETRY

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W.

Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. April 11, 11 a.m.: Discussion of *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. April 20, 1 p.m.: Discussion of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. April 25, 7 p.m.: Discussion of *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister. The Spring Used Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library will be held April 15-17 at the Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. Members-only sale will be from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, with annual memberships available at the door for \$5 per person. The sale is open to the general public from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday. For information, call (847) 253-5675.

CHILD'S PLAY

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Through April 19, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays: Stories & More, a storytime for children ages 3-5.

Through April 20, 10 a.m. Wednesdays: Beginning with Books, featuring stories, songs and activities for infants to 2-year-olds and a caregiver. April 11, 3:30 p.m.: Screening of "Harriet the Spy-Blog Wars." April 18, 3:30 p.m.: Screening of "Despicable Me." Niles Public Library District, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. April 9, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.: Art with Tom Lichtenheld. Children's book illustrator Tom Lichtenheld will present art workshop for children in grades 2-5. April 10, 2 p.m.: Joel Frankel's "Musical Merriment." April 23, 2 p.m.: Screening of "Megamind," rated PG.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. May 7, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.: Art-

sPower National Touring Theatre presents "Madeline and the Bad Hat." \$18. 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. May 12-15: Sesame Street Live "1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends." Performances at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$15, \$25 and \$30. \$40 Gold Circle seats and \$85 Sunny Seats are also available. Opening night, all seats (excluding Gold Circle and Sunny Seats) are \$15.

COMEDY

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.montreroom.com. (847) 544-5300. April 9, 8:30 p.m.: The Second City presents "Fair & Unbalanced." Tickets are \$15-\$20 in advance; \$20-\$25 at the door. April 23: Steve Cochran presents "Ladies' Night," featuring stand-up comedy by Patti Vasquez, Ana Belaval and Jann Karem. \$27. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. April 29, 8:30 p.m.: The Edge Comedy Club. \$15. Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette. (847) 251-7424. www.wilmettetheatre.com. April 9, 9 p.m.: Comedy at the Mette, in association with Chicago

Underground Comedy, presents Chad Briggs. \$12, 21 and over event. Beer and wine will be sold.

DANCE

PERFORMANCES

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. June 24-25, 7:30 p.m., and June 26, 3 p.m.: Ensemble Espanol Spanish American Dance Festival. \$26-\$46.

GROUPS & LESSONS

Chicago Dance Chapter of USA Dance, the national organization representing

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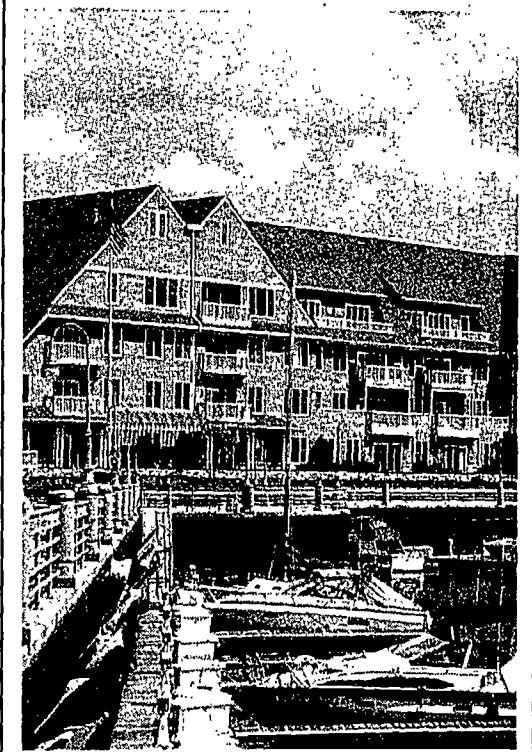


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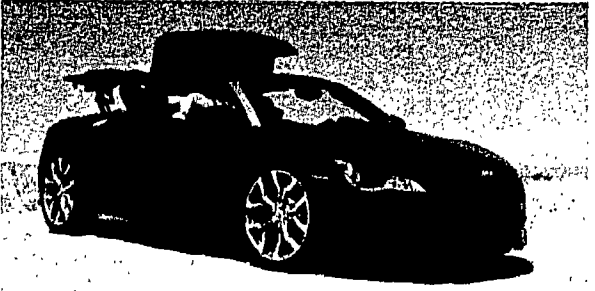
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See inside for the full story in Today's Homes



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AUDI R8 SPYDER SPINS ITS WEB

BY REX ROY
For Sun-Times Media

Did you remember Earth Hour on March 26? Did you shut off your domicile's lights at 8:30 p.m. to make an environmental statement? I'll tell you how I celebrated Earth Hour: I did not turn off my lights, but unlike last year, I did not start my cars and leave them idling in the driveway. From 8:30 to 9:30 (a little longer, actually), I played on the Audi website and spec'ed out my own 2011 R8 Spyder Convertible.

The exquisite R8 Spyder has great gobs of horsepower. The 525-horsepower V-10 engine hides just behind the driver. The convertible top powers open in just 19 seconds and can be operated at a modest speed, up to 31 mph.

Aft of the top, huge engine exhaust vents reside below LED taillamps. Up front, the full LED headlamps mesmerize with their beauty and function. From a profile view, the R8 Spyder looks ready to catapult itself forward.

Inside, the open cockpit is filled with carbon fiber panels, fine leathers and high-quality switchgear. The shifter head looks as if it were originally designed to be the combination dial on a safe; it feels hewn from a solid aluminum ingot. Like a racing car, the fat-rimmed steering wheel has a flattened bottom. Everything is arranged in a manner befitting Audi, the current leader in design regarding automotive interiors.

Helping make the Spyder practical (sure it is), Audi engineered a trio of Bluetooth microphones into the shoulder belts. An audio processor determines the best sound clarity and uses that feed during hands-free cell phone conversations.

With the top in place, the Spyder is not as quiet as the coupe, but who cares? Like the old Mercury Turnpike Cruiser, the Spyder's tiny rear window is retractable. When lowered, the open space lets in more of the V-10's delicious sound.

Top down, it's not exactly being in Dorothy's house during the tornado, either. The wind-blocker screen that fits behind the headrests further calms down the bigger breezes to light huffs.

While all of the above is true and important, one drive in the R8 Spyder — one five-second burst of acceleration — arranges those attributes in line behind this supercar's dynamic performance.

The engine revs effortlessly past 8,500 rpm. Until you've experienced this in real life, you don't really know what it means. Or what it feels like.

From a standstill, five seconds and two gears worth of acceleration will send you directly to jail in any Chicago area community. Academically, 0-60 mph happens in four seconds flat. Top speed exceeds 190 mph.

The engine's power is aided and abetted by a brilliant all-wheel-drive system.

The R8 is available with two six-speed transmissions: a manual and the relatively automatic R-Tronic. While some have complained about the around-town shift quality of the automatic shifts, Audi instituted running changes that have made the two-pedal (brake and accelerator, no clutch) arrangement not awful.

What the R-Tronic gives up in easy driving it grabs back by the armful in fast driving. It is capable of executing shifts in 300 milliseconds. Mario Andretti on speed washed down with four cups of coffee can't shift that fast.

Vastly superior (from a spiritual point of view) is the six-speed manual transmission with an intimidating gated shifter. If you don't know how to drive a manual gearbox, this car is the world's best reason to learn. And that third pedal on the left is the clutch.

Like a dagger jerked from its scabbard, a quickly executed shift of the manual gearbox brings forth an exquisitely satisfying ring. This metallic aural cue puts a satisfying period on each gear change, making the pilot feel invincibly cool.

The performance of the Spyder is so perfectly balanced that your license will be in immediate jeopardy from the moment you leave the Audi dealership. Why? Because the car is so easy to drive quickly and with complete confidence that driving 100 mph feels like 60. Starting at about \$160,000, the R8 Spyder is more rare than a Porsche 911 and less temperamental than anything Italian. Plus, with fuel-saving and emission-reducing engineering features such as direct fuel injection, the planet won't even notice when you fire the V-10 to life.

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| '07 HONDA CIVIC #15855B \$13,995 | | '06 LEXUS RX400 HYBRID #1635A \$23,995 |
| '10 CHEVROLET IMPALA #16183 \$13,995 | | '06 HUMMER H2 4x4 #16274A \$26,995 |
| '08 DODGE CHARGER #4841A \$14,995 | | '11 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO #16225 \$28,995 |
| '09 HONDA CIVIC #1061A \$14,995 | | '07 CHEVROLET TAHOE LTZ #16276A, Loaded \$28,995 |
| '07 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING #15848 \$14,995 | | '10 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT 4x4 #16223 \$31,995 |
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| '07 BUICK LUCERNE #16165 \$16,995 | | |
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| '08 NISSAN ALTIMA SL 3.5 #8979A \$17,995 | | |
| '09 CADILLAC CTS #15888 \$21,995 | | |
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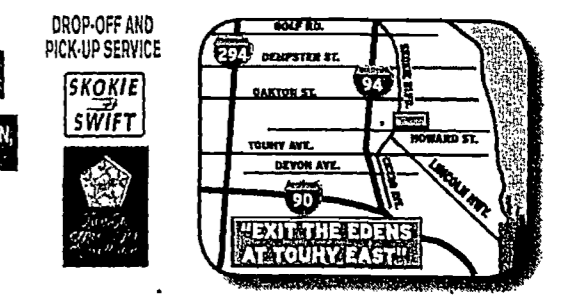
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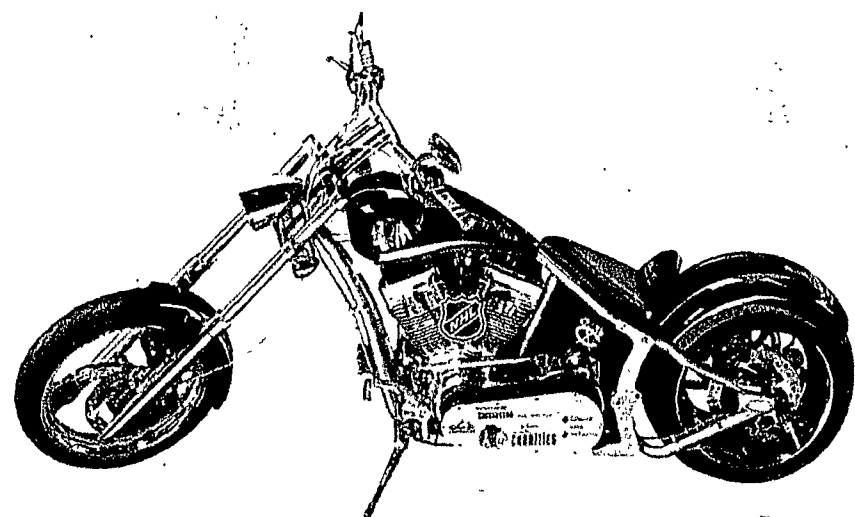
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Blackhawks chopper to be raffled for charity at Grossinger Autoplex

The Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup Chopper will make its final appearance at Grossinger Autoplex in Lincolnwood from noon to 2 p.m. April 9.

The one-of-a-kind custom chopper then will be raffled off for charity at Grossinger, 6900 N. McCormick Blvd. The bike was created by the world-famous Orange County Choppers in celebration of the Blackhawks' Stanley Cup Championship. It is valued at more than \$100,000.

The beneficiaries of the raffle are Special Kids Network, OCC Foundation and Chicago Blackhawk Charities.

Special Kids Network is an independent non-profit organization that was created to provide funding for programs that help children and young adults with special needs. Its mission is to create community awareness and raise funds to support organizations that believe every child and young adult should be able to enjoy life to its fullest and to participate in their community.

Special Kids Network was founded in 1999 by

Chad and Debbie Coe because they wanted to make a difference in the lives of children with special needs. Deeply affected by their own experience with a nephew with developmental disabilities, the Coes have galvanized an entire community to support organizations dedicated to serving children. Since 1999, the network has raised more than \$1 million dollars for children and young adults with special needs. For more information or to donate, please visit SpecialKidsNetwork.org.

Grossinger Auto Group, the area's oldest operating dealer, has been selling vehicles in the Chicago market for more than 85 years. It operates six dealerships in Palatine, Chicago and Lincolnwood. Each location has just been renovated and offers state-of-the-art sales and service facilities. Grossinger currently sells Hyundai, Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Toyota, Scion and Kia.

For more information about the Grossinger Auto Group, visit grossinger.com or call (847) 674-9000.



Governor Pat Quinn checks out the Blackhawks chopper.

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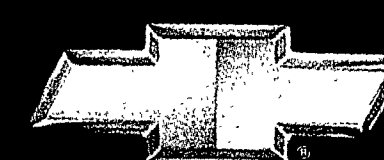
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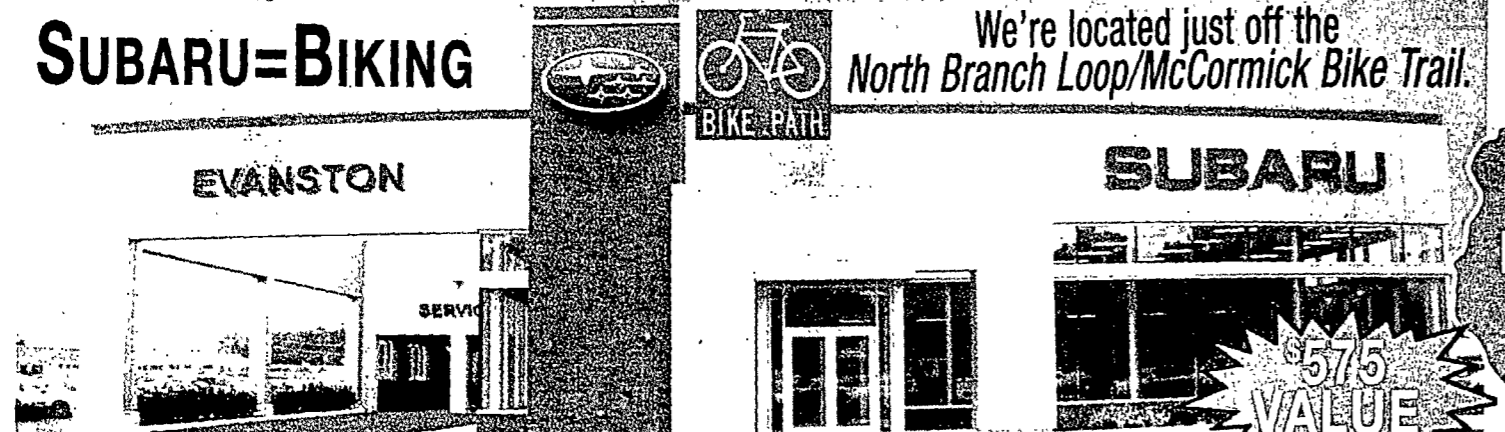
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| '10 Toyota Camry LE | Automatic, Air, Full Power, White, P3881 | \$18,995 |
| '07 Ford Escape XLT AWD | Auto, Sunroof, 21,000 Miles, Silver, P3881 | \$14,995 |
| '09 Toyota Corolla LE | Auto, Power Windows and Lock, 17K, Green, 7061A | \$14,995 |
| '08 Nissan Altima 2.5 SL | Leather, Moonroof, Auto, Like New, Silver, P3850 | \$14,995 |
| '10 Toyota Corolla | Auto, Air, Power Equipment, Must See, Silver, P3854 | \$12,495 |
| '08 Nissan Altima 2.5 S | Automatic, Power Windows, 37K, Silver, P3828 | \$12,195 |
| '08 Honda Accord EXL-V6 Sedan | Auto, Leather, Moonroof, Grey, 6928A | \$11,495 |
| '09 Toyota Corolla LE | Auto, Air, Power Equipment, Mint Cond., Red, P3853 | \$10,495 |
| '03 Buick Rendezvous GXL AWD | Leather, Sunroof, 46K, 6978A | \$9,995 |
| '05 Honda Civic LX | Automatic, Only 58,000 Miles, Silver, 7145A | \$9,995 |
| '02 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4 | Automatic, Air, Power Windows, P3879A | \$9,995 |
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| '08 Subaru Impreza WRX 4-Door | 28K, Black, 7042A | \$19,995 |
| '06 Subaru Impreza WRX Ltd. | Leather, Sunroof, 4-Door, 27K, Silver, 7145A | \$17,995 |
| '10 Impreza Prem. 5-Dr | Sunroof, 6 CD, Auto., All Weather, Red, P3884 | \$17,995 |
| '10 Impreza Prem. 4-Dr | Sunroof, 6 CD, Auto., All Weather, White P3877 | \$16,495 |
| '10 Impreza 4-Dr | Auto, Power Windows, Red, 5544R | \$14,995 |
| '06 Subaru Impreza WRX HB | 5-Speed, Black, 7108A | \$12,995 |

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| '10 Outback Prem. | Moonroof, Auto., All Weather, Power Seat, P3880 | \$24,995 |
| '10 Subaru Legacy Ltd. | Leather, Sunroof, Bluetooth, 2-to-Pick, Silver, Grey | \$23,495 |
| '10 Outback Prem. | Automatic, All Weather, Power Seat, Black, P3875 | \$23,295 |
| '10 Legacy Prem. | All Weather, Power Seat, 2-to-Pick, P3857/58 | \$18,995 |
| '08 Outback 3.0R LL Bean | Moonroof, Leather, Loaded, Black, 7073A | \$17,995 |
| '09 Subaru Legacy SE | Automatic, Sunroof, Power Seat, Green, P3882 | \$16,995 |
| '06 Outback 3.0R LL Bean/Navl Sdn. | Leather, Sunroof, Blue, 51K, P3798 | \$15,995 |

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| '09 Forester X-Prem | Auto, Sunroof, All Weather, Green, P3871 | \$19,495 |
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| | 2006 LINCOLN AVIATOR ULTIMATE AWD Stk. #31863 | 2006 ACURA TL Stk. #F59148 |
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 2010 MITSUBISHI GALANT #Q367... \$12,980*
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 2005 BMW 325i #B0045A... \$13,980*
 2010 FORD FUSION #P108... \$13,980*
 2005 GMC ENVOY XL DENALI #Q372A... \$13,980*
 2004 VW TOUAREG #P126... \$15,980*
 2006 NISSAN MURANO SL AWD #P119... \$15,995*
 2011 TOYOTA COROLLA LE... \$16,980*
 2009 SUBARU IMPREZA #B0016A... \$16,980*
 2010 NISSAN ALTIMA #P144... \$16,980*
 2007 MERCEDES CLK350 #C1334... \$17,995*
 2008 VW GOLF GTI... \$18,980*
 2010 VW JETTA WAGON #A0050A... \$18,980*
 2008 ACURA RDX #P118... \$22,980*
 2007 BMW 328xi #P153... \$22,980*
 2010 CADILLAC CTS #P143... \$26,980*
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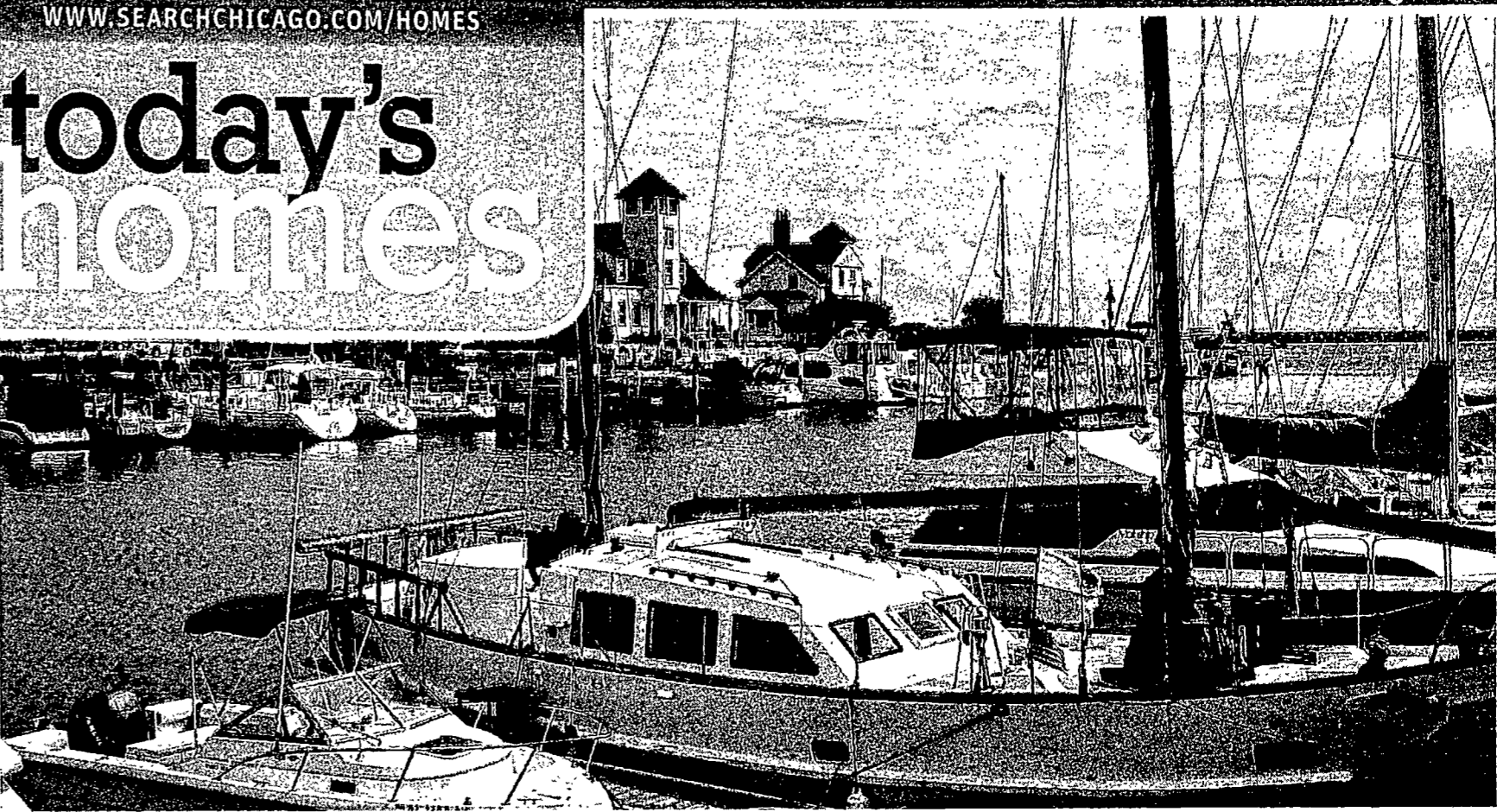


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today's homes



On the lake front: Located on the triangular peninsula surrounded by Lake Michigan and the Root River, Atwater homeowners enjoy scenic views of the marina.

ATWATER AT WATER'S EDGE

Condo community offers magnificent views, vacation lifestyle, but only nine are left

'Perched on the shores of Lake Michigan, Racine, Wis., is the destination that blends the perfect amount of stimulation and relaxation," touts the Racine County Visitors Guide. It's no wonder that many Illinoisans have purchased a home at The Atwater at Gaslight Pointe and are enjoying all the amenities that living on Lake Michigan offers. With spring in the air, prospective buyers might want to think about all the festive outdoor activities that can be theirs if they lived at The Atwater. From free concerts at Monument Square to the Lakefront Art Show, Downtown Gallery Night, Summer Parades, Fishing Tournaments, the Racine Symphony Pops Concert, and the Yacht Club Hook Race, there's never a dull moment in the downtown district. Homeowners are discovering the historic shopping

district, art galleries and museums and even horse drawn carriage rides. Many events feature live local music at various locations, and people are finding that there's so much to explore in downtown Racine. With driving time only about 1 1/2 hours from Chicago, many Illinoisans have chosen The Atwater as their vacation getaway retreat or their year-round residence. Built by New England Homes, the four-story, 40-unit condominium building features floor plans with up to 1,836 square feet of living space giving homeowners a variety of choices. Buyers can take advantage of recent price reductions. Now, one- and two-bedroom condos previously priced from \$180,900 to \$413,900, are available from \$159,900

SEE ATWATER, PAGE 3

Don DeBat, 6 | Recent homes sales, 2 | Blockshopper, 11

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TODAY'S HOMES

TRANSACTIONS

Curious about more home sales in your neighborhood? For more Chicago area transactions, see "recent sales" at www.searchchicago.suntimes.com/homes/.

Antioch

373 Maplewood Dr. Cudahy, John & Anna Mae; \$116,000
40036 N Rena Ave. Andrews, Kyle H.; \$158,000

Beach Park

39476 Crofton Ln. May, Annie K; \$208,000
38728 N Cedar Ave. Perez, Samuel R & Yolanda; \$87,000

Buffalo Grove

2146 Apple Hill Ln. Hong, Matthew & Erica; \$467,000
154 Glendale Rd. Castrejon, Jesus M & Salgado, Lizet Y; \$202,000
259 Kendall Ct. Lane, Craig & Jadwiga; \$498,000
77 Le Jardin Ct. Mellinger, Russell S & Kirchhoff, Judith A; \$170,000
350 Rosewood Ave. Martinez, Eric & Abby; \$204,000

Deerfield

878 Bristol Dr. Gondeck Jr, Walter J

& Gondeck, Gina E; \$845,000
1307 Dartmouth Ln. Lin, I Ming & Wen Jen Wu; \$250,000
695 Lombardy Ln. Laven, Justin S & Jessica E; \$480,000
504 Princeton Ln. Shyman, Stuart; \$150,000

Des Plaines

1551 Ashland Ave 208: Jarog, Mateusz; \$106,000
900 Center St 1B: Rekić, Rasim & Hatidza; \$100,000
330 Dover Dr. Lebyedyev, Viktor; \$203,000
2541 E Church St. Intizer, Rashida; \$160,000
1355 E Lincoln Ave. Achacoso, Derrick B & Merrell, Elizabeth I; \$330,000
1247 E Washington St 204: Moeztzuma, Andrew P; \$80,000
2148 Eastview Dr. Satterwhite, Melissa Denise; \$280,000
9423 Ironwood Ln. Patel, Vasant & Vipul; \$101,500
1757 Linden St. De Russy, Patricia R; \$76,000
647 Metropolitan Way 211 L: Victuelles, Jennifer A; \$155,000
1670 Mill St 301: Domanski, Maria; \$160,000

815 Nebel Ln. Harb, Hassan M; \$260,000

244 Wilkins Dr. Wodzien, Walter M; \$190,000

Evanston

1222 Chicago Ave 606: Ahmed, Omair & Siddiqui, Hira; \$256,000
811 Chicago Ave 703: Vlades, Claudia & Raluca V; \$230,000
1804 Cleveland St. Lang, Robert E & Shannon E; \$350,000
1813 Lincoln St. Larmee, Daniel; \$170,000
1031 Maple Ave. Hitt Jr, John C & Hitt, Stephanie D; \$820,000
1720 Maple Ave 1920: Talens, Antonio C & Julie A; \$345,500
1211 Michigan Ave 1211 1: Melchior, Paul W; \$140,500
2537 Prairie Ave 3W: Gottlieb, Jay; \$77,500
2620 Reese Ave. Austin, Michael B & Stark, Allison V; \$490,000
2260 Sherman Ave 2: Kai, Li & Wang, Zhong Feng; \$175,000

Fox Lake

604 Foxridge Dr C: Tom, Steven P & Diane L; \$78,000
35644 N Sheridan Dr: Jakimauskas, Leonard A; \$110,000
617 Scott Ct: Miller, Brian E & Rachel Witmer; \$140,000

Glencoe

382 Lincoln Ave: White, Gregory M & Antebi, Smadar; \$990,000

Glenview

2603 Commons Dr. Lobas, Marina M; \$490,500
10365 Dearlove Rd 1F: King, Suja & Robert; \$92,000
701 Forum Sq 504: Woda, Mirosław M; \$92,000

914 Harlem Ave. Holloway, Marvin S; \$435,000

1810 Longvalley Rd. Czmiel, Joanna & Evelyn; \$255,500

3506 Meadow Ln. Li, Guangwei & Zhao, Shuangping; \$320,000

1439 Pleasant Ln: Kilgallon, Michael B & Toni; \$865,000
645 Windsor Rd: Edlund, Mitchell J & Contos, Helen A; \$1,200,000

Grayslake

1367 Amherst Ct: Olson, Bryce & Erica; \$190,000
1369 Belle Haven Dr: Kruse, Greg & Theresa Holly; \$182,000
1710 Maplewood Ct: Coles, R Scott & Zachary R; \$145,500
33473 N Lake Shore Dr: Klein, Antoinette F; \$201,500
33661 N Royal Oak Ln: Neville, Donald C & Jane R; \$80,000
665 Swan Dr: Jabastin, Justin & Caroline; \$258,000

Gurnee

1401 Auburn Ln 25 C1: Brown, Daniel P; \$142,000
7140 Buchanan Dr: Plonowski, Janusz & Plonowska, Maria; \$101,500
7689 Cascade Way: Teague, John M & Lisa S; \$389,000
690 Chandler Rd 406: Thacker, Mary; \$80,000
788 Greenview St: Spino, Donna; \$172,000
7218 Presidential Dr: Egan, Douglas P; \$397,000
5251 Rockpoint Ct: Deffling, Terry; \$88,500
754 Sizer Rd: Soghigian, Avedis; \$75,000
166 Wellington Cir: Brown, Aaron M & Terri S; \$96,000
645 Wilbur Ct: Howard, Sharon J;

1710,000

1212 Windemere Cir: Fossey, Stacey & Stuart; \$270,000

Hainesville

126 Centennial Dr: Shulik, Joshua J & Jacklyn; \$115,000
328 Deer Run Dr: McDonald, Gregory M & Czarnik, Magdalena; \$170,000

Highland Park

1450 Chantilly Blvd: Song, Steve Y & Gong, Jannie; \$170,000
885 County Line Rd: Craciun, Angela; \$362,000
686 Crofton Ave S: Hill, Herbert D & Karen Wiss; \$620,000
1231 Ferndale Ave: Saliba, Patrick; \$193,000
299 Hastings Ave: Bleiman, Joseph R & Laura B; \$535,000
2888 Lexington Ln: Drumm, Michael & Aliza; \$430,000
2160 Linden Ave: Evans, David Scott & Jane; \$650,000
3580 Old Mill Rd: Daugherty, Jolyn M & Fakhari, Anthony H; \$385,000
41 Ridge Rd: Newnum, Brian; \$145,000

Highwood

302 Prairie Ave: Vasquez, Jose Martinez & Martinez, Severino; \$160,000

Ingleside

33809 N Fischer Dr: Riley, Robert A & Jennifer A; \$150,000

Kenilworth

501 Ridge Rd: Zeller, Robert D & Deborah B; \$1,250,000

Lake Bluff

355 E Woodland Rd: Ryskiewicz, Robert S & Shirley A; \$350,000

3317 Stratford Ct 1C: Eggan, Eric R & Sally S; \$120,000

Lake Forest

1800 Amberley Ct 111: Taff, John H & Donna H; \$392,500
190 N Ahwahnee Rd: Dee, Terrence J & Garrett H; \$2,225,000
1148 Polo Dr: Oshea, Michael & Marybeth M; \$679,000
255 S Basswood Rd: Glyman, Donald R & Michelle; \$756,000
891 S Southmeadow Ln: Huebner, Gene R & Laurie Renee; \$1,050,000
562 Stockbridge Ct: Koopman, David; \$590,000

Lake Villa

37216 N Dillon Ct: Mathai, Mathew Mammotttil & Sruthy Mary; \$360,000
271 Northwind Dr: Cray, Kristin J; \$212,000
9 Shoshoni Trl: Ohren, Howard; \$300,500
21592 W Elm St: Kozuch, John & Carol; \$96,500
24116 W Haldi Ln: Phillips, Lana J; \$205,000

Libertyville

716 Ardmore Ter: Hanlon, Paul R & Amy G; \$255,000
425 Burdick St: Evans, Andra L; \$342,500
1009 Havenwood Ln: Klatt, David & Andrea; \$485,000
317 McKinley Ave: Mackey, Gerald; \$620,000
30465 N East End Ave: Kwok, Daniel C; \$130,000
27455 N Meadowlands Ln: Schlicht, Lutz & Claudia; \$700,000
6562 Persimmon Way: Rosado, Raul Michael & Nazma Muhammed; \$940,000
214 Prairie Ave: Keating, David A & Teresa L; \$376,000

Lincolnshire

51 Cambridge Ln: Youssef, Ashraf; \$362,500

SEE SALES, PAGE 4

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TODAY'S HOMES

ATWATER | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to \$372,500. Currently, one unit remains overlooking the harbor, while eight units offer views of the lake and river from their balconies. For those who need a home for the spring season, there are three finished units available for immediate occupancy.

Buyers can choose from a variety of homes including one-bedroom, one-bath to two-bedrooms-plus-den with 2½ baths. There is still time to add personal touches by selecting the final finishes. Once final selections are made, residences are being completed in six to eight weeks.

New England Homes is sweetening the deal by offering a variety of special incentives. Buyers can choose from 12 months of free homeowner association fees, a one-year free boat slip on the marina, elegant upgrades at no cost, or other cash incentives.

"The downturn in the housing market has taught us how to be very creative in structuring deals for our customers. We can tailor a transaction to fit the needs of just about anyone looking to buy," said Chris Rintz, managing member.

"With spring just around the corner, we invite prospective buyers to think about new beginnings and a new lifestyle living at The Atwater offers you a stress-free environment since everything is taken care of by a Homeowners

Association. When you live here, you can take advantage of warm weather months on the lakefront enjoying spectacular views of Lake Michigan," said Rintz.

Building amenities include balconies or expansive paver terraces, heated underground parking with private storage, and secured lobby entry in a state-of-the-art elevator building. And an entertainment deck on the rooftop of the carriage house may be reserved for special functions.

To visit the Atwater Sales Center, take I-94 north and exit Route 20. Go east for 9 miles and bear right onto 14th Street (just after Washington Park) to Lake Michigan. Take a left on Main Street through downtown, then a right on Gaslight Drive. The sales center is open Friday and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday and Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 262-637-7801 or visit www.nebinc.com.

Vacation views: A balcony at The Atwater gives residents magnificent views of Lake Michigan and the Racine harbor. Residents of the Atwater in downtown Racine, Wis., can also visit more than 50 downtown shops, galleries and restaurants, and listen to live music on first Fridays of the month.



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Builders predict young buyers will lead housing recovery

Generation X — young families and adults ages 31 to 45 — are likely to lead the home-buying recovery when it gets underway in late 2011 or early 2012, predicts the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).
With today's affordable home-loan rates and low prices, potential Gen-X home buyers with job security and the need for housing likely will think it's a good time to get off the fence and purchase a new or existing home or condominium, experts say.
Gen X makes up 32 percent of the population of home-buying age, generally defined as those who are at least 30 years old. While the nation's Gen-X population isn't the largest, it's the most mobile, and the group has strong opinions about the design features the new homes they want to buy, according to the NAHB analysts.

"The Gen-X home buyer is 'in full force with their careers and they need to accommodate growing families,'" said housing analyst Mollie Carmichael, principal of John Burns Real Estate Consulting in Irvine, Calif.
In sharp contrast, even though they constitute 41 percent of prospective home buyers, Baby Boomers continue to wait for the market to improve, and their decisions to delay retirement also delay their decisions to downsize into a smaller home, noted Carmichael, whose company recently surveyed about 10,000 buyers and potential buyers in 27 metro areas.
The national survey found that the vast majority of people were optimistic about a new home purchase. Between 85 percent and 89 percent said that now was a good time to buy a home.
Only 13 percent surveyed said

they thought home prices would continue to fall. This is further evidence that it's "not all about price," Carmichael said.
"They want something compelling, from a design or personalization standpoint."
Although McMansions are passé, and the average home size is shrinking, a majority of prospective buyers said they would like a bigger home than the one they have.
"These are first-time buyers or younger families looking for more room to grow," she said.
Seventy percent said that they were willing to pay \$5,000 more for an energy-efficient "green" home, but those responding to the survey said that they expected new homes to already have many green technology features.
Gen-X buyers also said they would pay a premium for dark-wood cabinets, a separate tub and

shower, and a fireplace in the living room, and more preferred a great room over formal spaces, such as a separate dining room.
While community amenities are important to Gen-X buyers, 46 percent said they prefer a home in a large-lot, suburban development, versus the 21 percent looking for a traditional or "walkable" neighborhood.
Heather McCune, director of marketing at Bassenan/Lagomi Architects in Newport Beach, Calif., emphasized that design will be important in generating Gen-X home sales in the emerging future marketplace.
"The notion of 'build it and they will come' no longer works. Design matters," McCune said.
Buyers also are looking for homes with a connection between indoor and outdoor spaces, even in colder climates, to create the per-

ception of greater home size, even if the space is only usable for part of the year, she said. They also want more storage, an open floor plan and flexibility in the garage.
"While Gen-X numbers are smaller than the birth-groups that precede and follow them, their numbers have been enlarged by steady immigration," noted NAHB Chief Economist David Crowe.
"Gen-X buyers may wait longer than their predecessors to establish their own household or buy a home because of the impact of the recent recession, but [housing-formation] trends are still likely to occur as they have for past generations."

Don DeBat's weekly real estate column is syndicated by DeBat Media Services. For more home-buying information visit his Web site at www.dondebat.net.



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DON DeBAT

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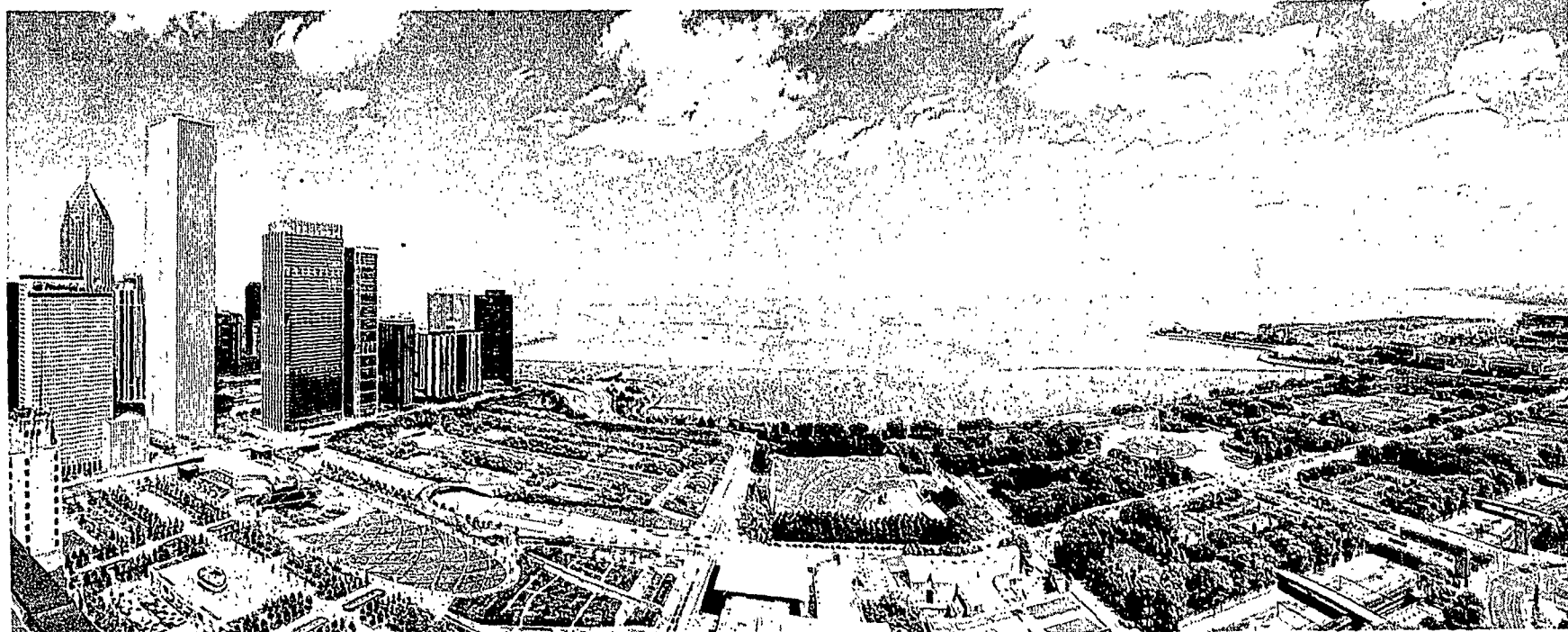
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Bird's eye view: A picturesque view of Lake Michigan can be seen from every east facing home at The Park Monroe.

Above it all

PARK MONROE RESIDENTS HAVE THE VIEW, FROM THE 42ND FLOOR UP

"Rising above it all" isn't an abstract zen-like concept for residents of The Park Monroe, where the condominium homes start at the 42nd floor and go up from there. That gives owners living on the lowest floor a vantage point higher than most penthouses in the area.

Located just steps off Michigan Avenue at 65 East Monroe, the homes soar above Millennium Park with lake and skyline views dramatized by floor-to-ceiling windows that are the largest in any city condo building. The panoramas they present day and night are a major point of pride for residents and one of the main selling points of The Park Monroe.

"The view is great," said owners Tom and Linda Peterman. "We can see all the way south to Soldier Field and if you look north you can see Navy Pier. On the Fourth of July everyone came to our place. We had dinner and watched the fireworks and listened to the music."

In addition to the views, two other major benefits rank among the top reasons buyers have been attracted to The Park Monroe. They responded to the convenience and cultural resources of living in downtown Chicago's most vital location, and they also were quick to recognize the value of the extensive amenities.

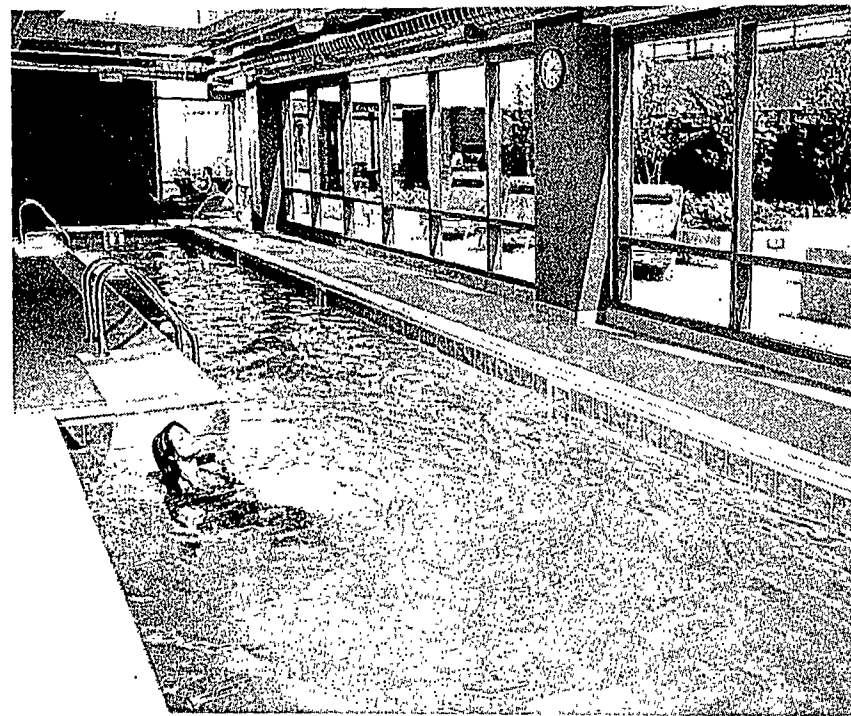
"The view is lovely, and it's so convenient ... the Art Institute, the Symphony,

The Lyric," said residents Steve and Shyla Rankin. "We use the gym all the time and, during the World Series," Steve went to the media room and had popcorn and beer.

"It was just like being in the ballpark." "We love the amenities in the building," said Park Monroe owners Michael and Becky Kaufman. "The outdoor patio in the summertime is really, really nice. We do a lot of barbequing. For Thanksgiving we barbequed our turkey up there. Our last condo had a lake view, too, but this is much nicer. The Art Institute is right across the street and we go to the CSO. Work is a short walk and it's really wonderful."

Other features of the building rating as residents' favorites are the lap-length indoor swimming pool adjoining the rooftop garden with its whirlpool spa and the state-of-the-art fitness center outfitted with the latest in club-quality equipment. Also frequently mentioned are the big-screen theater room and entertainment suite.

Many residents said they had never before been able to walk to work and found it created a whole different, relaxed lifestyle. They also related how they made use of the lakefront recreation afforded by miles of bike and jogging paths that start near their front door and extend mile after scenic mile to both the north and the south. Downtown Chicago is now a vibrant residential neighborhood, with dining opportunities,



A favorite amenity: The lap-length, indoor swimming pool adjoins the zen-like rooftop garden on the 49th floor at The Park Monroe.

entertainment venues large and small, and cultural delights.

At The Park Monroe residents have the art and activity of Millennium Park in their front yard, shopping of the Magnificent Mile just a stroll away and the Theater District just up the street.

Owner Brian Biehl summed it up. "This is ultimate city living. The Park Monroe has it all."

Residences still available at The Park Monroe range from one bedroom, two bedrooms, two bedrooms plus den up to two-story penthouses. Many of the homes feature private outdoor balconies and all have gourmet kitchens with European styl-

ing, luxurious baths and premium hardwood floors. Designer touches are evident throughout, with elegant details, fine appointments and premium fixtures.

It's now easier than ever to own one of Park Monroe's residences. Prices are attractive for new contracts at this time, from 20 percent to more than 30 percent below the building's previous pricing. The prices start in the upper \$200,000s for one-bedrooms, the mid \$400,000s for two-bedrooms. One- and two-story penthouses are available.

The models and sales center at 65 East Monroe are open seven days a week. Call 312-855-0550 or visit ParkMonroe.com for more information.



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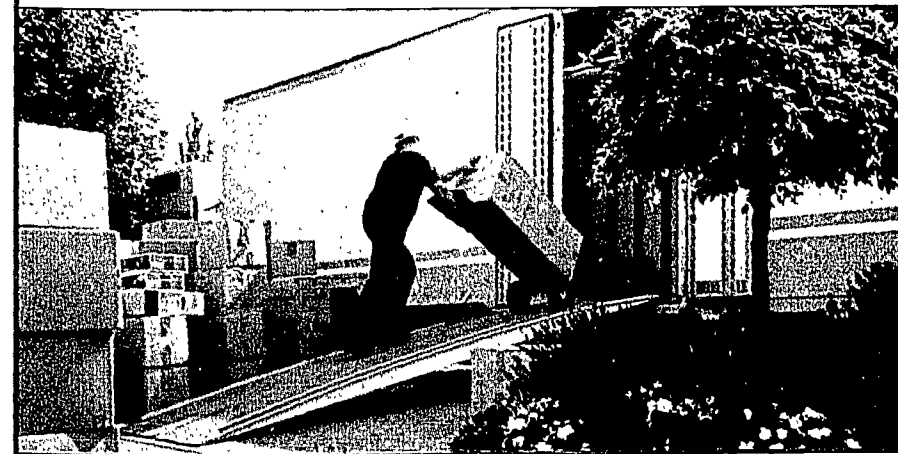
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Spring into home ownership sales event at Lennar



Special reserve: Arlington Reserve, a multi-family community in Arlington heights, is just one of the eight Chicagoland locations where Lennar is offering special discounts and financing through Sunday.

National promotion now through April 10

Prospective buyers can put a little spring in their steps and visit one of Lennar's right communities throughout the Chicago area during the homebuilder's "Spring Into Homeownership" National Inventory Home Sales Event running through Sunday, April 10.

During the Spring Into Homeownership event, buyers can get a new Lennar home with more luxury features, upgrades and energy efficiency than ever at no extra charge. There also are interest rates as low as 4.75 percent (5.53 percent APR) currently available through Lennar's preferred lender, Universal American Mortgage Company (UAMC).

Plus, Lennar is offering homebuyers up to \$5,000-plus to use toward closing costs and a move-in package that includes a washer, dryer and refrigerator.

Prospective buyers can get details of all offers from a sales representative.

"With the fantastic incentives

available during this national inventory home sales event, this is the time to buy a brand new Lennar home," said Doug Bober, president of Lennar's Chicago division. "Don't miss your chance to spring into huge savings on brand new Lennar homes in the Chicagoland area and move forward with buying the home of your dreams."

No matter if someone is a first-time homebuyer, move-up buyer or looking to downsize to a smaller home, Lennar has a home to meet a family's lifestyle needs in the most desired locations in the Chicagoland area. Lennar offers a variety of homes from new single family homes, townhomes, duplex homes, ranch villas and row homes. Homes are strategically located near the Metra Transit System, CTA Transit System and O'Hare International Airport.

For more information on Lennar's Chicago area communities visit lennar.com/newhomeschicago. Welcome Home Centers and decorated models are open through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Broker participation welcome.

HOME FRONT BY BLOCKSHOPPER

Escape the city

WHERE WE LIVE | Secluded lakefront property comes with water rights

BY JEREMY SCHNITKER
blockshopper.com

With summer approaching, many Chicagoans who have endured this lingering winter might be imagining how nice it would be to have a comfortable, secluded, lakefront property. This is exactly the appeal of the Pistakee Lake Townhomes, said Coldwell Banker agent Gina Maravelas.

Maravelas is listing a three-bedroom, 2.5-bath unit in the development at 147 Manor Lane in Fox Lake for \$359,900. The townhome, which was built in 2009 and sits on the shores of Pistakee Lake, offers a sun deck and lake rights, as well as a boat slip.

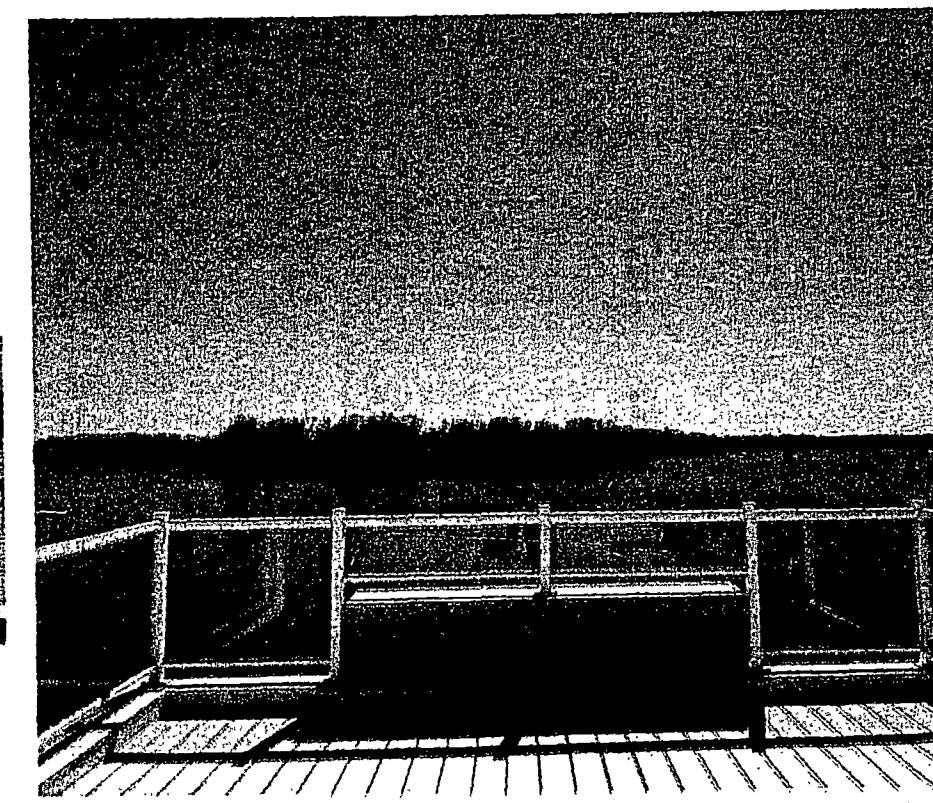
Inside the home, the living room's French windows provide sweeping water views.

Hardwood flooring can be found in most of the home's main living areas, while the kitchen has tile flooring, 42-inch cherry cabinets, gran-



ite countertops and stainless steel appliances. There is also a fireplace and a two-car garage.

"These units are appealing to people from the city who may want to use the property as a getaway home, or people that are looking to live in a vacation-type setting year round," Maravelas said.



Midwestern oasis: The townhome at 147 Manor Lane in Fox Lake includes this sun deck, along with lake rights and a boat slip. The three-bedroom, 2.5-bath property is on the market for \$359,000. | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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DATA POINT

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

87

The number of homes sold in Arlington Heights to date in 2011, the highest amount in the Northwest suburbs.

Attorney buys home in Highland Park

An employment attorney has purchased a home in the central part of Highland Park. Gary Savine and Irene Savine bought a four-bedroom, 2.5 bath home in the 800 block of Highland Place for \$735,000 on Jan. 21. The 2,800-square-foot house was built in 1962.

Gary Savine works as an assistant general counsel for labor and employment at Hill

Rom, a provider of home health care supplies and equipment. Prior to his employment at Hill Rom, he was a senior counsel at International Truck and Engine. He earned his bachelor's degree in American public affairs from Michigan State University and his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

—John Peyton

MARKET WATCH

| City | For sale | Median price | Rate of foreclosure | # of sales | # of foreclosures |
|---------------|----------|--------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Barrington | 3.98% | \$390,000 | 5.81% | 155 | 9 |
| Buffalo Grove | 2.92% | \$242,500 | 13.07% | 459 | 60 |
| Des Plaines | 3.37% | \$189,000 | 35.41% | 706 | 250 |
| Evanston | 3.65% | \$315,750 | 16.16% | 724 | 117 |
| Gurnee | 2.94% | \$215,000 | 3.88% | 309 | 12 |
| Highland Park | 3.6% | \$399,500 | 4.04% | 322 | 13 |
| Lake Forest | 4.98% | \$785,000 | 1.53% | 196 | 3 |
| Park Ridge | 2.88% | \$350,000 | 10.34% | 387 | 40 |
| Skokie | 2.94% | \$250,000 | 29.08% | 564 | 164 |
| Wilmette | 2.81% | \$618,500 | 5.06% | 316 | 16 |

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

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| 2010 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4 CERTIFIED #P13539 \$24,988 | 2003 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE W/NAV #P13484B \$9,990 | 2004 GMC YUKON DENALI 4X4 #P13551B \$14,953 | 2003 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE #M115688B \$8,765 | 2010 FORD F-150 STX REG CAB 7.500 MILES #P13495 \$19,936 | 2002 MERCEDES-BENZ C240 SEDAN ONLY 76K MILES #P11558A \$12,575 | 2008 FORD E-250 CARGO VAN #P10435A \$16,834 | 2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT ONLY 15.5K MILES #Z115447A \$15,987 | 2003 TOYOTA CARRIY LE SEDAN #D116501A \$7,966 | 2003 FORD WINDSTAR #M115521A \$6,695 | 2006 CHEVY BLAZER LT #Z1153181 \$9,985 |
| 2008 HONDA PILOT EX 4X4 #T15429A \$28,990 | 2003 FORD EXPLORER SPORT 4X4 ONLY 79K MILES #M115545A \$8,997 | 2008 MITSUBISHI LANCER GTS SEDAN W/NAV #P115477A \$13,970 | 2007 FORD EDGE SEL #P13464 \$15,360 | CERTIFIED #1 FORD CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED DEALER IN ILLINOIS 6-yr/100,000 MI. Powertrain Warranty 1.9% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE ON USED TRUCKS, CARS, SUVs & MORE! CREDIT PROBLEMS? CALL MR. HOWARD 847-481-0435 | 2007 BMW X3 4X4 SPORT UTILITY #M115677A \$22,765 | 2008 MERCURY SABLE SEDAN #P13496 \$15,638 | 2007 DODGE NITRO SLT 4X4 #P13285A \$16,357 | 2008 FORD F-250 LARIAT 4X4 CREW CAB DIESEL LOADED #T11657A \$41,396 | 2004 CHEVY MALIBU #S29 523,205 #Z1427 \$10,977 | 2002 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL SEDAN SIX MILES #J115533A \$6,989 |
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| 2004 GMC ENVY SUV 4X4 #P115411A \$9,967 | 2007 FORD F-160 XLT W/FT BED #J1119008B \$14,235 | 2001 PONTIAC GRAND AM SEDAN #P13524A \$3,995 | 2008 FORD ESCAPE LIMITED #P13435 \$18,449 | 2008 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING INDIVIDUAL #P13513 \$18,493 | 2007 JEEP WRANGLER SARAHARA 4X4 #P12415 \$20,983 | 1998 FORD CROWN VICTORIA LX SEDAN #P1335A \$3,993 | 2002 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER PREMIER AWD #D115208B \$10,435 | 2010 FORD FLEX SEL CERTIFIED #P13526 \$26,986 | 2010 FORD MUSTANG PREMIUM CONVERTIBLE CERTIFIED #P1345A \$20,476 | |

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Total due at lease inception \$1,129. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

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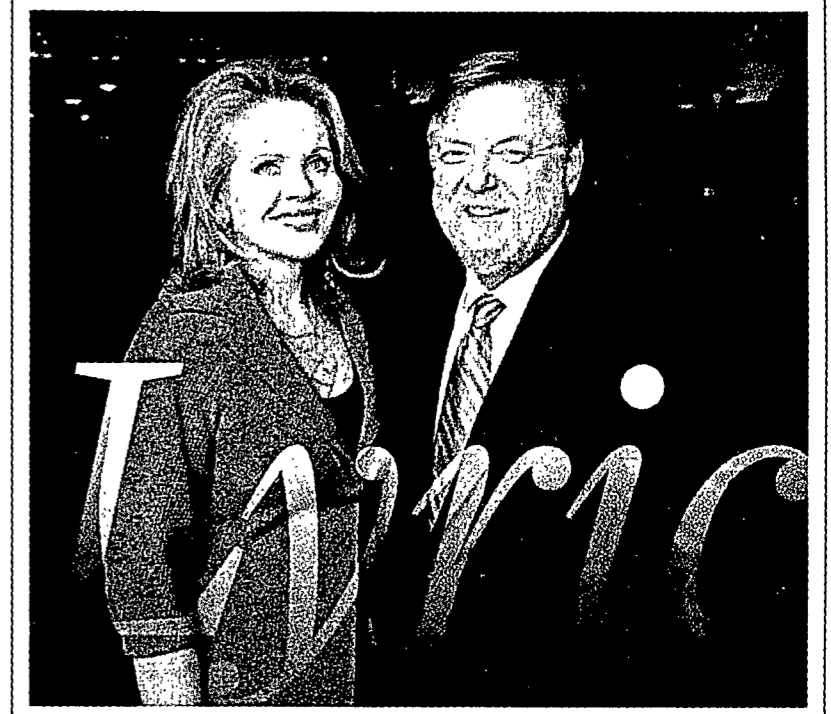
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Total due at lease inception \$1,129. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2011 HONDA ACCORD LX 4-DR **\$179#**
 Automatic, Model # CP2F3BEW, Stk # H25464
 Lease Per Month For **36 MOS.**
Total due at lease inception \$1,179. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2011 HONDA CR-V LX 4WD **\$189#**
 Model # RE4H3BEW, Stk # H25596
 Lease Per Month For **36 MOS.**
Total due at lease inception \$1,189. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2011 HONDA ODYSSEY LX **\$269#**
 Model # RL5H2BEW, Stk # H26039
 Lease Per Month For **36 MOS.**
Total due at lease inception \$1,269. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

^A0.9% APR Financing for 60 mos. on select years, makes and models. Based on approved credit to qualified buyers. Based on \$17.05 per month per \$1000 financed. See dealer for details. [#]Based on closed end leases. To qualified buyers with approved credit. 12,000 allowable miles per year, 15¢ for each additional mile. '11 Civic: Residual: \$11,583, '11 Accord: Residual: \$13,183, '11 CR-V: Residual: \$14,709, '11 Odyssey: Residual: \$18,291. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. Valid three days from publication. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Not available with any previous offers.

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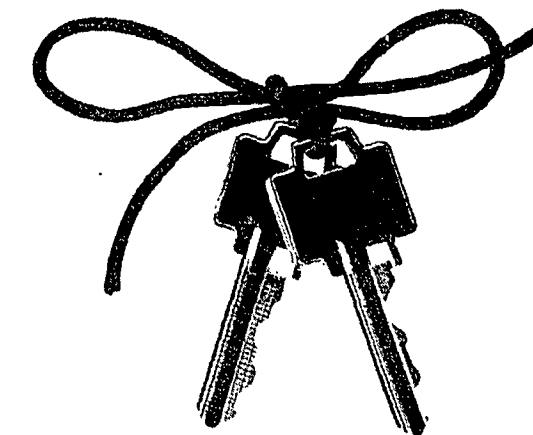
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Continued from PAGE B16

amateur ballroom dancers. Lesson begins at 7:30 p.m.; dancing from 8:15-11 p.m. Admission: \$8 members; \$10 non-members; \$6 for students with ID. Dance music for all swing, Latin and ballroom dances. Partners not required - singles welcome. Beginning dancers encouraged. For information, call (847) 577-9014 or visit www.usadancechicago.org. April 9: Dance at the Center at North Park, 10040 Addison, Franklin Park. American style foxtrot lesson by Cinnamon Tramwell of the Center for Ballroom and Dance.

Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May 14, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. \$6 per guest. For information, call (847) 698-5501 or (773) 685-8407.

Square Spares & Pairs Square Dance Club, a club for couples and singles, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8-10 p.m. \$5 for members; \$6 for guests. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646. April 11: "Step to a Wave - New Dancer Dance."

FILM
Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Friday Films at 1 p.m. - April 8: "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps." April 15: "Babies" and "The Karate Kid." April 22: "Conviction." Morning Matinees at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays - April 14: "Babies" and "The Karate Kid." April 21: "Disneyature Oceans."

Niles Public Library District, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. April 14, 2 p.m.: Closed Captioned New Releases series features "Get Low," rated PG-13. April 16, 2 p.m.: Screening of the documentary film "Taste of Passover: A Celebration of the Joys and Music of the Holiday." April 19, 2 p.m.: Busby Berkeley's Musicals of the 1930s Film Series features "Footlight Parade." April 28, 2 p.m.: International Film Series features "The Band's Visit," rated PG-13. In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles. April 30, 1 p.m.: "Pan Tadeusz: The Last Foray in Lithuania," a film adaptation of a beloved Polish national poem by Adam Mickiewicz. Ireneusz Raciborski, historian and film expert, will introduce the Polish language film (with English subtitles) and lead a discussion afterwards in both Polish and English. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. (847) 825-3123. www.parkridgelibrary.org. "Legends of Laughter" film series, presented at 7 p.m. Thursdays, unless otherwise noted. All showings will be accompanied by a short talk and introduction by film historian Matthew Hoffman. Admission is free. April 7: "The Freshman" (1925) starring Harold Lloyd. April 10: "Speedy" (1928) starring Harold Lloyd,

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Also featuring the 1921 short "Never Weaken" starring Harold Lloyd!

HAROLD LLOYD SPEEDY

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Sunday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
at the Pickwick Theatre
5 S. Prospect Ave. Park Ridge
Part of the Legends of Laughter film series at the Park Ridge Public Library
March 10 - June 2, 2011
Thursday nights at 7 p.m.

For more information on the "LOL" series, please visit the official blog: <http://legendsoflaughter.wordpress.com/>

6:30 p.m. at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. \$8. In addition to the film with live organ accompaniment courtesy of the Silent Film Society of Chicago, the Lloyd short film, "Never Weaken," will be shown. April 14: "Steamboat Bill" (1928) starring Buster Keaton. April 21: "City Lights" (1931) starring Charlie Chaplin. April 28: "The Kid Brother" (1927) starring Harold Lloyd. May 12: "The Cameraman" (1929) starring Buster Keaton. May 19: "Modern Times" (1936) starring Charlie Chaplin. May 26: "Movie Crazy" (1932) starring Harold Lloyd. June 2: "The General" (1927) starring Buster Keaton.

ORGANIZATIONS
North Shore Affiliates of the Museum of Contemporary Art will celebrate "All Things Artful, Two" at its spring luncheon at 11 a.m. May 17 at Bryn Mawr Country Club, 6600 N. Crawford, Lincolnwood. Chicago artist Nick Cave will discuss his work and share his views on the importance of art in our lives. In addition, works by artists who create jewelry, accessories, ceramics and mosaics will be on exhibit and for sale. For reservations and information, call (847) 948-9222.

Skokie Art Guild meets on the fourth Tuesday of March, April, May, June and September at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Visitors welcome. For information, visit www.skokieartguild.org.

Warrior animal
Joe "Animal" Laurinaitis of the world famous wrestling tag-team, The Road Warriors, will sign his new book, *The Road Warriors*, at the Barnes & Noble bookstore, 13 W. Rand Road, Arlington Heights, at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Call (847) 259-5304 for more information.

go., PAGE B22

Going for Baroque
Sunday, April 17 @ 7 p.m.

Come hear celebrated organist and harpsichordist David Schrader as he conducts the Chicago Philharmonic on April 17. Schrader, a Chicago favorite, will perform *Concerto for Harpsichord in D Minor* by CPE Bach. CPO and Lyric Opera Principal Piccolo player Alyce Johnson will be soloist in the virtuosic *Concerto in C Major for Piccolo and Orchestra* by Vivaldi. Tickets \$20-\$75.

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DIC • THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

Actress

Continued from PAGE B1

Delgado herself is of Colombian descent, but throughout her career she's played Puerto Ricans, Cubans and, most often, Mexicans. However, she's also been cast as other ethnicities, including Russian, Scottish and, increasingly, characters with no specified race.

"When I first started out, it was hard to be cast as

something outside Latina, but in the last 10 years or so, things have changed," Delgado said.

This is Delgado's 8th appearance at the Goodman, her latest being the short, one-woman piece "Para Carmen," which she wrote for her paternal grandmother and performed as part of the Latino Theatre Festival.

Alongside her ongoing acting work, Delgado is now working on expanding "Para Carmen" into a full-length show by adding

"Para Graciela" and "Para Maria," differently themed but linked sections that are inspired by her maternal grandmother and her mother.

The new show incorporates music and dance, giving Delgado still another chance to do what she's loved doing since high school days — to stand on a stage and perform.

And as she approaches her 20-year reunion this year, she thinks back to where it all started. "Niles West was great,"

go.

Continued from PAGE B21

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Niles Public Library District, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. April 12, 7 p.m.: Inside Writing and Publishing series features Breaking In: The Basics of Writing for Magazines. Topics include common magazine terminology, how to find markets, coming up with story ideas and more.

Oakton Community College offers Alliance for Lifelong Learning classes at various locations. For information or registration, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3. Writing Short Stories (COM E69-02) hones writing skills through exercises, reading, and discussions to gain a greater appreciation of the short story as a form of personal expression. Six-week course meets from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, starting April 14, at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Course fee is \$115.

Oakton Community College Emeritus Program offers courses at its Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. For information about the Emeritus Program, call (847) 635-1414 or visit www.oakton.edu/emeritus. The Life and Passions of Miss Jane Austen (HUM C07-71) will meet from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, starting April 14, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Course fee is \$84.

The Core Question in Film: What Is Family? (HUM S43-71) explores cinematic efforts around the world that focus on the desire to belong. Films to be screened and discussed include "Spirit of the Beehive" (Spain, 1973); "Killer of Sheep" (U.S., 1977); and "Meeting Venus" (Hungary, 1991). Six-week course meets from 1-4 p.m. Thursdays, starting April 21. Course fee is \$108.

ET CETERA

Central States Numismatic Society's 72nd Anniversary Convention and Coin Show, April 28-30 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. Hours are 2-7 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. The show features 300 dealers in collectible coins, paper money, and gold and silver bullion, as well as educational programs about coin collecting and related historical subjects. Admission is free. For information, visit www.centralstates.info.

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irish-american.org. April 17, 2 p.m.: "Great Architects: The Life and Works of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin." The 90-minute program consists of an introduction by IAHC Cultural Committee member Theresa Choske, followed by a screening of a PBS film, "Walter Burley Griffin: In His Own Right." Free.

Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. April 17 and May 8, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.: The Amazing

Acroats. \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door; \$10/\$12 for children. Solo Works by master puppeteer Michael Montenegro, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, April 8-May 21, at Theatre Zarko, located in the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Studio 213, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Solo Works highlights both Montenegro's newest creations and old favorites, covering a wide range of puppet styles and techniques. Not recommended for children under 8 years old. \$15; \$10 per person for groups of four or more. For reservations, call (847) 350-9275.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. 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 May 31: "Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges." The exhibit tells the story of Jewish professors who fled Nazism and came to America in the 1930s and 1940s, finding teaching positions at historically black colleges and universities. The exhibition explores the encounter between these scholars and their students, and their impact on each other, the Civil Rights Movement and American society. April 10, 1:30-3 p.m.: Wendy A. Sarti discusses and signs her recently published book, "Women and Nazis: Perpetrators of Genocide and Other Crimes During Hitler's Regime, 1933-1945."



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Directed by ensemble member TINA LANDAU

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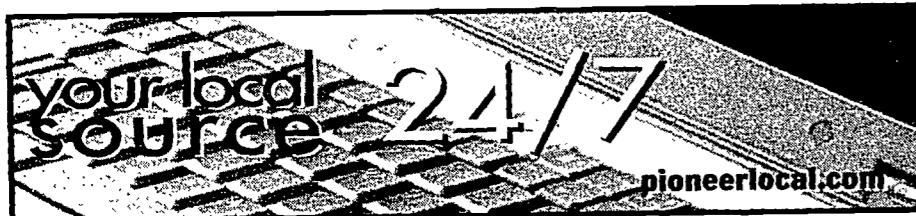
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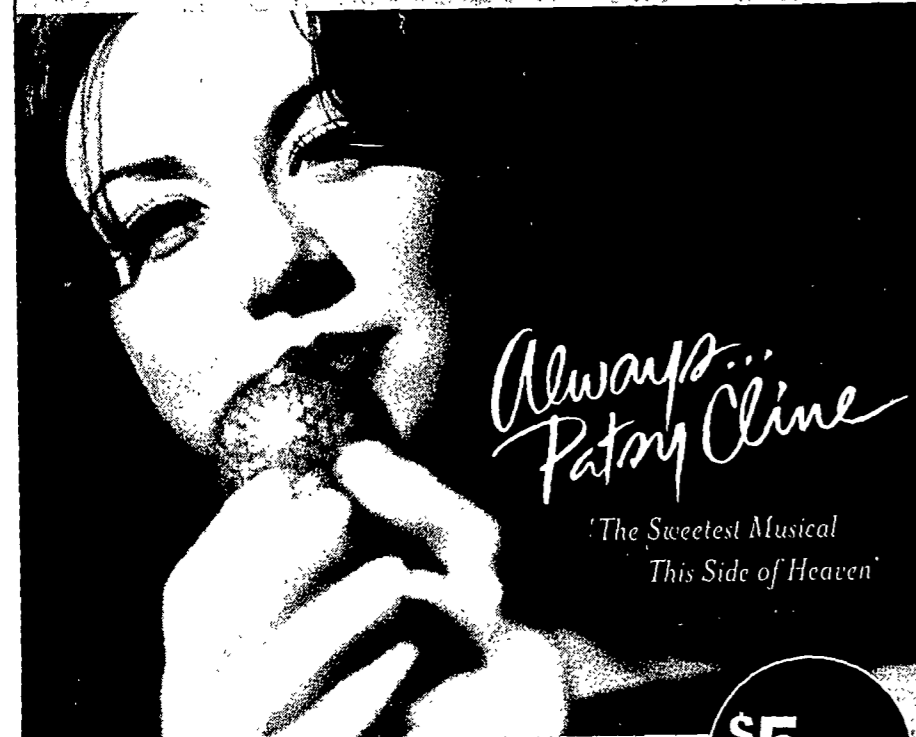
Buy online at steppenwolf.org or call 312-335-1650.

STEPPEWOLF WINE TASTING SERIES WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Hilarious, true stories, inspired by *The Hot L Baltimore*, from 2nd Story storytellers with DJ White Russian, wine from Webster's Wine Bar, food, and a ticket to the show—all for only \$55! Event starts at 6 p.m. For tickets call 312-335-1650 and use code 7452.



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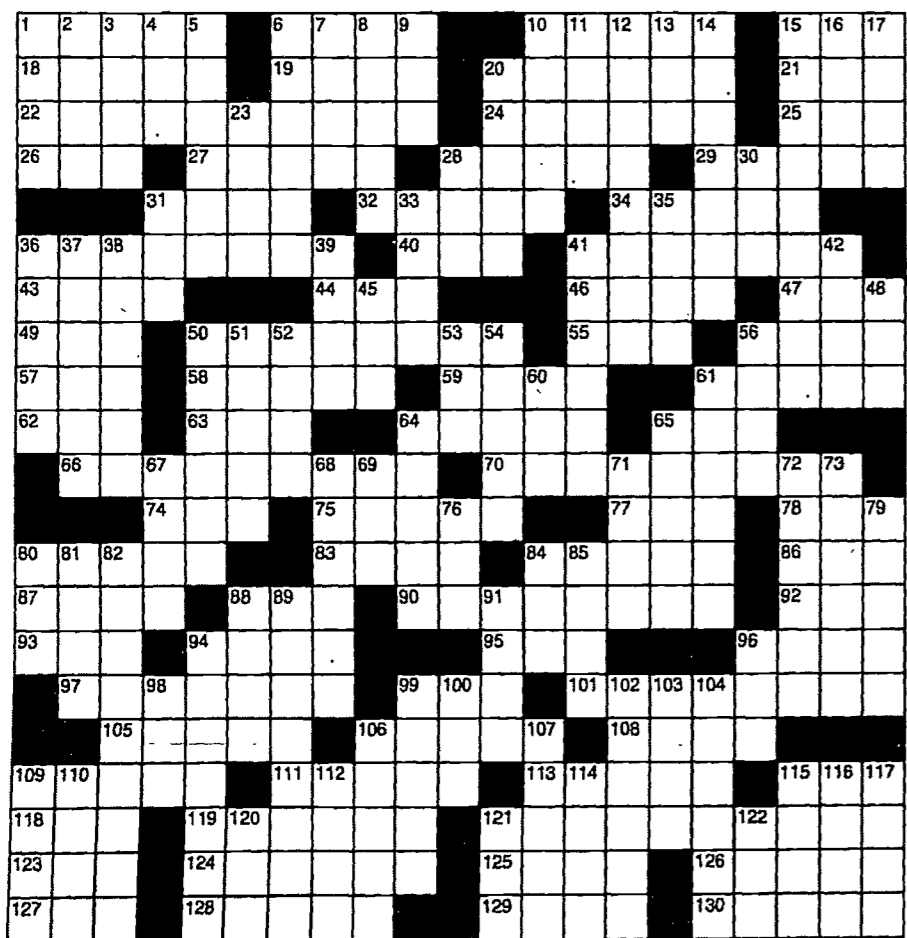
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| ACROSS | 1 Ohio city | 6 "Serpico" author | 10 Long Island resort | 15 Arafat's grp. | 18 Perfect | 19 Perry's creator | 20 Ancient Greek region | 21 CSA soldier | 22 Pungent person? | 24 Hit man? | 25 Compass pl. | 26 Goal | 27 Horrid | 28 Swedish port | 29 Fresh | 31 Length X Width | 32 Sheik site | 34 Coin-toss call | 36 Actress | 40 Sly — fox | 41 Annoying woman? | 43 Hole | 44 Impact sound | 46 Smeltery stuff | 47 Merino male | 49 Cartog- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 50 Sharp guy? | 55 Author | 56 He's | 57 Bikini part | 58 Harden | 59 Puppy bites | 61 Horse show | 62 Cul-de — | 63 Solidify | 64 — a customer | 65 Beer barrel | 66 Avid hiker? | 70 Good-looking girl? | 74 Sneeze and wheeze | 75 Declaim | 77 "Le — Soleil" (Louis XIV) | 78 Loser to DDE | 80 Trolley sound | 83 Great — | 84 Toy toter | 86 Geog. term | 87 Sty cry | 88 Part of B.S. | 90 Billiards player? | 92 Actress | 93 LAX letters | 94 New York stadium | 95 Veneration | 96 Pres. protectors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 97 Industrious fellow? | 99 Fleur-de — | 101 Ravenous | 105 Pack | 106 Austin or Smith | 108 Rainbow goddess | 109 "Paganini" composer | 111 Flourishes | 113 Sluggo's sweetie | 115 Scepter's sidekick | 118 Clay, today | 119 Happy guy? | 121 Tool man? | 123 Bell and Barker | 124 Glorifies | 125 Memo words | 126 Rigg or Ross | 127 Tiny colonist | 128 Hold up | 129 Pilsner | 130 Seraglio | DOWN | 1 — dream | 2 Mideastern gulf | 3 Devour | 4 Cal. page | 5 Entice | 6 Servile | 7 "La Rondine" | 8 Maul greeting | 9 DC figure | 10 Pasta | 11 Eye | 12 Tourmiquet, e.g. | 13 Hosp. | 14 Garden flowers | 15 Egged on | 16 Beam | 17 Toe the line | 20 Oranjestad's locale | 23 Baseball's pitcher | 28 "Viva — Vegas" (64 film) | 30 Clerical garb | 31 Pecs' partners | 33 Inclined plane | 35 Once again | 36 Poetic feet | 37 Self-government, in India | 38 Llama kin | 39 86 Across or 9 Down | 41 "Swanee" singer | 42 Corral | 89 Cognitive | 91 Publisher | 94 Behaved like bees | 96 Watching machines? | 98 — Ja-la | 99 Living-room accessories | 100 "Too Late" ("71 hit) | 102 Fiddle (with) | 103 Roman structure | 104 Saudi city | 106 Sullen | 107 Absurd | 109 Tibetan monk | 110 Dash | 112 Tulsa's st. | 114 Farm measure | 115 Actor | 116 Magritte or Descartes | 117 Spooky | 120 Bunyan's whacker | 121 Triangular sail | 122 Actress |



Answers: Inside today's classified section

HOROSCOPES

For the week of April 13 — April 19

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Whether a waiting period is taking longer than expected, or just seems that way, the anxious Lamb would do well to create a center of calm within her- or himself, and not do anything rash.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Practical matters dominate the week, but cultural activities also are favored, especially those that can be shared with someone special in the Bovine's life. Some important news might be forthcoming.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to know more about a possible career move in order to see if it offers a real opportunity or just a change. You're sure to get lots of advice — some of it good — but the decision must be yours.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The arrival of hoped-for good news about a loved one dominates most of the week and provides a great excuse for the party-loving Moon Child to plan a special event to celebrate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas rushing to finalize their plans might want to think about slowing down the pace, or risk overlooking an important consideration that could become a sore point down the line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The week's challenges call for logical approaches. But sentiment also has its place. Sharing memories with a special someone, for example, strengthens the bond between you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it's based on a solid found-

ation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don't be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.

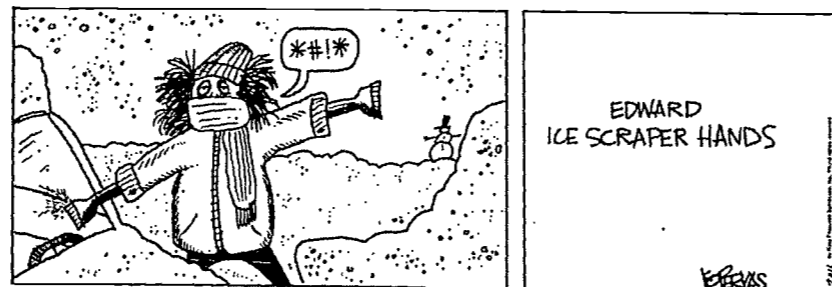
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.

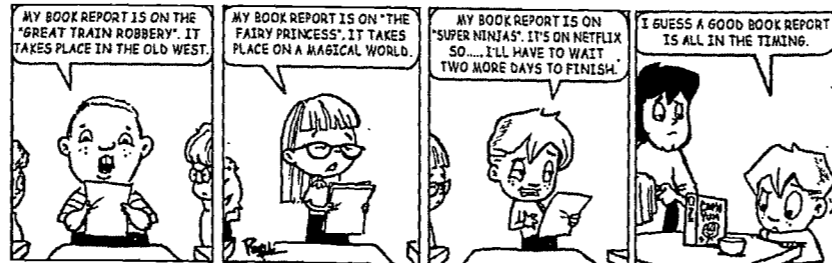
BORN THIS WEEK: You are known both for your love of acquiring beautiful things as well as for your generosity to others.

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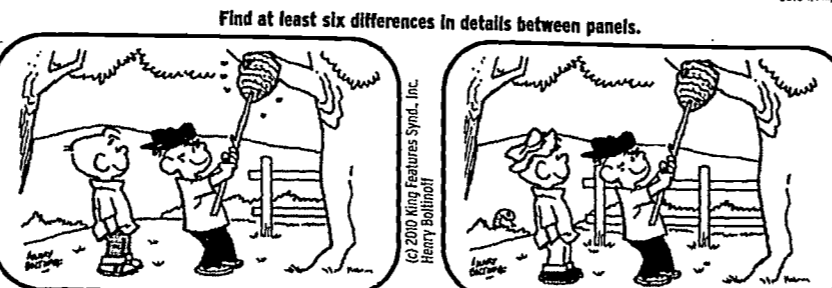
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Death Notices

Nelson, Harriett Mae (nee Slater) age 92, at rest March 28. Beloved wife of Vernon R. for 62 years; loving mother of Vermette (James) Richmond, Claire, David, Phillip and the late Keith; dear grandmother of Amy (Stephen) Edwards and Jason (Jennifer) Richmond; proud great grandmother of Timothy and Eli Edwards; treasured sister of Colin and the late John; caring aunt to several nieces and nephews.

Visitation and funeral services were held at Nelson Funeral Home, 820 W. Talcott Rd. (at Cumberland) Park Ridge. Interment Eden Cemetery Memorials to your favorite charity appreciated. Info 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

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In Memoriam

General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- 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 Pioneerlocal.com.

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Healthcare & Nursing

2011 HEALTH CARE TRENDS: HOME HEALTH CARE HIRING AND MORE

By John Rossheim, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

How will 2011 healthcare recruitment differ from 2010 healthcare hiring trends? And what will be the healthcare staffing trends?

As the economic recovery gains steam and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is deliberated in Washington, 2011 healthcare recruiting will ramp up, with particular emphasis on primary care and other care settings that provide cost-effective alternatives to hospitalization. Indeed, this year will see an acceleration in the long-term trend away from hospital care.

based recruitment and staffing firm.

Workplace healthcare is just one of several alternative care settings driving healthcare recruitment. "They're hiring at school-based clinics like those in California," says Chute.

To see other career-related articles, visit:
<http://career-advice.monster.com>.

Healthcare & Nursing Events Calendar

- April 13**
Oakton Community College
DesPlaines, IL Campus
Excellent End of Life Care and Ethical Considerations: Presenters Susan Dolan, RN, JD and Audrey Vizzard, EdD. RN, April 13, 8:30-4:30. Please check our website for further information and registration. Continuing Education for Health Professionals, Registered Nurses. Wednesday, April 13, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Des Plaines campus. Registration: \$ 6 a.m. Registration Fee: \$55.00. Walk-In Registration Fee: \$110.00. Advanced registration is required by fax or online. Continental breakfast is included. Bring your lunch or purchase in Oakton's cafeteria. This program provides the health professionals with information on legal and emotional aspects of end of life decisions. Topics include advance directives, ways to discuss a serious illness with clients, supporting clients and their families when there is conflict with physician recommendations, assisting a client in making ethically sound decisions and managing emotionally charged ethical situations. For information call 847.635.1934; Fax: 847.635.1809.
- April 15**
Valley West Medical Office Building-
Kish Health System
Sandwich, IL
Screen Free Week Kick-Off Event: Family games • Craft activity • Storytelling corner • Kid friendly snacks • Idea sheet for screen free activities • Raffle prize entry for completed and returned screen free log. This is a family event, parents must attend with their children. This event is open to all ages, games and crafts are suitable for children ages 3-10. Free registration required. Valley West Medical Office Building, April 15, 6:30 - 8 pm.
- April 16**
Silver Cross Hospital,
Francis Pavilion,
Joliet, IL
Therapy Career Open House: Careers A history of success. A promising future for your career. We have partnered with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago to provide the best in therapy care. Opening in 2012, this dynamic facility will accommodate our growing inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation programs, and our expanding outpatient pediatric program. Therapy Career Open House • Saturday, April 16 • 9-11 a.m. • Silver Cross Hospital, Francis Pavilion. Come meet our talented therapy staff. Tour the facility and allow us to introduce you to our system of care. Learn why our clinicians are so enthusiastic about their careers and how our partnership with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago may be a terrific decision for your therapy career. • Physical Therapists • Occupational Therapists • Speech-Language Pathologists • Silver Cross Hospital offers competitive salaries and benefits. We hope to see you at our Open House. Please RSVP by Thursday, April 14 to Human Resources. (815) 740-7090 or by email: hr@silvercross.org. If unable to attend, please apply online here or email your resume to hr@silvercross.org.
- April 20**
Delnor Hospital,
Health & Wellness Center
Geneva, IL
TRIAD FALL SENIOR SAFETY ACADEMY: Learn about the most common senior scams and personal safety. Free lunch provided but seating is limited. Call Geneva Township at 830/232-3602 to register. Registration required. Fee: Free. Date: Wednesday, April 20. Time: 9:00 AM-12:30 PM. Location: 351 W.B. For more information or to register, please call (630) 208-3999 or visit the Classes and Programs section of the Delnor web site: www.delnor.com.

"The rate of growth in hospital employment is likely to stay low," says Charles Roehrig, director of Altarum Institute's Center for Studying Health Spending. Not surprising, given the shrinking of the industry sector: Hospital beds declined from 1.21 million in 1990 to 945,000 in 2007, according to the National Center for Health Statistics' Health, United States, 2009 report.

As legal and legislative challenges to the historic healthcare reform package play out, most observers believe the main drivers of new hiring will remain in place. "The healthcare reform provisions that focus on accountable care and improving care quality are pretty much going to stay in, no matter what," says Wagner.

Still, hospital employment is very large and not stagnant. In 2010 hospitals added 50,000 staff to bring the total to 4.74 million jobs, according to the December employment report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Still, if certain key provisions of the PPACA are struck down by the courts or derailed by Congress, much in the healthcare industry could be up for grabs. "The loss of the individual mandate would be a big problem for the health insurance industry," says Dr. Rackow.

But the emphasis in healthcare recruitment now is on other care settings, from home care, clinics and hiring office staff. "Nursing homes, long-term care facilities, outpatient clinics and private physician offices are all hiring," says Patricia Chute, dean of the New York Institute of Technology School of Health Professions.

Healthcare recruiters, however, are generally confident that their bread-and-butter business is safe. "There are a lot of open positions out there," says Ken Cantin, a senior account executive with Management Recruiters of Colorado Springs, Colo. "There are always enough jobs for nurses, doctors, physical therapists and occupational therapists."

Intense Competition for Primary Care Providers
A variety of healthcare providers will redouble their efforts in 2011 to provide more primary care with fewer physicians, lowering costs in the process. "Hospitals and physician groups forming accountable care organizations will be looking more than ever to hire nurse practitioners, registered nurses and physician assistants," says Richard Wagner, managing director of Wagner Healthcare Consulting in Chicago. "Anyone who can deliver primary care at a discount will have a lot of value to their organization."

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Home Healthcare is Hiring Rapidly
Recruitment for many occupations in home healthcare will ramp up in 2011.

Polynesia - Beautiful South Pacific Pago Pago, AS
Polynesia - Beautiful U.S. Territory AMERICAN SAMOA—LBJ Tropical Medical Center is expanding coverage and would like to invite BC/BE Physicians in Radiology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Pediatrics, Pharmacy and Psychiatry to its lovely island in the South Pacific. Beautiful beaches, clear blue waters, friendly and warm people await you! Make a difference in an underserved area. Relocation assistance, etc. Interested?

But providers' ability to hire nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other non-MD primary care practitioners will be constrained by the current and future supplies of these professionals, who require extensive training. "Last year we had 1,700 applicants for 52 spots in the physician assistant program," says Chute.

Polynesia - Beautiful U.S. Territory AMERICAN SAMOA—LBJ Tropical Medical Center is expanding coverage and would like to invite BC/BE Physicians in Radiology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Pediatrics, Pharmacy and Psychiatry to its lovely island in the South Pacific. Beautiful beaches, clear blue waters, friendly and warm people await you! Make a difference in an underserved area. Relocation assistance, etc. Interested?

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LBJ Tropical Medical Center Needs Physicians!
POLYNESIA - BEAUTIFUL U.S. Territory AMERICAN SAMOA—LBJ Tropical Medical Center is expanding coverage and would like to invite BC/BE Physicians in Radiology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Pediatrics, Pharmacy and Psychiatry to its lovely island in the South Pacific. Beautiful beaches, clear blue waters, friendly and warm people await you! Make a difference in an underserved area. Relocation assistance, etc. Interested?

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Community Events
Disclaimer of Debts
Found
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Adoption Wanted
ADOPTION Loving couple wants to adopt your baby into a home filled with love, warmth & security. Approval expenses paid. To learn more, please call: 1-888-567-2011, LCFS Lic. No. 012998

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Outgoing, self motivated, creative, detail & deadline oriented, excellent communication skills & the ability to listen & identify customer needs.
Competency with MS Word, Excel & Power Point are needed. Must have reliable transportation.
This position is responsible for outside advertising sales to local retail businesses. This position is based out of the Merrillville, Indiana office.
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Activities Specialist
Westminster Place of Evanston seeks individual to plan and implement various on and off site activities for our senior residents. Position involves growing existing programs and implementing new ideas in the areas of creative, physical, intellectual and social activities. Full Time 37.5 hrs/wk including some Saturdays and occasional evenings.
Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree, previous exp working with older adults in groups and one-on-one settings, knowledge of planning and implementation process for programs, able to work independently, be creative, has initiative, and adaptable to take on changing conditions and situations, and a positive attitude and energy. Qualified applicants send resume to: Westminster Place of Evanston, Attn: Director of Activities, Transportation and Fitness 3200 Grant Street Evanston, IL 60201 Fax: 847-570-3442 Email: mburgen@presbyterianhomes.org
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EMD Turbo Charger Mechanic Make up to \$150/day. 5 years plus experience a must. Call 713-948-4200
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Receptionist/Administrative Assistant needed in Northbrook for 30-40 hours per week (weekends required). Responsibilities include answering phones, greeting visitors, filing, ordering supplies, data entry, word processing, etc. A great attitude and Microsoft Office skills a must. Financial background helpful. Fax resume to Jolie at 847-910-4378 or email hr@barnettcapital.com

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- * Occupational Therapist
- * Physical Therapist

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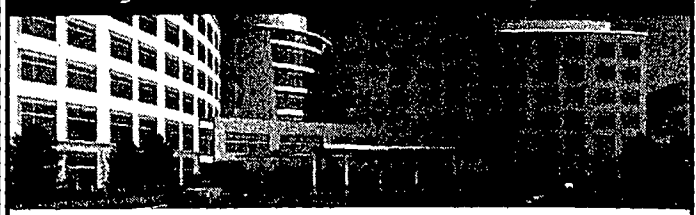
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CLARENDON HILLS 102 Mohawk

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LA GRANGE 741 S Brainerd Ave.

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ANTIQUES AUCTION Real Estate Auction. 1322 S. Milwaukee Ave. Vernon Hills, IL - Rt 21 & 45. Owner retiring after 40 yrs. 847-634-2423 Sat & Sun April 16 & 17.

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MORTON GROVE Sat 9:30 - 3pm. Sun 9:30-12pm. 847 Overhill. (Off Golf Rd.) S.E. of Washington/Viking oak: large round dining table, 2 chairs, 2 occasional chairs w/ ottoman, rattan dining set, sofa, sofa bed, antique pump organ, upright freezer, twin beds, misc furn pieces, Kit, snow blower, silver, misc.

ESTATE SALE OAK PARK 1031 S. Clinton. Saturday, April 9th, 9:00a-10p. Furniture, rugs, antiques, jewelry, art, and more!

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Furniture

Queen Futon couch, chair, coffee table, lamp table. Like new mission style blond queen size futon couch with navy blue cover, matching chair which folds out to child size bed, mission style blond coffee table and lamp table in like new condition. Will sell as set or individually. \$650 for set OBO. 847-852-9541 or kmalin@amzonet.net

SLEEPER SOFA - red leather, Rocker and ottoman in leather, all solid wood. \$300. Brass Fire-plate screen \$50. 847-251-4877

Wanna Buy A Bed? Mattress Sale! 50-80% Cheaper than Retail! DR set, chair, cast iron sausage maker, wedding gown, L.P.s, WWI love seat, curio cabinet, kil table, dishes, lin & hang, lamps, tools, sculptures, paintings, golf, mirrors, clothes, XMAS, misc. household.

Lawn and Garden Equip. Lawn Mower, Craftsman, self propelled, new size 2 years old. \$125. 847-381-0409 after 6pm

Flea Markets 75 Tables of jewelry, antiques, collectibles, etc. Small furniture, antiques. SAT, APRIL 9, 9am - 4pm. 1701 Main, Evanston. Free admission. 847-448-8258

Antique Bedroom Set with brand new full size bed (newer wood). Solid oak. Antique small mahogany buffet, \$375. Kitchen set, 1200. Call 847-823-9915

Beautiful, Large Oriental Rug - Perfect Condition! Mainly red & blue, size 11' x 14'. \$1200. Call 847-448-8258

Maple hutch, Solid maple colonial hutch made by Cushman, Bennington VT. Two drawers, two doors, high top cabinet with wide, good condition. \$450 708-717-0089

Wanna Buy A Bed? Mattress Sale! 50-80% Cheaper than Retail! DR set, chair, cast iron sausage maker, wedding gown, L.P.s, WWI love seat, curio cabinet, kil table, dishes, lin & hang, lamps, tools, sculptures, paintings, golf, mirrors, clothes, XMAS, misc

RENTALS

Apartments, Unfurnished
Apartments, Furnished
Condos, Townhomes
Homes
Duplex
Rooms
Housing to Share
Mobile Homes
Retirement Rentals
Co-Op Housing
Sleeping Rooms
Housekeeping Rooms
FINDER SERVICE
Apartments - Hotels
Vacation, Resort Rentals
Out-of-State Rentals
Garages
Farms, Farmland
Commercial, Industrial
Storage, Warehouses
Desk Space
Offices
Stores
Rental Services
Rental Misc
Wanted to Rent

Apartments, Unfurn'd
Cook County - Chgo. N

Beautiful View of Lake
1051-1055 W. PRATT
EXTRA SPECIAL LOCATION
FIRST BLOC OFF THE LAKE &
LAUNCH NEWLY DECORATED.
HEATED HARDWOOD FLOORS.
INDOOR POOL, GYM,
1 BR. \$1,065.00
To View, Call Tasha
773-545-6160
Hallmark & Johnson

Apartments, Unfurn'd
Cook County - Chgo. N

SKOKIE - 4901-15 Crain Lovely!!!
2BR for \$865 Available Now!!!
Heat and water included. Spacious
living room and kitchen. Close
to stores and transportation.
LAUNCH NEWLY DECORATED.
HEATED HARDWOOD FLOORS.
INDOOR POOL, GYM,
1 BR. \$1,065.00
To View, Call Tasha
773-545-6160
Hallmark & Johnson

Apartments, Unfurn'd
Cook County - Chgo. S

Chicago-Managed By Orp &
Kramer, Inc. 2 & 3 BRs from
\$679-\$1,100 Available Now!!!
Call for appointment, 708-452-5382
Cook County - Suburban

Apartments, Unfurn'd
Cook County - Suburban

MORTON GROVE
CHICAGO SOUTH ON ONLY
5700 sq ft industrial for rent with
4 bays across from truck tank
wash. 3 overhead doors, great
for trucking/construction/boat
washes. Easy access on and off
access to expressway. Brokers
welcome. Call 219-690-9232
Cook County - Chgo. S

Condos-Townhomes
Cook County - Suburban

CHICAGO South on only
5700 sq ft industrial for rent with
4 bays across from truck tank
wash. 3 overhead doors, great
for trucking/construction/boat
washes. Easy access on and off
access to expressway. Brokers
welcome. Call 219-690-9232
Cook County - Chgo. S

Comm'l-Industrial
Cook County - Chgo. S

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5700 sq ft industrial for rent with
4 bays across from truck tank
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for trucking/construction/boat
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access to expressway. Brokers
welcome. Call 219-690-9232
Cook County - Chgo. S

REAL ESTATE

Houses
Townhomes
Condos, Lofts
Duplex
Open Houses
Mobile Homes
Manufactured Homes
Apartment Buildings
Co-Op Apartments
Senior Housing
Commercial, Industrial
Farms, Farmland
Homes Built to Order
Vacant Property
Vacation Property
Income Property
Investment Property
Lots
Real Estate Auctions
Real Estate Wanted
Real Estate Misc.
Out-Of-Town Real Est.
Out-Of-Town, Commercial
Lakes, Resort Property
Mortgages, Loans
Homeowners Insurance
Real Estate Seminars
Real Estate Services
Judicial Sales - Legal

GARAGE SALES

Business Directory
Asphalt-Paving
FAHEY & SON ASPHALT PAVING
Cleaning Services
House/Apts/Condos
Experienced Polish Ladies
Home DYEING, INC.
KLSI FLOORING, INC.
New Hardwood
Flooring Installation
Painting/Decorating
Garage Doors, Openers
Concrete
CONCRETE, ETC.
RE. ROHDE & SON
COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION
Construction/Remodeling
Gutters
COX & SONS
GUTTERS INSTALLED
and REPAIRED
Siding - Soffit - Fascia
Roof Repairs - Painting
25 Yr. Family Business
Power Washing Tool - Best Prices in Town!

Garage Sales

Handyman
A HANDYMAN Mr. FIXER
All REPAIRS
Electric, Faucets & Water Hk.
Cosets. JAY 847-967-6842
Hauling
RED'S HAULING SERVICE
Complete Clean out Services
Family owned & operated.
708-409-4850
Roofing
WT ROOFING & SEWER RODDING
STOP LEAKS, CLEAR STOPPAGES
ROOF CERTIFICATION
708-297-1763
Tiling
MR. GROUT 847-359-4156
BATHROOM REMODELS
TILEMABLE INSTALLS
EUCRO TILE
Tuckpointing
1-773-282-2332
Gratak Concrete & Tuckpointing
-Waterproofing -
Steps - Chimneys -
www.gratakconcrete.com
NEHAUS CONSTRUCTION
General Contractors - 29 Yrs.
1-847-724-5600
1-773-307-2332
EDMAR, INC.
Tuckpointing/Masonry
1-847-678-7860
Brickwork/Tuckpointing
847-965-2146
C. CELINSKI Tuckpointing
Brick Work, Pressure Wash,
Waterproofing and much more
Repair/Rebuild, Lintel
Replacement
Listed in Yellow Pages
847-724-5446 773-282-9495
COAST TO COAST CO.
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
Chimneys - Glass Block Wind
All Types of Masonry Work
Free Estimates 847-358-9165
HAWK MASONRY
Brick & Chimney Repair
& Repairs - Tuckpointing
Chemical Cleaning
Foot Est. 847-395-2305
Window Cleaning
A.B. WINDOW CLEANING
WINDOW CLEANING
POWER WASHING
Free Estimates - 708-351-8330
SPRING CLEANING
Sunshine Window.
Carpet & Gutter Cleaning
32 Years of Experience - Paul
847-606-5717 or 708-457-8316

Garage Sales

Plumbers - Licensed
S & D SEWER
& PLUMBING
Electric roof main line & main sink
line. Clean & deodorize catch basin
\$140 comm. plumbing repair.
License # 56156441
708-780-1671
Roofing
WT ROOFING & SEWER RODDING
STOP LEAKS, CLEAR STOPPAGES
ROOF CERTIFICATION
708-297-1763
Tiling
MR. GROUT 847-359-4156
BATHROOM REMODELS
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Garage Sales

Garages
Store Your Special Car
Held, secure. Month or Annual
Airs Storage 773-685-1454
Condos-Lofts
Cook County - Chgo. N
Chicago, Loyola Lakeside Living
suite 199 in Ctryrd bldg, beach,
pool, 24 hr. security, 24 hr. front
desk, 4044 or condos257@comcast.net
Apartment Buildings
Cook County - Suburban
BELLWOOD 6 unit apt bldg for
sale, 5 units (2BR/1BA) 1 unit (3
BR), 5 car pkng lg, Positivo cash
flow, 847-387-0914 / 724-623-3840
Out-Of-Town Real Est.
LAOY LAKE FL Pool home, 3 BR,
2 BA, 2 car gar, Close to Villages
No bond, See MLS # 04685219
1,819,500. Call 618-628-8561
Real Estate Services
NORTH WASHINGTON PARK
6950 S. VINCENTES, CHICAGO IL
WAITING LIST OPENING
APPLICANTS WILL BE TAKEN
APRIL 18, 2011 FOR 1, 2 AND 3
BEDROOM APARTMENTS
DURING OUR SHOWINGS 3-5
WEEKS

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Judicial Sales-Real Est.

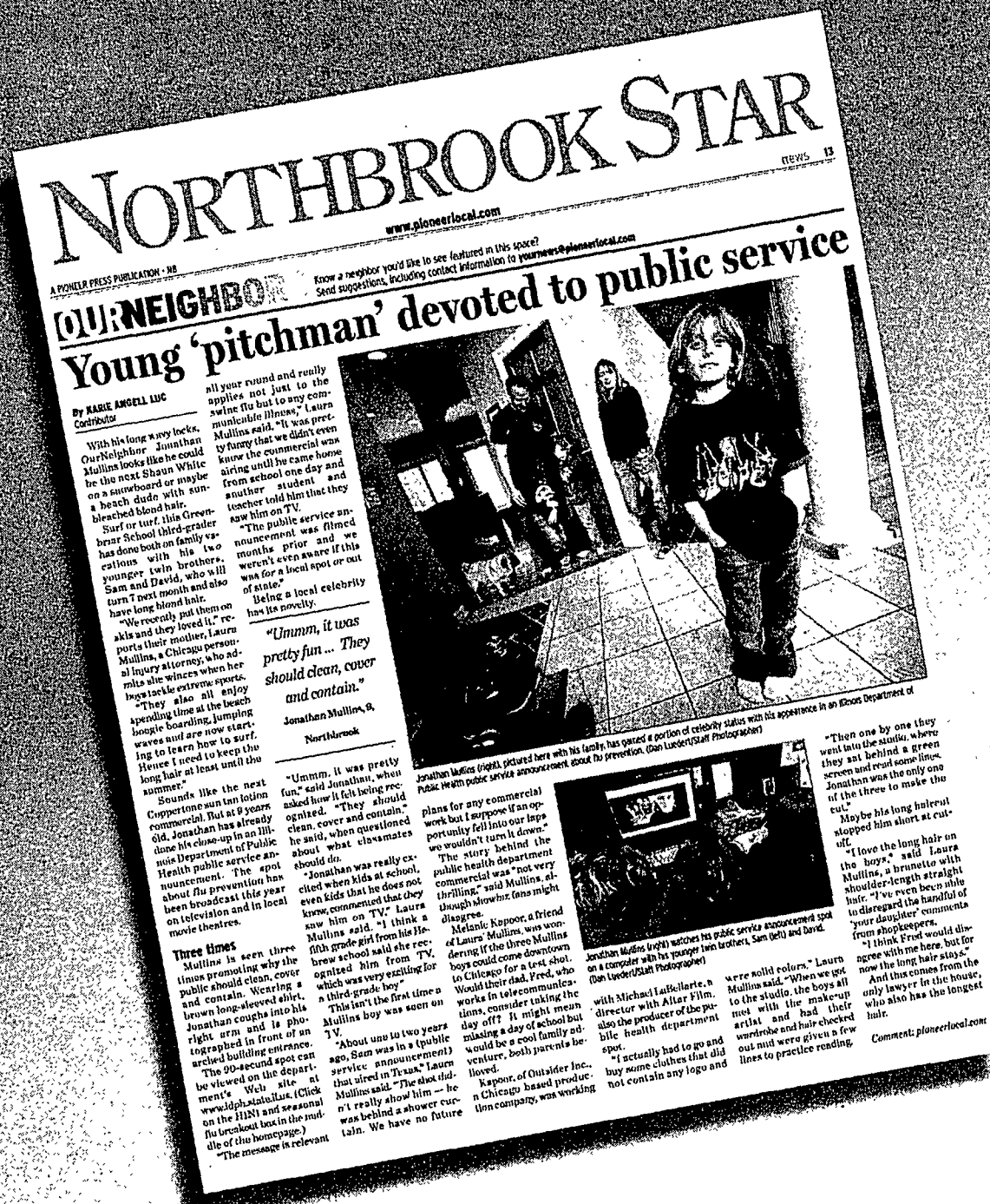
SKOKIE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW
YORK TRUSTEE FOR THE ENCORE GREENT
RECEIVABLES TRUST 2005-2.
Plaintiff:
Y. AVAOS A, SARKISSIAN AK/A AVAOS SARKISSIAN; CHARTER
ONE BANK, N.A.; SHEHRMAN SARKISSIAN,
Defendants.
09 CH 32934
NOTICE OF PRECLOSURE SALE
Fisher and Shapiro file a consent to a Judgment of Foreclosure
on the property consisting of a single unit at 101762.
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
entered on the above entitled cause on May 25, 2010,
Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Friday, April 29, 2011, at
the hour of 11 a.m., in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite
718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following
described property:
P.T.N. 10-15-326-035-0000.
Commonly known as 4624 OEMPSTER STREET, SKOKIE, IL 60076.
The improvement on the property consists of a single unit at 101762.
If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest
community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall
pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of
the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 25% down by certified
funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No returns. The
property will NOT be open for inspection. Upon payment in full of the
amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale which will
entitle the purchaser to a deed to the premises after confirmation of
the sale.
For information: Visit our website at http://service.allypnc.com. Be-
tween 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. only. Pierce & Associates, Plaintiff's Attor-
neys, 1 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602. Tel No. (312)
476-5500. Rotor to File Number 09362567.
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
Selling Office, (312) 444-1122 347373
Pub: 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/11 #51299C

Judicial Sales-Real Est.

SKOKIE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION:
Plaintiff.
MICHAEL A. PENAR AK/A MICHAEL A. PENAR; VILLA
VERDE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AND LEGATEES OF MICHAEL A. PENAR, IF ANY;
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS: PNC
N.A., AS SUCCESSORS TO MIDCARRIE BANK, FSB;
Defendants.
09 CH 14887
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
entered on the above entitled cause on February 10, 2011,
Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Tuesday, April 19, 2011,
at the hour of 11 a.m., in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite
718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following
described real estate:
Commonly known as 711 Devon
Choice of 2nd flr private office from
300, 500, 900-1658 SQT. Some
with walk-in closets. Call 847-251-
4400-8001-12001. May combine,
no extras, nighty clean-up.
Call 847-602-6622.
Cook County - Suburban
Lincolnwood-Skokie-Niles
Offices
6430 N. CENTRAL
860 SQT store & choice of 2nd
floor offices, 480, 700, 900 SQT.
incl. heat, tax & central air, parking.
C-21 Grande 708-912-5454
CHICAGO - 3151 Eastern Office
OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT \$250
Monthly Freehold 600-180056.
Maywood, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, living
room, dining room, breakfast room,
with optional buy. \$1300/month.
call 630-408-6035
MAYWOOD Beautifully
remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath,
finished basement, garage with
side drive. \$1650. 708-205-0255
South Suburbs. RENT TO OWN
with 10% down. Call 708-888-9898
help with your credit. Call 708-888-
2432 or visit www.nhba.com
Cook County - Suburban
Lincolnwood-Skokie-Niles
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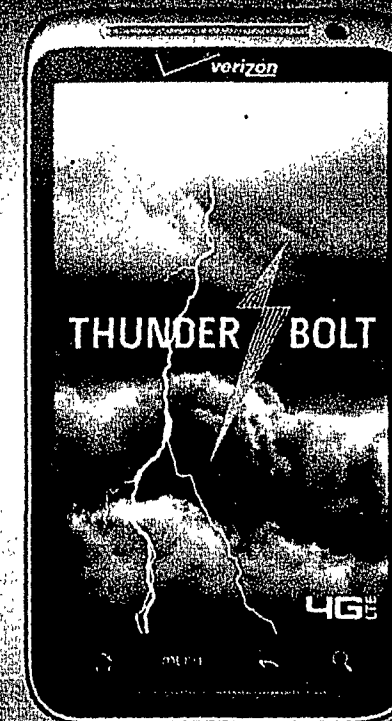


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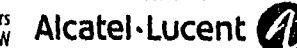


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IN COLLABORATION WITH



ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Up on their 'Roof'

Children at St. Andrews Lutheran School in Park Ridge recently staged an abbreviated version of the classic musical "Fiddler on the Roof." The production of "Fiddler on the Roof Jr." took place March 16-18 at the school, 260 N. Northwest Highway. The play was adapted for younger performers and featured a shorter running time and songs transposed into keys appropriate for children.



The Fiddler, Brandon Eul, plays for Tevye, played by Christian Baer, during St. Andrews School's dress rehearsal for "Fiddler on the Roof Jr.," an abridged version of the famous musical adapted for children. | Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

Calendar

Continued from PAGE 20

Fundraisers

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 discount - will receive a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adult Services program of the hospital. Call AiMee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8518; Steve Radakovic at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9274; or visit www.likenewautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is not valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program.

Health

The Leukemia Research Foundation, in cooperation with Loyola University Health System and the National Marrow Donor Program hosts a

free conference from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. May 7 for leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) patients and caregivers. This educational program designed for blood cancer patients and their families will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 5540 N. River Road, Rosemont. Parking, a continental breakfast and lunch are provided. A Be the Match marrow registry drive will also be held on site. For updated information, agenda, and reservations, visit www.leukemia-research.org/treatmentoptions or call (847) 424-0600. Register by April 30, to reserve a seat.

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 Kenon 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 Fres-

nus 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. O Dempster St., Niles (across from the hospital). No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7277.

Historical Society

The Niles Historical Society hosts August Milz, a lifetime clockmaker, repairer and collector, who will present the "History of Clocks" at 2 p.m. April 17 in the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave. (note change in date) Those who wish some history on a family clock may bring them along. The program is open to all. Refreshments will be served. Tours are available with advance notice; call (847) 390-0160. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Library

Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.
Niles Public Library will host free events the week of April 2-9 to help consumers learn to manage money wisely. These events are among the

more than 500 free classes, seminars and activities promoting financial education that will take place during Money Smart Week Chicago. April 7 - 7-8:30 p.m.: Credit Card Smarts - Learn how to obtain a free Credit Report, how to check a credit score and how to build better credit. **Tom Lichtenheld**, New York Times best-selling children's book author/illustrator, will lead an exclusive art workshop for second-graders and older on April 9 in the Niles Public Library. He will work with children by sharing his skills and mentoring budding artists. Children in third grade and up can register for the 11 a.m. workshop; students in second to fifth grades may register for the 12:30 p.m. workshop.

Following the art workshops is the Niles Public Library annual Bookmark Contest ceremony and illustrator presentation at 2 p.m. View hundreds of bookmarks on display designed by local artists in kindergarten through high school. Lichtenheld will talk about how he created great books after the honorees have received their awards. This event is held as part of National Library Week.

Reading with Rover - Kindergartners and older (beginning to advanced readers), 7-8:20 p.m. April 7: Want to practice reading out loud with friendly patient pups? Call Debbie at (847) 663-6619 or come in person to sign up for a 20-minute slot.

Family members are invited to wait outside the room while the child has this special independent moment.
Enjoy award-winning musician Joel Frankel in an all-ages interactive show at 2 p.m. April 10.
Job Interview? Know the Company: 2:30-3:30 p.m. April 12. Impress interviewers with informed questions about the organization and the job. Library staff will demonstrate databases and web sites to help with research. Registration not required.

Inside Writing and Publishing - Breaking In: The Basics of Writing for Magazines: 7-8:30 p.m. April 12. This program will introduce some common magazine terminology and cover basics like how to find markets, come up with story ideas and nail your first magazine assignment.

Celebrate National Library Week at a free pizza party sponsored by CFC's Pizza from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 13. Check out at least one item and receive a coupon for a free slice of pizza and a drink in the Large Meeting Room (while supplies last).

Taste of Passover: A Celebration of the Joys and Music of the Holiday: 2:30 p.m. April 16. This documentary film is a musical feast in celebration of Passover hosted by Broadway actor and singer Theodore Bikel with the sounds of a gospel choir, klezmer band, orchestra, children's choir and soloists in a festive setting.

The film, "Get Low" (PG-13), in closed caption, will be screened at 2 p.m. April 14. Felix, a Tennessee hermit, gets the idea to throw his very own rollicking funeral party before he kicks the bucket. No registration required.

Musicals of the 1930s Film Series at 2 p.m. April 19: "Footlight Parade" 1933; James Cagney stars as Chester Kent, a diligent musical comedy director who is continually warding off snoopers hired by his competitors to steal his ideas. Registration not required.

Reading Challenge - Sixth- to eighth-graders who are up for a challenge and like to read can get together a team of 2-6 people, find an adult sponsor, and call (847) 663-6623 or drop by the Youth Services Department to register. Then get reading from the library list of 30 hand-picked books. Sixth-graders who participated in Battle of the Books may also register. Teams compete in April and May for the Reading Challenge Championship. Champions will be taken to lunch in a limousine.

Weekly, counselors from the Chicago Chapter of SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, will be at the Library to help small business owners and anyone considering starting a small business. SCORE counselors are successful executives and business owners who can help with a wide variety of business issues. These experienced businesspeople offer private one-hour sessions of business coaching. SCORE is a nonprofit association of volunteers. Weekly sessions are held on alternating Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To set up an appointment online, visit the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org/. If there are

questions, call (312) 353-7724 or e-mail info@scorechicago.org.

Sports Reading Clubs - Stop by the Youth Services Department and pick up a reading log to win prizes from the Chicago Wolves, Chicago Bears or Northwestern University.

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

Gary K. Warner, Clerk of Maine Township, is hosting a special passport event at Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 9. The Clerk's office will provide passport information to U.S. citizens and accept passport applications. U.S. citizens must present a valid passport book when entering or re-entering the United States by air. U.S. citizens entering the United States from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry must present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government. Information on the cost and how to apply for a U.S. passport is also available at www.travel.state.gov. U.S. citizens may also obtain passport information by phone, in English and Spanish, by calling the National Passport Information Center toll-free at 1-877-487-2778.

Maine Township's annual Senior Expo will offer new demonstrations, along with classic entertainment, informational booths and free health screenings. "Swing Into Spring" will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 29. The MaineStreamers and Golf Mill Shopping Center are again joining forces for the annual event and exhibit spaces, available on a first-come, first-served basis, are selling fast. To reserve a booth, contact the Expo Office at (847) 698-5069. Jerry and Estella Hayes, at home winners of the TV reality show "Biggest Loser" Season 7 will share their story at "Swing into Spring." The day begins at 9 a.m. with Early Bird Bingo hosted by Liberty Bank for Savings. Bingo will be held until 10 a.m. in the Community Room. Admission is free. Prizes will be awarded. New this year, Sylvester Marshall, Tai Chi Instructor, will demonstrate the art of Tai Chi at 10 a.m. in Center court. Tai Chi is a centuries-old Chinese exercise focusing on gentle, slow flowing movements that integrate inner-strength with meditation and breathing techniques. Tai Chi can tone muscles, improve flexibility and balance, and nurture physical, emotional and mental well-being. In a return engagement, the vocal trio, Legacy Girls, will entertain with their popular Andrews Sisters musical revue show, "America's Wartime Sweethearts." Authentic 1940s costumes, three-part harmonies and synchronized dance moves, and their comedic flair help to focus the audience on the significance of World War II veterans and their essential

part in the history of the country. Call MaineStreamers at (847) 297-2510 or visit the www.mainetownship.com.

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 Oes 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.

Lunch with Bunny - Kids up to third-grade and adults are invited to celebrate spring at a buffet Lunch with Bunny April 9 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 Howard St., with

two sittings, 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. Special entertainment and craft project included. Registration is required. Fees: children residents, \$10; nonresidents, \$12; adults, \$8.

Egg Scramble - Bunny will scatter eggs filled with lots of goodies at 9:30 a.m. April 16 at Golf View Recreation Center, 7800 N. Caldwell Ave. Kids ages 1-8 are invited. There will be complimentary refreshments and goodie bags for registered children. Remember to bring a basket to collect treasures; \$8, residents; \$10, non-residents.

Flashlight Egg Hunt - Kids 8 years and older are invited to participate in this fun event at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course from 7:30-8:30 p.m. April 20. A pizza dinner will be served at Golf View Recreation Center before the egg hunt. Do not forget a flashlight and bag for eggs. Siblings not registered and parents will not be allowed to participate in the hunt or dinner. Fees: residents, \$10; nonresidents, \$15.

Registration has begun for Niles Park District's Coach Pitch, an instructional league where the coach pitches, no hitting tees involved. This program is for girls and boys, ages 6 to 7 years. One week of indoor clinics is held April 16. Season play runs Saturdays, April 23-July 24, at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave. Registration fees are residents, \$71; nonresidents, \$88. Call (847) 967-1529. Registration is taken at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St.

Registration is under way for Niles Park District Tee Ball, for girls and boys, ages 4 to 5 years. Tee Ball is an

excellent introduction to baseball fundamentals and team play. Team shirts and Major League replica hats are provided. One week of indoor clinics is held April 23 at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave. Season play runs Saturdays, April 30-June 25. Registration fees are residents, \$71; nonresidents, \$88. Call (847) 967-1529. Registration is taken at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St.

Niles Park District is accepting registration for Girls Softball Leagues for girls in first grade through high school (as of 2010-11 school year). Season play begins April 18. Girls will participate in the Opening Day Parade. Major League replica hats, jerseys and socks are provided by the Park District; each participant must supply pants, shoes and glove. Registration is accepted at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Call (847) 967-1529.

New 3's Preschool - This class offered at Niles Park District is for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2010, missing the deadline for the regular 3-year-old preschool. Children will experience their first classroom experience. Classes are held Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30-2 p.m. at Howard Leisure Center. Session runs to May 20. 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.

Easter Egg Hunt - 10 a.m. April 23 at Dee Park. Free if you register in person by April 22.

Earth Day - 4-5 p.m. April 22; make an "eco-friendly" craft and learn simple ways to help save the planet. Feldman.

Summer Camp - Sign up now for summer camp which runs from June 13-Aug. 5, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Field trips included. Dee Park.

Community Garage Sale - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 14 at Dee Park; reserve a 10-foot by 10-foot spot.

Ballet & Tap - Ages 3 years to adult. Ongoing classes year round. Dee and Feldman Parks.

4th-6th Grade Youth Floor Hockey League - Fridays and Sundays starting in April. Feldman.

Youth Baseball - Leagues available for participants ages 7-15. Register now. Dee Park.

Belly Dance Workshops - A series of one-day workshops learning the basic fundamentals of Belly Dance; April 11 at Feldman.

3rd Shift Indoor Adult Soccer League - Join this early morning indoor league Tuesday mornings. Feld-

man.
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.

Jelly Bean Sports - Classes are geared for children ages 2-3 and include soccer, T-ball and sport shorts. Class days and times vary but next sessions begin in March. Dee and Feldman Parks.

Over-the-Rainbow - Children ages 3-5 learn colors, read stories, sing songs and more in this eight-week class on Fridays starting April 1. 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.

Youth Soccer Leagues for children ages 4 to sixth grade are under way. Games are played at Prairie Lakes in Des Plaines. Practices at Dee Park.

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 organizational 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

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Suzanne Tennant-Sun-Times Media

{food}

No time to cook? Try a personal chef

By **VERONICA HINKE**
Contributor

Stephanie Podell is at her local supermarket most mornings before 8 a.m. — scouring shelves for the freshest ingredients. The rest of her day is spent in her kitchen in Oak Park, cleaning, prepping and preparing modern recipes like beet and feta cheese tarts, Cajun-style fish or chicken tikka masala.

But none of the food is for Podell. By mid-afternoon, she packs everything into her car and delivers it to her clients' home or office. Podell is the chef/owner of the personal chef service Let's Eat Home (www.LetsEatHome.com).

"The shopping and packing is sometimes the cruelest part of the day. Once I get down to the cook-

ing, it becomes a little more joyous," Podell said.

At 11, Podell began cooking in her grandmother's kitchen in Westchester, N.Y.

"Like in the Julia Child movie, 'Julie & Julia,' I would try different recipes, making one dish after another," she recalled.

A popular meal this time of year is grilled asparagus with potato-crust salmon.

"I love crisp," Podell said. "The salmon is encrusted in really nice, crispy potatoes. It's almost like the feel of potato pancakes."

Eighteen months ago, Jean Burow began hiring Podell to cook for her and her husband, Bob, about every three weeks. The Winnetka couple is retired, but Burow searched online for a personal chef

to help out with the demanding cooking schedule required to accommodate their special diets. Burow maintains a diet low in salt and fat; her husband avoids gluten.

"Almost every recipe includes flour or dairy," Burow said. "With special dietary needs, you end up having to make everything from scratch."

But Podell works with Burow, planning menus that will fit the couple's diet needs.

"Sometimes we talk over the menu; sometimes Stephanie surprises us," Burow said.

Making room for Podell's services in their budget has not been difficult for the Burows, who eat in restaurants less now since they hired Stephanie.

"If you go out to eat, you spend

about the same," Burow said.

Kathy Dederich, chef/owner of personal chef service Chef, Please! (www.ChefPlease.com), delivers foods she prepares at her home in Grayslake or works in client homes, catering parties and dinner parties. She has cooked party foods three times for a family in Winnetka. The couple are raising three children and maintaining busy work schedules in the financial industry. But with Dederich planning the menu and making the food, her clients can entertain at home, serving homemade foods.

"Guests come into the kitchen to see what I am doing," Dederich said.

Dederich's Asian meatball recipe is a favorite appetizer. She wraps them with water chestnuts in pea-pods and serves the meatballs with



Personal chef Stephanie Podell grills asparagus on her back porch grill. | Suzanne Tennant-Sun-Times Media

sauce made with garlic, ginger and sriracha, a hot chili sauce.



Podell's potato-crust salmon with grilled, shiitake mushrooms, lemon dill beurre blanc and grilled asparagus with toasted pine nuts. | Suzanne Tennant-Sun-Times Media

Grilled asparagus

- 1 pound asparagus
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- Half a lemon
- 1 1/2 ounces unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon aged balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts
- Cracked black pepper, to taste

Brush trimmed asparagus very lightly with olive oil. Place on grill that has been preheated to medium heat and cook for 2-4 minutes,

watching carefully until asparagus is tender and slightly browned. Remove from grill, squeeze lemon and keep warm. Heat butter in small sauce pan over low-medium heat for 3-4 minutes or till dark golden with a nutty aroma. Stir through the balsamic vinegar and toasted pine nuts, and then spoon gently over asparagus. Grind a few turns of cracked black pepper and serve immediately.

Potato-crust sockeye salmon

- 4 salmon fillets (6-8 ounces each, skin on)
- Flour for dusting
- 2-3 eggs, beaten well
- 2 pounds Idaho or red potatoes, peeled and grated, hash brown style
- 2 tablespoons Italian parsley, coarsely chopped
- Salt and pepper, cracked
- Garlic powder and/or onion powder

Dust each fillet in flour, and

then dip in egg. Add salt and pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, dried or minced onion flakes and coarsely chopped Italian parsley to hash browns. Roll fillet in hash browns. Set aside and prepare sauce. When sauce is finished, pan sauté salmon in olive oil on one side until the potatoes are very crispy. Flip and sauté 1-2 more minutes, and then put in oven at 450 degrees for 7-10 minutes, depending on how you like it cooked. Serve with warmed beurre blanc.

- 2 cups dry white wine
- 2 large shallots, finely diced (about 2/3 cup)
- 8 ounces cold, unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
- 6 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped
- 4 teaspoons finely grated lemon zest
- 4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice, to taste
- Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes

Lemon dill beurre blanc

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Cook wine and shallots in large saucepan over high heat, stirring occasionally, until wine almost evaporates and looks somewhat glazed, 5-8 minutes.

Remove pan from heat and whisk in butter a few cubes at a time until

melted and sauce is creamy and thick. Return pan to low heat if butter is slow to melt. The key to keeping the sauce emulsified is to use cold butter and whisk it in a bit at a time.

Remove from heat and stir in dill, lemon zest, lemon juice, red pepper flakes, 1/2 teaspoon salt and several grinds of pepper. Season to taste with more lemon juice and salt and pepper.

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and other programs. Call (847) 297-3000 or go to www.paperrretriever.com/.

Religion

Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 N. Newark Ave. (near the Niles Veteran Memorial Waterfall), will host a number of services during the Lenten and Easter seasons. Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross; 3 p.m. (Chapel). Palm Sunday services: April 16 at 4 p.m. (Chapel) and April 17 at 9:30 a.m. (5th floor). Holy Week Services - Triduum Services - Holy Thursday, April 21: Mass of the Last Supper at 4 p.m. (Chapel). Good Friday, April 22: Stations of the Cross at 1 p.m. (Chapel) and Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m. (Chapel). Holy Saturday, April 23: Blessing of the Easter Food and Baskets at 11 a.m. (first-floor Dining Room) and 2 p.m. (Chapel); Easter Vigil, 6:30 p.m. (Chapel). Easter Sunday, April 24: Holy Mass at 9:30 a.m. (5th floor). Saint Andrew Life Center, a faith based organization, provides affordable living opportunities for older adults. Call (847) 647-8332.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie, will hold Adult Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services. Classes will be held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with "Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch" the first Sunday of each month. Call the church at (847) 673-1434.

Temple Judea Mizpah and Agape Life Outreach Center, will co-host a blood drive from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 10 in TJM's social hall, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. This event is open to the community. The American Red Cross will be sponsoring the drive. Call TJM at (847) 676-1566.

Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will host its annual fund-raising event at 6 p.m. May 7. The festive event will feature a performance by the TJM Players, silent and live auctions, a program book, food, and lots of fun. The cost is \$36 per ticket. Call the temple at (847) 676-1566.

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. Child-care 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

Immaculate Alumnae Association will host its annual awards luncheon/reunion at 11:30 a.m. April 10 at the Chateau Ritz, 9100 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Peggy Piszczek Kioempken '58 will receive an award for achievement and Bernadette Tucker Brosnan '66 for service. There will also be five-year reunions of classes that end in "1" and "6." Cost is \$35 until April 1, additional \$5 afterward. Call (773) 338-2211.

The Maine East Class of 1969 Reunion and 60th Birthday Bash will take place from 7-11 p.m. July 16 at Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. Cost is \$69 per person includes dinner and dancing with a cash bar. Visit the Facebook page: "Maine East Class of 1969 Reunion/60th Bday Bash" to respond (by April 8) and use easy pay - PayPal. Contact: Anita Pedersen, anitawarren@sbccglobal.net, (630) 803-7593.

Maine Township High South, Class of 1966, is spearheading a two-day "Mass Reunion" to be held Aug. 26 and 27. Accompanying classes that represented the first collective student body to attend the newly opened high school in 1964 as well as their spouses and guests are to be included. The nucleus of new students that celebrated the opening of Maine South High School migrated from both Maine East and Maine West and includes the classes of 1965, 1966 and 1967. The two-day event will be held in Park Ridge at the recently developed Uptown Plaza located at the intersection of Touhy and Prospect avenues and Northwest Highway. The Friday evening event will take place at Houlihan's Restaurant, which will be closed to the general public. The alumni festivities will reignite on Saturday evening, and the venues will include Houlihan's, Jason's Deli and various neighboring entities within the Uptown Plaza. Tickets for one or both evening events are on sale now and must be purchased in advance. For reservations, contact event coordinator, Glenn Woertz (Class of 1966), at MassReunion@gmail.com or (847) 757-8377. Maine South alumni can also subscribe to the "Hawk Droppings" newsletter via the above e-mail address to receive updates and ongoing information on classmates and relevant information.

The 1966 Class of Ridgewood High School is planning a reunion and looking for graduates. Anyone with information concerning alumni is asked to e-mail haydelju@comcast.net or call (217) 352-7254.

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lyrder@sjb-school.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.

Rummage Sales

Resurrection Retirement Community, 7262 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, will hold a Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 16. Bag sale will begin at

12:30 p.m. Free. Call (773) 792-7930.

Maine Seniors

The Maine Township MainesStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MainesStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. Contact the MainesStreamers, (847) 297-2510, or go to www.maine-township.com.

Day Trip - Chicago Pizza Tour, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 12. Participants will ride through many of the Chicago neighborhoods stopping at Pisanio's, Crust and Gino's East, eating comfortably inside each location for approximately 30 minutes, tasting and learning what makes each one unique. A final stop at Bloomer's chocolate will cover dessert. Cost is \$60, members; \$65, guests.

Maine Township is asking for assistance in locating good, reliable handymen in the area. If you know of someone and would like to submit a name, contact Therese Tully, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 260, and she will forward a form to complete.

Maine Township, in cooperation with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, is collecting used cell phones to be converted for emergency 911 use for seniors. Donate phones at Maine Town Hall.

Senior Center

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

Seniors

Resurrection Retirement Community, 7262 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, will host a Easter Reflection Mass, followed by a presentation about the Easter message, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 15. The service and lecture will also include a light complimentary lunch, refreshments and tours of the community. Reservations are necessary and may be made by calling (773) 792-7930 by April 12.

Mather's - More Than a Café, 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.

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| \$3.49 lb. | \$2.99 lb. | \$2.29 lb. | \$3.99 lb. | | |
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Niles North's tradition of claiming the first place trophy at the regional Illinois Junior Academy of Science (IJAS) Fair Contest remained unbroken on March 19 when the school took first place for the 21st consecutive year. The 52 Niles North students who competed in the contest were either members of the STEM Inquiry and Research (SIR) class and/or the Researchers and Investigators of Tomorrow (RIOT) Club. Of the 49 projects that were entered in the contest, 36 qualified for the IJAS State Exposition to be held May 6 and 7 at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Naveen Kanji, Ayana Jamal, Joshua Lipschultz and Elan Ness-Cohn were selected to participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering Foundation (ISEF), the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. The ISEF, held in May, brings together nearly 1,500 students from more than 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants,

internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize of a \$50,000 scholarship.

Best in Category plaques were awarded to: **Elan Ness-Cohn**, Aerospace Science; **Jeffrey Gaynes**, Biochemistry; **Naveen Kanji**, Cellular and Molecular; **Haley Sproull**, Chemistry; **Joshua Lipschultz**, Computer Science; **Olivia Altmayer and Monica Rosenberg**, Consumer Science; **Jacob Cohn**, Environmental Science; **Alvina Shaikh**, Health Science; **Micah Beller**, Material Science; **Krystine Hoang and Alexis Lehrman**, Microbiology; **Reena Patel**, Physics and **Ayana Jamal**, Zoology.

Special awards went to: **Elan Ness-Cohn**, U.S. Air Force Award and the Optical Society of Chicago Award; **Emmanuelle Asrow**, Iota Sigma Pi Award; **Jeffrey Gaynes**, Society for In Vitro Biology Award; **Damiana Andonova**, Metric Society Award; **Naveen Kanji**, Department of the Army Research Award; **Zain Lakhani**, Department of the Army Research Award; **Joshua Lipschultz**, The Yale Science and Engineering Award and the Intel

Excellence Award; **Gideon Horberg**, National Society of Professional Engineers Award; **Cyatharine Alias**, Stockholm Junior Water Prize; **Jacob Cohn**, ISweep Award; **Mohammed Hasan**, U.S. Navy Research Award; **Micah Beller**, U.S. Navy Research Award; **Krystine Hoang and Alexis Lehrman**, U.S. Navy Research Award; **Athanasia Giannetos**, American Nuclear Society Award and the Department of the Army Research Award; and **Reena Patel**, ISweep Award.

Damiana Andonova and Ayana Jamal were awarded the William Gonas Award for having the top two papers submitted in the Paper Session competition - senior division.

List of participants (an * indicates they qualified for state): **Alvina Shaikh*, Ariella Hoffman-Peterson*, Arshila Merchant*, Asad Qureshi*, Ashley Thomas, Athanasia Giannetos*, Ayana Jamal*, Basil Alias*, Cyatharine Alias*, Damiana Andonova*, Diana Kumar*, Eddie Reinfrank*, Elan Ness-Cohn*, Emmanuelle Asrow*, Emre Erel*, Evan Sturt, Faisal Bari, Gideon Hor-**

berg*, Haley Buble*, Haley Sproull*, Hamza Mahmood, Hillary Bartman, Iris Schwartz*, Jacob Cohn*, James Gilbert, Jeffrey Gaynes*, Joshua Lipschultz*, Julia Bentkowska*, Kristine Hoang* and Alexis Lehrman*, Lindsay Pietz*, Maggi Kreisheh*, Marta Lemesh, Micah Beller*, Mohammed Hasan*, Naveen Kanji*, Nida Fayyaz, Noah Zeidman, Olivia Altmayer* and Monica Rosenberg*, Quynh Nguyen*, Reena Patel*, Regina Roberg, Remy Mathew*, Richmond Toy*, Rupal Desai*, Sara Beladi, Sara Karnes* and Miriam Prosnitz*, Valeriya Volodarskaya, Zachary Oppenheimer and Zain Lakhani*.

The SIR teacher is **Jacki Naughton** and RIOT Club sponsors are **Naughton, Lisa McKenna, Heidi Eichler and Katherine France.**

Niles West gymnast **Callie Sher** and Niles North gymnast **Citlali Cuevas** will represent the state of Illinois at the National High School Gymnastics Senior Showcase Invitational in Fort Myers, Fla. Sher and Cuevas were selected by a committee of gymnastics coaches for the

Illinois National Gymnastics team, composed of the top 12 high school senior gymnasts in Illinois. The team will compete against the nation's top senior gymnasts on May 20 and 21.

The Niles West Science Olympiad team earned second place and the Niles North Science Olympiad team earned fifth at the Regional competition held Feb. 26 at New Trier High School. Both schools earned the right to compete at the State contest held April 16 at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Niles West medaled in 16 out of 23 events and continued its tradition of qualifying for the State Science Olympiad with its second place trophy. Medals were awarded to: **Kara Mui and Daniel Langer**, gold, Remote Sensing; **Erin Balke and Nathan Kerr**, gold, Mousetrap Vehicle; **Nathan Kerr**, silver, Helicopters; **Kara Mui and Daniel Langer**, silver, Technical Problem Solving; **Purva Chandel and Berkh Tsogtbaatar**, silver, Astronomy; **Berkh Tsogtbaatar and Nathan Kerr**, silver, Wind Power; **Tracy Zawrazky and Sarah Chamness**, bronze, Anatomy and Physiology; **Tracy Zawrazky and Erin Balke**, Bronze, Ornithology; **Josni Joseph, Kara Mui and Daniel Langer**, bronze, Experimental Design; **Sheryl Cherian and Lucy Chang**, bronze, Write It, Do It; **Nathan Kerr**, bronze, Mission Possible; **Kara Mui and Sarah Chamness**, fourth, Disease Detectives; **Purva Chandel and Sarah Chamness**, fourth, Dynamic Planet; **Sarah Chamness and Erin Balke**, fourth, Fossils; **Kara Mui and Daniel Langer**, Fourth, Optics; and **Nathan Kerr**, fifth, Robot Rumble.

Also earning medals, were members of the Junior Varsity team: **Awais Ahmed and Shana Nissan**, silver, Write It, Do It; **Lyba Zia and Awais Ahmed**, bronze, Chem Lab; **Riyushi Mahadik, Selma Piranej and Zarin Sultana**, bronze, Experimental Design; and **Lyba Zia and Zarin Sultana**, Forensics.

Other team members: **Brinda Shah, Ryan Cyriac, Bill Pendavinji and Jordan Shaker.**

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NILES WEST

Dancers bring off 'Breaking Through' show

By PAT KROCHMAL
pkrochmal@pioneerlocal.com

When Niles West High School students in the Orchestras Dance Company presented "Breaking Through," their form of nonverbal communication came through loud and clear.

The March 10-12 dance show featured hip hop, modern/contemporary, lyrical, jazz and other styles at the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium.

And the dancers dazzled their audience with highly energetic moves that not only told different stories, but also demonstrated the students' love of what they were doing.

The dancers had been working on the show since the beginning of the school year on Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as every other Saturday, said Mindy Slutzky, who co-directed the production with Christine Selander.

"Not only have we been busy, busy, busy, but I also

hired seven outside choreographers who are internationally renowned to 'set' pieces for the group, which consisted of 12 girls and seven guys," Slutzky said. "Having this many guys is excellent! We never had any. But through the years, the guys have slowly realized that it is OK for them to be up on stage and dance," she added.

And bringing in outside choreographers broadens the students' horizons, because students seem to have tunnel vision when it comes to choreography, Slutzky said.

The show featured nine pieces for each act and ran between an hour and a half and one hour and 45 minutes. And Orchestras officers Kirstie Beck and Nicole Delort definitely were pleased with the results.

Beck, an 18-year-old senior from Morton Grove, performed contemporary, hip hop and lyrical jazz numbers, as well as a hula presentation.

"My first thoughts are always on getting the choreography right. Then, when I'm on stage and under the lights, and I can hear the crowd and see it, I know it's performance time," Beck said.

"I know then I have to perform to the best of my ability. So I think of myself as being in the audience and what I would want to see. And I also think about what emotion I want the audience to have, and I try to deliver it," she added.

Beck, who has been studying dance since she was 3 years old, considers it a lifetime commitment and plans to major in it in college.

"I really enjoy dance. In fact, it's my passion. I practice seven days a week in four different studios," Beck said.

"I can get emotions across. I can deal with anything and express anything through performing and dancing... That's why I want to make a career out of it," she added.

Beck also noted that she was especially impressed with the students in the show who had little or no experience performing before becoming a part of it.

"When the people in the audience saw what these boys and girls could do — not one style of dance, but several, and how versatile they were — it really wowed them!" she added.

Delort, an 18-year-old senior from Skokie, said that doing a good job on this show meant that the dancers would maintain their reputation.

"Last year, everybody loved the show so much that Kirstie and I were worried that we might not be able to do as well this year — and we wanted the show to be even better," Delort said.

"But everything finally came together. So now we realize that everything has really been getting better every year," she added.

Delort also noted that she may suffer from "butterflies in her stomach" before



Juniors Randy Tran (left front) and Keenan Morales dance during "Black and Gold" at the Niles West's Orchestras 2011 Breaking Through. J. Joel Lerner-Sun-Times Media

going on stage, but once she is out there, the excitement of the moment takes over.

"I love dance. And I want people to remember me — not as 'She's OK,' but 'Oh wow! Look what she can do!'" Delort said.

Delort, who has taken dance lessons since she was 5, is planning to teach dance and physical education.

"I hope this show inspired people not only to dance, but to tryout for more shows like this. They just may love it as much as Kirstie and I do," she added.

The dances were choreographed by: Jon Lehrer;

founder and director of Lehrer Dance; Annie Polack; Andrew Pan; Lisa Marie Torres; Elijah Gibson; Stephanie Paul, artistic director of Be the Groove Productions; and Matthew Pumanes.

The company consisted of: Evangeline Alpopianis, Jessie Barajas, Nicole Bonner, Alison Check, Mimi Kapechuck, Casey Mahoney-Muno, Aundrea Martinez, Jennifer Menchavez, Keenan Morales, Kyla Pomer, Emily Topp, Randy Tran, Froilan Usman, Wesley Uy, Mary Vo and Edward White.

Digest

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Members of High Fidelity: **Agnes Krason**, **Maggie Check**, **Tabby Hagopian**, **Kyla Pomer**,



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Schools

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NIL - THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

Dancers bring off 'Breaking Through' show

By PAT KROCHMAL
pkrochmal@pioneerlocal.com

When Niles West High School students in the Orchestral Dance Company presented "Breaking Through," their form of nonverbal communication came through loud and clear.

The March 10-12 dance show featured hip hop, modern/contemporary, lyrical, jazz and other styles at the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium.

And the dancers dazzled their audience with highly energetic moves that not only told different stories, but also demonstrated the students' love of what they were doing.

The dancers had been working on the show since the beginning of the school year on Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as every other Saturday, said Mindy Slutzky, who co-directed the production with Christine Selander.

"Not only have we been busy, busy, busy, but I also

hired seven outside choreographers who are internationally renowned to 'set' pieces for the group, which consisted of 12 girls and seven guys," Slutzky said. "Having this many guys is excellent! We never had any. But through the years, the guys have slowly realized that it is OK for them to be up on stage and dance," she added.

And bringing in outside choreographers broadens the students' horizons, because students seem to have tunnel vision when it comes to choreography, Slutzky said.

The show featured nine pieces for each act and ran between an hour and a half and one hour and 45 minutes. And Orchestral officers Kirstie Beck and Nicole Delort definitely were pleased with the results.

Beck, an 18-year-old senior from Morton Grove, performed contemporary, hip hop and lyrical jazz numbers, as well as a hula presentation.

"My first thoughts are always on getting the choreography right. Then, when I'm on stage and under the lights, and I can hear the crowd and see it, I know it's performance time," Beck said.

"I know then I have to perform to the best of my ability. So I think of myself as being in the audience and what I would want to see. And I also think about what emotion I want the audience to have, and I try to deliver it," she added.

Beck, who has been studying dance since she was 3 years old, considers it a lifetime commitment and plans to major in it in college.

"I really enjoy dance. In fact, it's my passion. I practice seven days a week in four different studios," Beck said.

"I can get emotions across. I can deal with anything and express anything through performing and dancing... That's why I want to make a career out of it," she added.

Beck also noted that she was especially impressed with the students in the show who had little or no experience performing before becoming a part of it.

"When the people in the audience saw what these boys and girls could do — not one style of dance, but several, and how versatile they were — it really wowed them!" she added.

Delort, an 18-year-old senior from Skokie, said that doing a good job on this show meant that the dancers would maintain their reputation.

"Last year, everybody loved the show so much that Kirstie and I were worried that we might not be able to do as well this year — and we wanted the show to be even better," Delort said.

"But everything finally came together. So now we realize that everything has really been getting better every year," she added.

Delort also noted that she may suffer from "butterflies in her stomach" before



Juniors Randy Tran (left front) and Keenan Morales dance during "Black and Gold" at the Niles West's Orchestral Dance 2011: Breaking Through. | Joel Lerner-Sun-Times Media

going on stage, but once she is out there, the excitement of the moment takes over.

"I love dance. And I want people to remember me — not as 'She's OK,' but 'Oh wow! Look what she can do!'" Delort said.

Delort, who has taken dance lessons since she was 5, is planning to teach dance and physical education.

"I hope this show inspired people not only to dance, but to tryout for more shows like this. They just may love it as much as Kirstie and I do," she added.

The dances were choreographed by: Jon Lehrer,

founder and director of Lehrer Dance; Annie Polack; Andrew Pan; Lisa Marie Torres; Elijah Gibson; Stephanie Paul, artistic director of Be the Groove Productions; and Matthew Pumanes.

The company consisted of: Evangeline Alpopianis, Jessie Barajas, Nicole Bonner, Alison Check, Mimi Kapechuck, Casey Mahoney-Muno, Aundrea Martinez, Jennifer Menchavez, Keenan Morales, Kyla Pomer, Emily Topp, Randy Tran, Froilan Usman, Wesley Uy, Mary Vo and Edward White.

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Amy Branahl is the director of Choirs and David Lello is the director of Echo Effect.

Seventy-four Niles Township High School District 219 students competed at the DECA State Career Development Conference and Competition March 8 through 5 in Decatur. More than 1,000 DECA members and chapter advisors were in attendance, representing more than 50 different high schools from throughout the state.

Twenty-eight District 219 students advanced to the International Career Development Conference that will be held in Orlando, Fla. on April 29 through May 4. Approximately 10,000 students will compete in Orlando.

The following Niles North students advanced to the ICDC in Orlando: **Nick Christus**, first place, Accounting Applications Event; **Neha Iqbal, Stephanie Kost and Samantha Cuya**, first place, Public Relations Project; **Kevin Olickle and Khoa Nguyen**, second place, Internet Marketing Plan; **Zain Lakhani and Aqil Hussain**, third place, Business Services Operations Research Event; **Sheena Lakhani, Anum Poonawala and Aminah Jafri**, third place, Creative Marketing Project; **Rebecca Gilbert and Joy Sugihara**, third place, Public Relations Project; **Mark Brown, Nyree Khamo and Grant Gaughrin**, Advanced, International Business Plan; and **Ayesha Ali**, Voting Delegate National DECA.

The following Niles West students advanced to the ICDC in Orlando: **Anna Antonow**, first place, Business Services Operations Research Event; **Zuzanna Antonow**, first place, Business Services Operations Research Event; **Smita Jain**, first place, Business Services Operations Research Event; **Cody Inglesby**, second

place, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project; **Fiona Mohan**, second place, Community Service Project; **Jessin Joseph**, third place, Learn and Earn Project; **Nicole Moy**, third place, Learn and Earn Project; **Joel Nelson**, third place, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project; **Patrick O'Connor**, third place, Learn and Earn Project; **Reine Rambert**, third place, Community Service Project; and **Robert Urosev**, third place, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project.

Additionally, 20 Niles North students received "Top 10 in the State" medals: **Blake Whitehouse, Shawn Lukose and Chris Morressey**, Community Service Project; **Damiana Andonova**, Community Service Event; **Jason Park**, Creative Marketing Project; **Ayesha Ali, Ammar Mujtabe and Mohammad Hasan**, Creative Marketing Project; **Saagar Gupta**, Creative Marketing Project; **Daniel Krusewski and Chris Morressey**, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project; **Aaron Babajoni and Julius Prince**, Learn and Earn; **Krystine Hoang**, Public Relations; **Sheena Lakhani and Shazil**

Lakhani, Public Relations Project; **Grant Gaughrin**, Entrepreneurship Written Event; and **Saagar Gupta, Nick Christus and Samran Mirza**, Internet Marketing Plan.

The following 14 Niles West students received "Top 10 in the State" medals: **Alex Antonow**, International Business Plan; **Brian Barnabas**, Creative Marketing Project; **Aid Idrizovic**, Internet Marketing Plan; **Cody Inglesby**, Marketing Communications Team Decision Making; **Jessin Joseph**, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making; **Fiona Mohan**, Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making; **Patrick O'Connor**, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making; **Pritesh Pardiwala**, Entrepreneurship Written Project; **Nikesh Patel**, Creative Marketing Project; **Nicole Poskrobko**, Learn and Earn Project; **Reine Rambert**, Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making; **Jay Shah**, Learn and Earn Project; **Ravi Sukhadia**, Learn and Earn Project; and **Robert Urosev**, Marketing Communications Team De-

cision Making. Additionally, **Joel Nelson** received first place in Role Play Competition, **Derrick Fuji** earned third place in Role Play Competition, **Liz Troyk** took third Place in Role Play Competition and **Alex Antonow** earned third place in Economics Test.

Niles North High School students participated in a photo competition held last week at Visual Image Photography studio in Wheeling. There were 144 works from 13 area high schools entered. Niles North student **Roey Hazot** won the competition as well as a Kodak digital camera. Niles North student **Keiko Sugihara** earned second place.

Niles North special education teacher **Anne Zavell** was slated to give a presentation to about 200 teachers on March 31 in Chicago. Zavell, who uses the award-winning TEDTalks in her classroom as an inspirational tool for journal-writing, was invited by the organizers of TEDxMidwest to share her experiences with TEDTalks to build excitement for the upcoming conference. The TEDxMidwest Youth event

was to be held in October at Chicago's Field Museum and bring together 400 of the area's most driven and creative high school students, along with 200 of the area's best teachers, to experience the power of ideas through a series of inspiring, transformative talks and conversations. This is an offshoot of the renowned TED Conference. Zavell was also to be in attendance at the TEDxMidwest Youth event with four Niles North students.

Students from Niles Township High School District 219 took home trophies in seven out of eight contests at this year's German High School Day held recently at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Niles North and Niles West High Schools were among 14 Chicagoland schools that participated. District 219 schools won almost half of the trophies, or 11 out of the 24 possible prizes.

In the City Guide contest, a category reserved for first-year German students, District 219 won all three

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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 27

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. A variety of **exercise classes** fit for every level is available. Try the gentle-moderate exercise class, 11:15 Mondays and 10 a.m. Tuesdays that features a combination of seated and standing exercises for a complete cardiovascular workout. The moder-

ate-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. \$10 **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. **The story of Impressionist** Edouard Manet will be featured at 1 p.m. April 11 by Claire Cross. Suggested donation is \$8. **The Creative Writers Group** will meet at 11 a.m. April 14, led by Joe Scianna. **Discover the fine art** of meditation and how to successfully apply it to everyday situations at 1 p.m. April 14. Today's Women discussion group will meet at 2:15 p.m. April 14. **Lenten Special:** All-

You-Can-Eat Fish Fry every Friday. Fried cod or baked, breaded orange roughy with two sides. Choose from soup, salad, fresh-cut fries, or the side of the day. Cost: \$11.40; Mather Advantage Discount: \$9.12. **Saint Andrew Life Center**, 7000 N. Newark Ave., has a new wintertime move-in special. Anyone who moves into Saint Andrew before March 31 will receive a free large button cell phone. The large buttons help make these new phones easier and safer to use. Saint Andrew offers affordable independent living, assisted living, intermediate nursing care and memory care. Call (847) 647-8332 to schedule a personalized tour. **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 Mainstreamers 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. **Senior Link Alliance**, in collaboration with the City of Chicago Department on Aging, offers a free Home Repair Referral Service to all seniors residing in Park Ridge, Niles, Harwood Heights, Norridge, Schiller Park, River Grove and Elmwood Park. Program helps seniors over 60 find honest reliable workers to help maintain their

homes. Seniors are given three names of prescreened qualified handymen or contractors who are matched to the type and size of the job. Jobs include carpentry, plumbing, drywall, plastering, painting, gutter cleaning and repair, electrical work, roofing, washing windows, errand running, yard work, snow removal, furnace repairs, wall-papering, tuckpointing, tiling and more. Call Carol McDavid, (773) 777-0202. **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.



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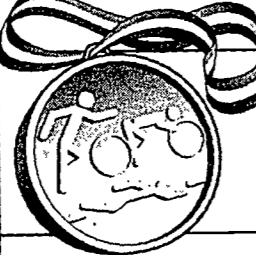
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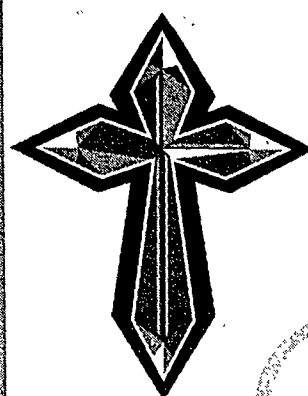
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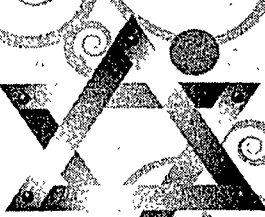
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Your Local Worship Guide



Central Zone

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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 (Sept.-May)
9:00 a.m. Spirit Bridge, 10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Parish Deacon
Matt Halder, Worship/Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
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Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM
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Sunday School/Catechism
9:45AM
Weekday Masses at Noon
Bishop Anthony Kopka, Pastor

CHICAGO

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30PM
Sunday Worship 10:00AM
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

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Presbyterian Church (USA)**
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www.mgcppresbyterian.org
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NORTHFIELD

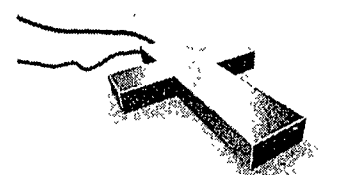
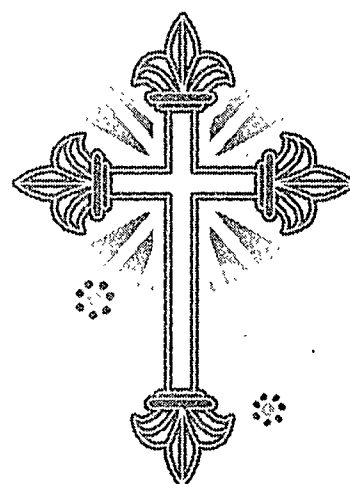
**Willow Creek Community Church
North Shore Campus**
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847-441-6599
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9 & 11 a.m.
Elevate (Grades 6 - 8): 11 a.m.
Impact (Grades 9 - 12): 6 p.m.
For more information visit
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Fax: 773-631-0142
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Sunday School 9AM
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Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Avenue
847-823-4135
www.parkridgepresby.org
Sunday Service: 10:30 AM



Digest

Continued from PAGE 32

prizes. Niles West students **Mario Sivric** and **Filip Zivkovic** earned first place with their comical presentation about Leipzig. Niles West students **Ruby Ladrado** and **Susanna Montoya-Quinchia** achieved second place with their presentation on Rothenburg, and Niles North students **Isaac Ishak** and **Andreas Otil** took third with their presentation on Berlin.

Niles West student **Vikram Shah** won first place in Spelling Bee. Niles North student **Michael Rowen** earned second place in the Culture Essay contest with his essay about Ludwig Guttman, German doctor and founder of the Paralympics. Niles North students **Daniel Egan** won third place in the Cover Art contest and **Daniel Weldon** received third place in the Spelling Bee.

In a special category for exchange students, **Mathis Dedial** from Niles West took home third place for his essay on his impressions of the United States. In the Werbespot Video category, Niles West students **Aaron Snowsky** and **Robert Marohn** earned third place for a super drink invention.

Both schools medaled in the Skit category. Niles North students **Annemarie Reid**, **Dawid Szmigielski**, **Dan Chung**, **Anja Toledo**, **Tina Tillman**, **Marianne Leber** and **George Vall** won first place for their student-written skit titled "Only the Man Who Wears the Shoe Knows Where It Hurts." Niles West students **Heather Funai**, **Gregory Fil**, **Morgan Gstalter**, **Krista Dawson**, **Michelle Karp** and **Ryan Sison** earned third place for their student-written skit "Beauty and the Beast."

The teacher coaches for these students are Sara Shuster, Lydia Ronning, Natalie Bartl, Caroline Ahearn and Josef Neumayer.

Five Niles Township High School District 219 students and their teacher participated in an all-day French immersion program. They joined with 130 others from 24 area high schools in speaking only French from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 5. The event was hosted by French professor Dr. Laura Burch

and Dominican University in River Forest. The national and local American Association of Teachers of French organizations, the French Cultural Services and Dominican University supported this effort.

Niles West students **Amy Sands**, **Marc-Daniel Julien**, **Jamilabelle Evangelista** and **Celine Ledesma**, and Niles North student **Sofia Ballicora** participated in the event, along with District 219 French teacher Eileen Walvoord, who also taught one of the classes. They ate a French breakfast, attended classes, played games and prepared and performed original skits. The aim was to further their competence in the French language and to enhance their knowledge of French culture.

ST. JOHN BREBEUF

Magda Szala, a talented eighth-grade artist, won the Nicor/National Energy Foundation Energy by Design: Visual Arts Contest for Students in the grade 6-8 category.

Szala has won a \$200 savings bond, a pizza party for her class, a prize pack filled with fun prizes and a congratulatory plaque.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

St. Paul of the Cross School will host an Open House April 20 and May 18 for Pre-School, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten. The tours will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the open houses will run from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

St. Paul of the Cross School serves the families in the Park Ridge and surrounding communities by providing a challenging and faith-filled education for children in preschool through eighth grade. St. Paul of the Cross School is located at 140 S. Northwest Highway in Park Ridge. For more information on the curriculum, admissions and registration, contact the school office at (847) 825-6366 or visit www.spc-school.net.

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE

Registration for the new Summer Program is now open. More information and all registration forms are available from the "Summer Program" page of the school website at <http://srb-chicago.org> or from the school of

rice, (773) 725-5133. Space is limited; early registration is recommended.

The **Honors Assembly** is scheduled for 2 p.m. April 7 in the school gym.

Students from St. Robert Bellarmine School had great success at the Regional Science Fair, held at the Museum of Science and Industry on March 12. Five seventh-grade students placed in the top groups, competing against almost 500 students, many of whom were in eighth grade and high school.

Maggie Loch placed in the top group, earning a Gold Medal for her project, "The Effects of Oil Spills on Aquatic Plants." She will advance to the State Science Fair at the University of Illinois in Champaign on May 7.

Trevor Heinlein was awarded a Gold Certificate for high scores on his project, "Can Fruits Produce Electrical Energy?" He will also advance to the State Science Fair at the University of Illinois. Heinlein also took home two special awards. Based on his exceptional work related to helping the environment, the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago awarded him an invitation to a presentation to be given at its downtown office followed by a boat tour and lunch on the river. He also won a special award from J. Michael Consultants, a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond for his outstanding use of technology.

Julia Bogusz was awarded a Gold Certificate for her project, "Are Childproof Containers Really Childproof?" She had many St. Robert Bellarmine students "help" her with the project as they tried to open the childproof containers.

Joseph Spina was awarded a Silver Certificate for his project, "Tornado Replication: Is It Possible?" He built a very impressive functioning tornado demonstration container.

Evie Zaker was awarded a Bronze Certificate for her project, "Do All People See the Same Colors with Different Amounts of Light?" In her project, many people were given tests to see what color they saw when the light was bright, medium and dim.



Your Local Worship Guide



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
Friday Shabbat Services 7:30pm;
Family Shabbat 6:30pm, 3rd Fri./month
Kabbalistic Prayer Service 10:30am.
2nd Sat./month
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)
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www.tbiskokie.org

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www.devaremet.org
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SKOKIE

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
4950 W. Pratt, 847-673-4441
www.cwupc.org

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Sundays 5:30-7:30pm

Assyrian Fellowship
Fridays 7:30-9:30 pm

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Sunday Worship Services:
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Traditional 11 am

Sunday School (all ages) 10 am
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Minyan Mon-Thurs 7PM;
Sat & Sun 6PM

Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM
Religious School Wed & Sat;
Cantor Benjamin Wierschawski
Rabbi Neil Braf, Emeritus

WILMETTE

Beth Hillel Congregation
Bnai Erunah
3220 Big Tree Lane, 847-256-1213
www.bhcbe.org
Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:00 PM
Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM
Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat,
Torah Time 10:30 AM
Followed by Kiddush
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| Hillside 2225 South Wolf Road Hillside, IL 60162 708-562-2200 | Lake Zurich 1100 South Rand Road Lake Zurich, IL 60047 847-726-2265 | Lombard 837 South Westmore Avenue Lombard, IL 60148 630-953-0600 | Morton Grove 6111 West Dempster Street Morton Grove, IL 60063 847-583-1907 | Villa Park 305 West St. Charles Road Villa Park, IL 60181 630-530-5000 |



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Pitching provides defense a chance

Evans baffles Elmwood Park

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BASEBALL — With just one senior in its starting lineup, Maine East's fielders may be short on experience this season.

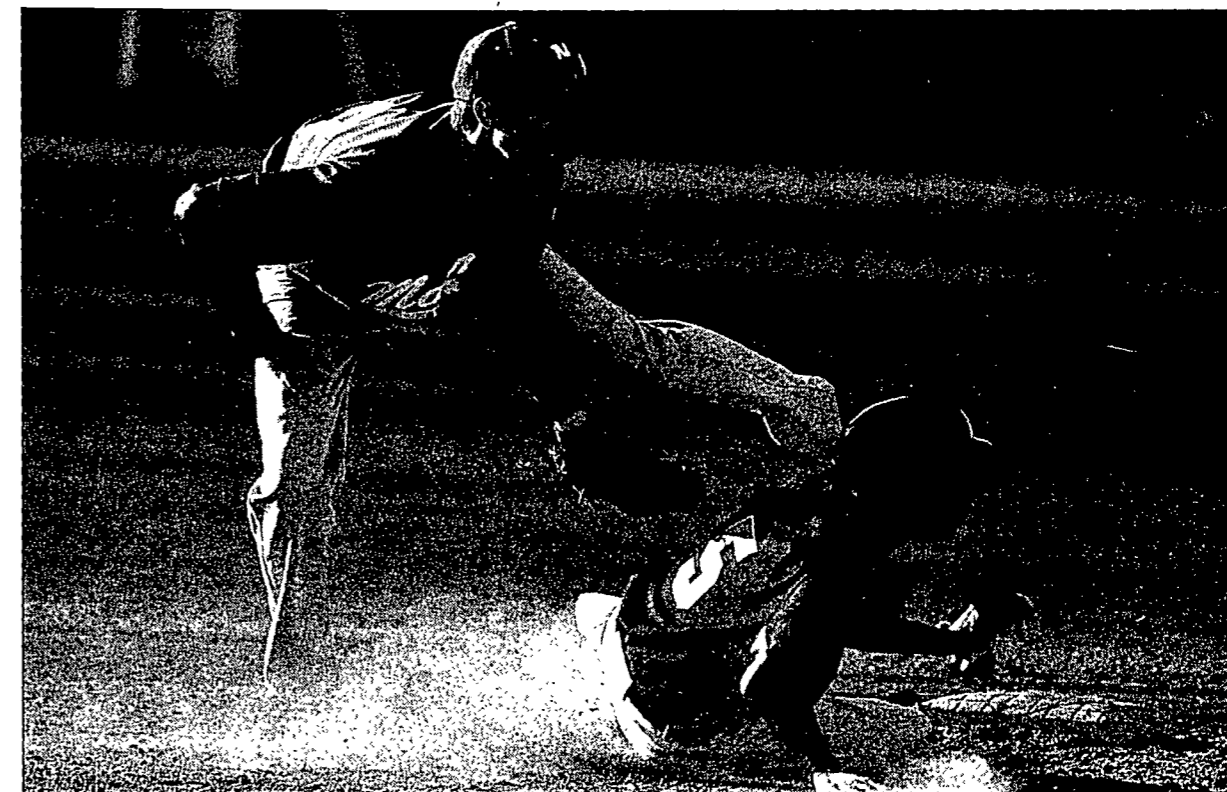
But the Blue Demons have been solid thus far in an area that's arguably even more important: pitching.

East entered this week with a 2-3 record, and head coach Ron Clark said that, for the most part, his hurlers have gotten the job done.

"We're learning and growing, competing and holding our own. Overall, I'm happy with things so far," Clark said. "The strength has been that our pitching has been solid overall."

Junior Cory Evans turned in a strong performance in a March 30 win over Elmwood Park, while juniors Andrew and Tyler Glowacki have gotten batters out. Sophomore lefty Greg Davis also has made an important contribution on the hill.

Offensively, Clark said his team was coming around



Maine East infielder Tyler Glowacki tags out Elmwood Park base runner Kevin Clark at second during the Blue Demons' 6-1 win. | Rob Hart-Sun-Times Media

after struggling early.

"The last couple of games we came out swinging the bat," he said. "I had a feeling our guys would come on as we saw more live pitching."

Clark said his team's defense was still progressing and the Blue Demons need-

ed to do a better job preventing errors from turning into big innings.

"We need to work on our consistency," he said. "We have a pattern where we have one bad inning a game and things fall apart for us.

We make an error or two and it snowballs into a cou-

ple of runs.

"I've said the strength of our team would be pitching and defense, and we have to try and make that what the team is about."

Individually, junior outfielder Dan Klamerus has been a pleasant surprise, according to Clark.

"He's hit the ball well for us," the coach said. "He's a strong, athletic kid. He was not one we were initially counting on. But he's really coming on."

Meanwhile, sophomore catcher Phil Papaioannou has been stellar behind the plate. He's blocked several

balls in the dirt and, as of Monday, had thrown out five of the previous six runners who had attempted to steal.

"(Papaioannou) is not a surprise, but it's just nice to see him develop into what we hoped he would be coming out of last summer," Clark said.

Recap: On Saturday, Maine East fell behind 7-0 early, rallied, and came up a run short in a 10-9 loss to Wheaton St. Francis in Park Ridge.

Tyler Glowacki went 3-for-4 with a double and RBI, Andrew Glowacki was 2-for-3 with two RBI, Klamerus batted 2-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored and George Zakharia scored twice and knocked in a run.

Three days earlier, Evans pitched a gem in the 6-1 win at Elmwood Park. The junior lasted 6 2/3 innings, giving up five hits, walking four and striking out four.

Klamerus was 2-for-2 with a triple and RBI, while Zakharia also tripled in a pair of runs.

Up Next: The Blue Demons host Fenton at 4:30 p.m. Friday and welcome Mather for a doubleheader at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Blue Demons players hope for more of the same

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

TENNIS — Maine East graduated 70 percent of its starting lineup that finished 17-4 last season.

But that doesn't mean head coach John Schwan is significantly lowering expectations this spring.

"We're kind of starting anew in some regard," he said. "But I'm feeling reasonably confident that we also should have a successful season this year. We have a few kids back and also had a pretty good JV team (in 2010). A lot of those kids

have moved up and have some solid skills. I have high expectations for them.

"I'm hoping to beat last year's record. Our goal is to improve on the prior year. That's going to be a tougher task than normal. But we're pleased with the level of the team based on what I've seen early in the season."

The biggest loss for the Blue Demons will be Jeremy Umansky, an all-conference selection last season and the team's No. 1 player for four years.

Junior Shaz Laliwala was expected to be at first singles for the Demons' open-

er Monday against Wheeling. However, the coach said talented freshman Danny Choi would compete for the position throughout the campaign.

"Shaz won a challenge match and he'll be No. 1 (to start the season). But if Danny beats him next week, he'll be No. 1," the coach said. "My philosophy is to always compete. The lineup could change every week based on who is playing the best tennis."

Laliwala spent some time on varsity last season after being promoted from JV. Choi, meanwhile, brings a

wealth of junior experience with him to the high school level.

"Danny is a USTA-ranked player, both locally and regionally, so we're very pleased to have him," Schwan said. "He's a very accomplished player and tournament tough. We're expecting big things from him."

Sophomore Brandon Leung is expected to play No. 3 singles. Senior Joseph B. Choi, Danny's older brother, will join senior Billy Shaw at No. 1 doubles. The duo competed at No. 3 or No. 4 doubles last season.

"They played together last year and we think they are a good, solid team at No. 1," Schwan said.

Seniors Soo Hun Lee and Joseph Choi will begin the spring at No. 2 doubles, while sophomore Junaid Ahmed and junior Marv Carreon are teaming up at No. 3 doubles.

In addition to seeing his team challenge last year's remarkable record, Schwan said he also would like to climb above one of the conference powers: Highland Park, Deerfield or Glenbrook North.

"We're always hoping to

finish ahead of one of those schools," said the coach, whose team came in fourth in the CSL North last season. "Last year, we had a couple of close matches with Glenbrook North and our objective is to knock off one of those schools."

"Those programs are not just conference powers, but state powers. We've got good programs in our conference and we aspire to get to that level."

Maine East will host an invite at 9 a.m. Saturday that also will include Bolingbrook, Northridge and South Elgin.

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Rain delays speed up Wolves' bonding

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

SOFTBALL — Yes, Niles West played more softball during its Florida trip than would have been possible if the Wolves had stayed home.

But the weather last week in Kissimmee/Orlando, where the team spent spring break, was hardly what the local travel and tourism bureau promotes on its website.

The Wolves encountered two and a half days of rain, had three of their seven scheduled games called off, and even had to leave the field once because of storm sirens.

The team did practice a few times and played four games, including two official, at ESPN's Wild World of Sports. West split its tournament games and finished 2-2 overall.

After returning to Skokie, coach Nicole Reynolds said she was excited to see what her team had learned. The rain delays meant the players had more time to get to know each other than had been expected.

"The kids for the most part bonded and got really close," she said. "I was looking forward to coming back and playing at home right away."

Two days removed from Florida, the Wolves split a home doubleheader with

Buffalo Grove Saturday, losing the first game 2-1 and winning the second 3-7.

Senior Casey Nakawatase capped a two-out, three-run, seventh-inning rally with a suicide squeeze bunt that brought in senior Joanna Lefevre from third base. Lefevre also hit a home run. Sophomore second baseman Katie McDonagh went 2-for-4 and senior shortstop Laue DiJohn was 3-for-4.

Sophomore Lindsey Aybar started, pitched the full seven and struck out two.

Earlier, sophomore Krista Dawson pitched well, but the Wolves (4-4) were unable to generate much offense as they dropped the opener.

The Bison plated both their runs in the first inning, while Niles West scored on senior Shelby Peters' steal of home.

Dawson, who took over as the team's No. 1 pitcher this season, has been solid, according to Reynolds.

"She's been able to make hitters pop up and hit grounders, and our defense has done a good job playing behind her, doing what they can to support her effort," Reynolds said. "Dawson and Lefevre have been a good pitcher/catcher combo."

Recap: On March 27, the Wolves opened their Florida trip with a 3-0 loss to

Parkland (Penn.) in an official game.

Dawson allowed three runs on four hits, struck out three and walked three. Junior Lexi Leftakes went 2-for-3 with two singles.

Two days later, Wausau (Wis.) West defeated Niles West 5-1 in a makeup contest. Ayber struck out four and gave up five hits. Senior Lauren Papucci played solidly at second base.

Later that day, Dawson had a strong outing in a 6-1 win over Xavier (Wis.). Dawson went the distance, giving up four hits and striking out three, with no walks. Lefevre was 3-for-3 with two RBI and Peters went 3-for-4.

Niles West closed out the trip on March 30 with a 9-5 win over Horace Mann (N.Y.).

The Wolves trailed 5-1 before tying the game in the fourth. Dawson and senior Lauren Robak delivered big hits as West went ahead for good in the top of the seventh. DiJohn and Nakawatase each batted 2-for-3, and Lefevre, Robak, junior Alyssa Brummit and Leftakes all had a hit.

Up Next: Niles West welcomes Glenbrook North at 4:45 p.m. today before playing a doubleheader at Elmwood Park, starting at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Oakton wins seven of eight

BASEBALL — Oakton Community College put a six-game winning streak on the line against host College of Lake County in a doubleheader to open Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference play on Saturday.

Though the streak ended with a 2-1 loss in Game 1, the Raiders won the nightcap 7-1, improving to 11-8-1 overall.

Sophomore outfielder

Chris Ripple (Maine East), who leads Oakton with a .455 batting average, went 3-for-3 with two doubles in the win. Pitcher Troy Mannebach had a strong outing to earn the victory, allowing just one hit and striking out 10 batters in five innings.

Freshman hurler Troy Mannebach (Appleton West, Wis.) tops the pitching staff with 33 strikeouts over 13 2/3 innings.

The Raiders have been without the services of sophomore infielders Shane Uhle (Prospect) and Ryan Tuntland (Maine West), who have been battling injuries all season.

Oakton was to host Prairie State in a doubleheader on Tuesday and Harper College on Wednesday. The Raiders also will host Joliet today, and visit Moraine Valley for a twin-bill at noon Saturday.

West coach Foerch preparing for farewell

Wolves place fourth in own invite

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

GYMNASTICS — Niles West had a better-than-expected fourth-place finish at its own invite on Saturday, a meet named for the school's legendary former head coach John Burkel.

It's been 20 years since Burkel stepped aside as head coach in order to allow Steve Foerch to take over. Now Foerch is making his own plans to hand over the helm.

Though not yet official, Foerch said he hopes to see current assistant and Niles West alum Adrian Bautista replace him as head coach next season. Foerch said he will continue teaching at the school for a few years and serve as an assistant.

"(Choosing a successor) is something many head coaches think about," Foerch said. "If you think far enough ahead, you can mentor a new person rather than just retiring and leaving the program (to someone who hasn't been groomed for the job). I've seen that happen before, and programs flounder as a result. I'm going to help out before I retire (from teaching) and show (the new coach) the right way to do things. That's the way (Burkel) left the program to me and the way I want to leave the program. Coach Burkel was an incredible mentor, and I want Adrian to learn a lot from me before I retire."

Bautista graduated from Niles West in 1994 after serving as a captain on the gymnastics team. He later spent five years as Foerch's assistant before leaving the coaching profession. He returned to assist Foerch's brother, Doug, with the

Highland Park-Deerfield co-op team before spending the last several years as an assistant at Niles North.

Bautista now teaches at Niles West. Prior to the season, he was "traded" for Gary Ramirez, who agreed to assist the Niles North boys gymnastics team and coach Vikings' divers.

Foerch is just the fourth boys gymnastics head coach in the program's 52-year history.

"That is an accomplishment in and of itself," Foerch said. "I'm proud that one of my former gymnasts would want to (succeed me)."

Recap: At the 11-team Burkel Invite, West scored 121.95 points to finish behind Elk Grove (140.9), Buffalo Grove (140.85) and Conant (139.75).

"It went very, very, very well," Foerch said. "We scored about eight points higher than we had all sea-

son. I had us finishing in about the middle, maybe sixth or seventh. So (fourth) was a pleasant surprise."

Niles West opened with a strong rotation on vault and ended up third. Junior Chris Williams placed fourth (9.2), junior Casey Mahoney-Muno attempted — and landed — his first Tsuk to place 15th (8.75), and senior Eli Shiheiber

placed for 19th (8.6) after landing his front handspring. "Our vault team rocked the house," Foerch said. "We threw three big vaults and got the party started. After that, we rocked. We faltered here or there, but not too terribly."

Other highlights for West: senior Hantac Chang placing 10th on parallel bars (8.2); Shiheiber finishing

10th on high bar (7.3); and senior Rafal Krolczyk taking 31st out of 44 performers on pommel horse. Krolczyk, who has cerebral palsy, scored a career-best 4.0 in the event.

On Pioneerlocal.com: To view video of Krolczyk competing on pommel horse, visit pioneerlocal.com and click on "videos".

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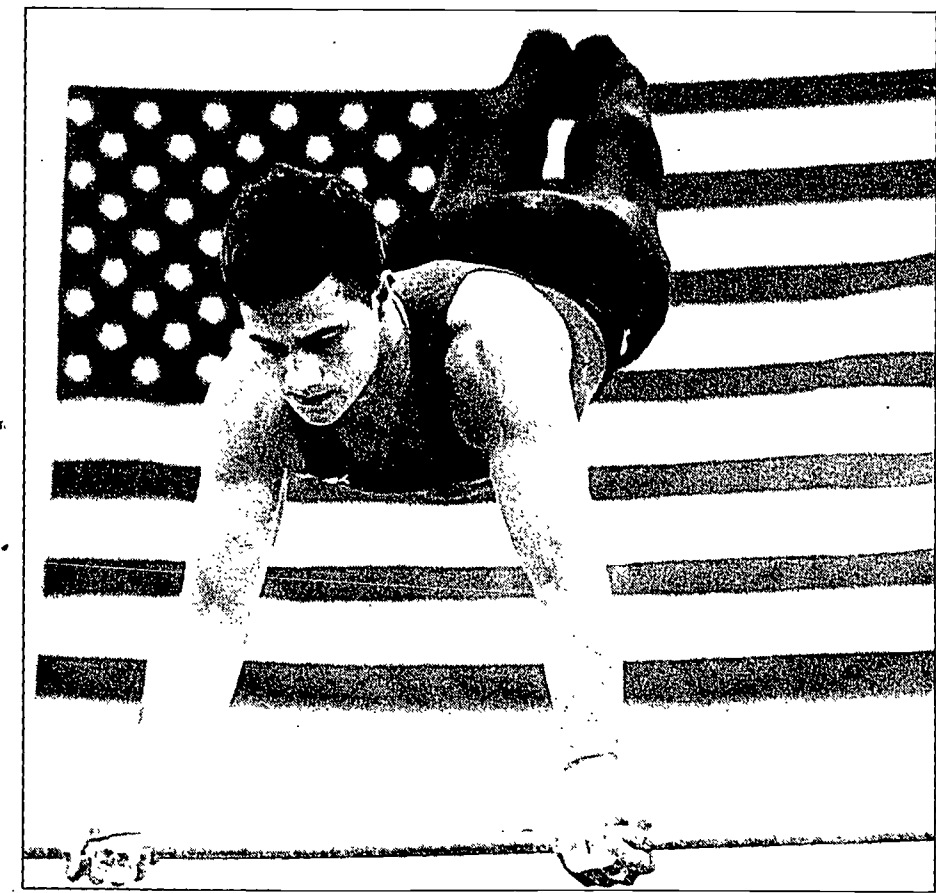
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Niles West's Eli Shiheiber spins on the high bar during the Fifth Annual John Burkel Invitational on Saturday at Niles West. | Allison Williams-for-Sun-Times Media

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Walking wounded step up at Burkel

Oh collects 8th on horse, 7th in all-around

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

GYMNASTICS — Niles North has yet to be at full strength this season, and the Vikings were especially shorthanded at Saturday's John Burkel Invitational at Niles West.

Missing top performer Manny Magbanua, and with several other key gymnasts restricted by injuries, the Vikings still managed to finish fifth (121.7) at the competitive 11-team meet.

The Vikings were edged by rival Niles West (121.95) for fourth place. The teams were scheduled to meet again in a dual this week, and North head coach Rick Meyer hoped to have a stronger squad for that meet.

Magbanua, one of the team's senior captains, had been out of action recently with various bumps and bruises. On Saturday, he out of town auditioning for a cheerleading schol-

arship at the University of Kentucky. Meyer speculated that Magbanua's presence, especially on rings, would have added seven or eight points to the Vikings team score.

Niles North senior Evan Hagedorn also missed the meet while on a college visit.

Senior co-captain Brian Oh was present, but ill. Oh placed eighth on pommel horse (7.2) and seventh in the all-around (41.6). He had been scoring between 43.0 and 45.0 in the all-around.

"(Oh) was struggling a little," Meyer said. "His pommel horse routine could have easily won if he had been healthy and throwing his best routine."

Senior Erik Suh expects to compete in five of the six events by season's end. A back injury limited him to just two events at Niles West and he ended up finishing eighth on parallel bars (8.3).

Niles North junior Mendel Moskovits also had a strong p-bars routine, coming in seventh (8.4).

"(Moskovits) is coming along nicely," Meyer said. "His two biggest events are p-bars and high bar. He's really kind of coming along. He has the op-

portunity to qualify for State in p-bars and maybe on high bar. He still has a ways to go (on high bar)."

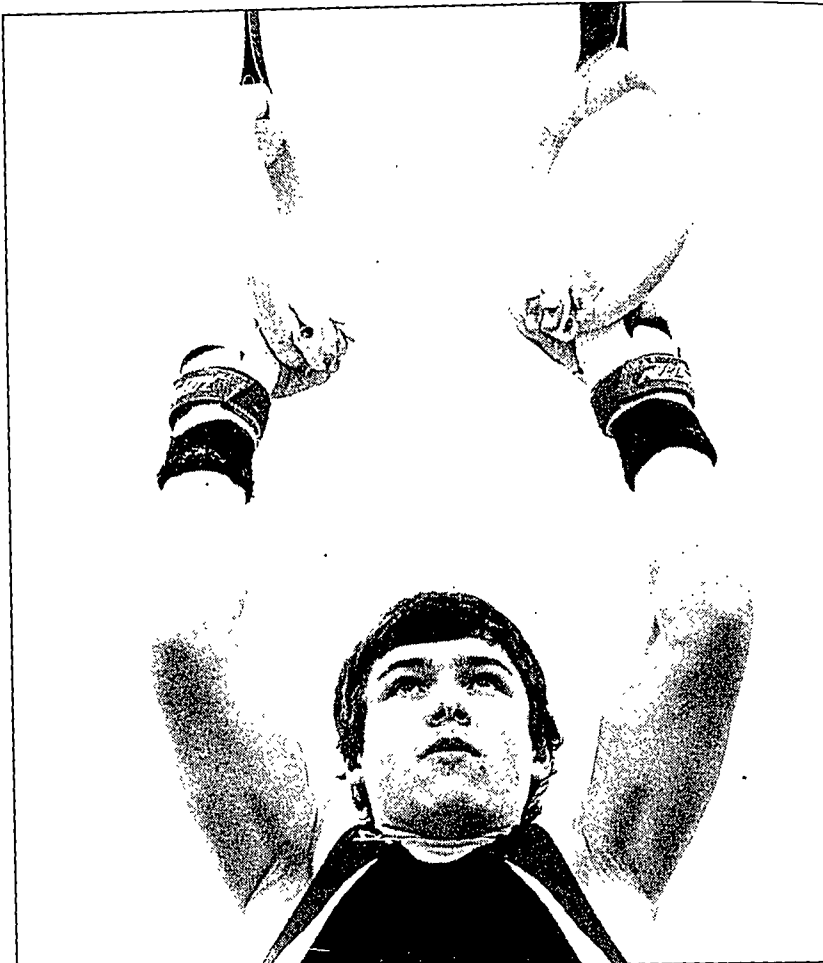
Due to absences and injuries, Viking freshman Nick Arcus was promoted to the varsity for the Niles West Invite. Arcus competed on floor exercise, vault, p-bars and rings.

"(Arcus) will be part of the varsity team at the end of the season," Meyer said. "We'll give him more experience on the freshman level and take him to some (varsity) invites as well as the sectional meet. He did real well (at Niles West) and we're real excited about him."

Recap: On March 29, Niles North defeated Evanston 117.95 to 95.6.

Up Next: Niles North will compete in the Mundelein Invitational at 6 p.m. Friday.

"We're hopefully going to have our guys back and be competitive and put up our best score of the season, get above 125," Meyer said. "We'd like to be up at 130 by the end of the season ... to be over 130. We'll be successful if we start getting toward that."



Niles North freshman Nick Arcus competes on the rings at the Fifth Annual John Burkel Invitational on Saturday | Allison Williams-for Sun-Times Media

Wolves feeling sunny following trip to Florida

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BASEBALL — Niles North head coach Ed Toledo has taken his team to Georgia and Missouri in recent seasons. But he called last week's spring break trip to Cocoa Beach, Fla., the program's most productive excursion yet.

The Vikings went 4-0, improving to 8-2 overall. Not even a tornado warning on March 30 could dampen the team's spirits.

Toledo said the Florida junket was a success for many reasons other than just the wins. The coaches got to experiment with players in different roles and positions, the team registered

two come-from-behind victories, different heroes emerged every day and the Vikings received solid pitching.

"Right now it's different guys stepping up," Toledo said. "If one guy is having a rough go of it, we can inject someone else in and they can take care of the job. It's a fun situation to be in."

The Vikings' success does not depend on Southern Illinois-bound shortstop Adam Warda getting big hits. But he gets plenty, regardless. Over the four games, Warda went 7-for-11 with five runs scored, two doubles, a grand slam, three game-winning hits and 13 RBI.

There also was clutch hit-

ting from sophomore catcher Gabe Dwyer, junior third baseman Gabe Duarte and senior outfielder Sergio Benitez.

Toledo also found an answer to the most nagging preseason question: Who would be the team's leadoff hitter?

The surprising candidate is sophomore center fielder Elliot Mark.

"He wasn't the guy we had in mind starting out," Toledo said. "But he had some very good at-bats early on, is comfortable getting deep into counts, is left-handed, can bunt and has good speed. The fact that he's just a sophomore was the one concern, whether or not he could deal with being THAT

guy. But he's handled it for the last week and a half pretty well."

On the mound, senior lefty Nick Lumley, who missed last season while nursing his arm, and senior righty Joe Markus combined for a no-hitter.

Toledo said he looks forward to a rotation that includes those two and junior Matt Simon.

"That's a nice trio to run out there every week," he said.

Recap: Niles North opened spring break with a 6-2 win over Mariemont (Ohio) on March 29.

Simon went the distance, giving up five hits, two earned runs, striking out

five and walking two. Warda belted a grand slam.

Later in the day, Lumley and Marcus no-hit Belle Plain (Minn.) in a 6-0 victory. Lumley pitched the first four innings (3 strikeouts, 5 walks) and Marcus worked the final three (3 strikeouts, walk).

Warda batted 2-for-2 with a double and two RBI, Mark had a hit, scored twice and stole a base, and senior Mike Wilson scored and stole a base.

On Friday, North defeated Madeira (Ohio) 14-1 in four innings. Warda was 2-for-2 with four RBI, sophomore Matt McTague drove in three runs and scored a pair, and Wilson finished 1-for-2 with two runs scored

and an RBI. The winning pitcher was junior Tommy Dixon (4 innings, 4 hits, 0 earned runs, 3 strikeouts, walk).

The Vikings closed out with an 8-7 win over Ridge-wood (N.J.) on Saturday. Niles North trailed 6-4 before scoring four runs in its final two trips to the plate.

Warda (2-for-4, 3 RBI), Duarte (2-for-4, 2 RBI, GWRBI) and Dwyer (2-for-4, 2 RBI, 2 runs) were the hitting stars. Junior Andy Granato earned the victory with three innings of relief.

Up Next: The Vikings visit Von Steuben at 11 a.m. Saturday before hosting St. Patrick at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

THIS WEEK NILES NORTH

Today
Girls soccer at Pepsi Showdown, TBA
Boys tennis hosts Glenbrook South, 4:30 p.m.
Girls track at Glenbrook South vs. MS/Regina, 4:30 p.m.
Boys volleyball at New Trier (Northfield Campus), 6 p.m.
Friday
Girls softball at Libertyville, 4:30 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Warren Invite, 5 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Mundelein Invite, 6 p.m.
Girls soccer hosts Wauconda, 7 p.m.
Saturday
Girls soccer at Pepsi Showdown, TBA
Boys volleyball at Warren Invite, 8 a.m.
Boys volleyball at St. Patrick Tourn., 8:30 a.m.
Boys tennis at Niles West Invite, 9 a.m.
Boys baseball at Von Steuben, 11 a.m.
Boys track at Prospect Relays, 12:30 p.m.
Monday
Boys baseball hosts St. Patrick, 4:30 p.m.
Boys tennis at Evanston Twp., 4:30 p.m.
Girls softball hosts Maine West, 4:45 p.m.

NILES WEST

Today
Boys baseball at Lake Forest, 4:45 p.m.
Boys tennis at Elk Grove, 4:45 p.m.
Girls soccer at Maine West, 4:45 p.m.
Girls softball hosts Glenbrook North, 4:45 p.m.
Boys volleyball hosts Maine East, 6 p.m.
Boys water polo at Maine West, 5 p.m.
Friday
Boys volleyball at Warren Blue Devil Invite, 5 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Mundelein Invite, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Boys tennis hosts 24th Ken Rosen Tourn., 9 a.m.
Boys track hosts Gans-Zeedyk Invite, 9 a.m.
Boys water polo at Northside, 9 a.m.
Girls track at Riverside-Brookfield, 10 a.m.
Boys baseball hosts St. Joseph (DH), 2 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Warren Blue Devil Invite, 2 p.m.
Girls softball hosts Elmwood Park (DH), 2 p.m.
Monday
Boys track at New Trier, 4:30 p.m.
Girls track at Maine West Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Boys baseball hosts Barrington, 4:45 p.m.
Girls soccer hosts Waukegan, 7 p.m.

Dons apply lessons from break

By MATT HARNESSE
mharnesse@pioneerlocal.com

BASEBALL — A trip to California helped Notre Dame win in Illinois.

The Dons spent last week on the West Coast and played against some of Northern California's top teams.

Although Notre Dame went 0-4, the Dons learned plenty of lessons they applied at home.

Some paid off Monday in their 8-7 victory over visiting New Trier.

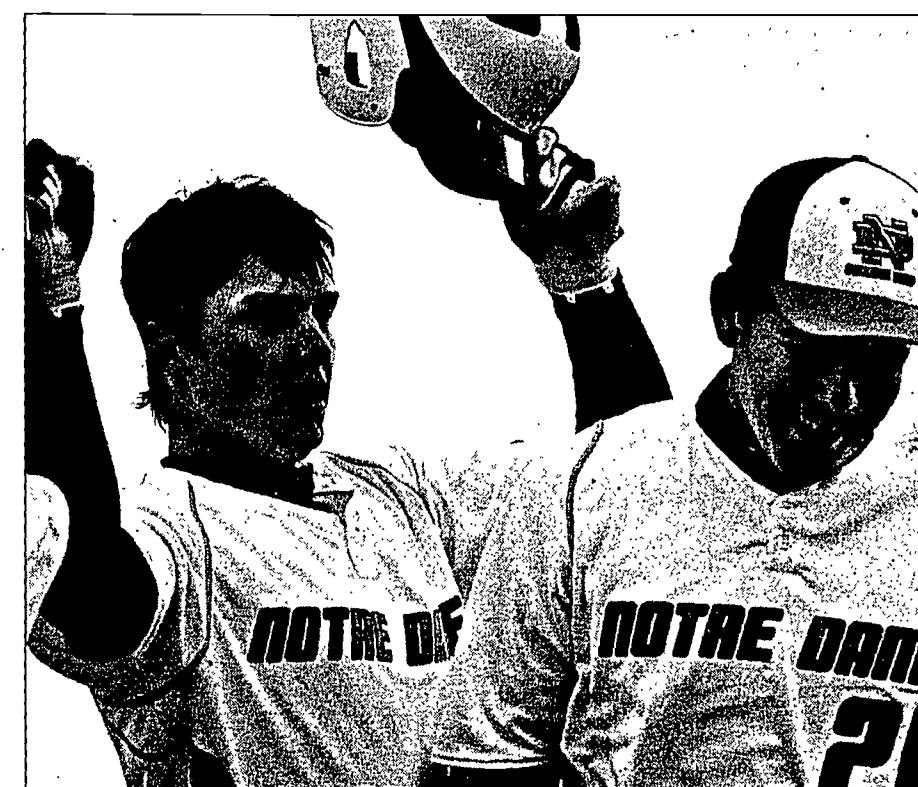
Down three going into their last at-bat, the Dons (2-5) rallied for four runs off Trevisions standout Charlie Tilson.

Anthony Pope hit a game-tying, two-run single before Jeff Von Moser scored the game-winner on a wild pitch.

This came after Notre Dame squandered a two-run lead after six innings.

"I trust these guys," said Pope. "Nobody hung their heads. This was awesome to be part of. We never thought we were out of it."

Kevin Stahmer started the inning with his single to shallow center field that fell in the middle of three



Notre Dame's Jack Wietlispach (left) celebrates with teammate Sean Pavel (21) after hitting a home run during Monday's win over New Trier. | Tamara Bell-Sun Times Media

Trevisions. Ryan Czachor tapped a single before Fred Dickson brought home the first run with a two-strike base hit. Pope, who finished with three hits, knocked in a run to knot the contest.

Von Moser added two

hits and Jack Wietlispach slammed a two-run homer to open the scoring.

"We had a good trip," Pope recalled of the cross-country excursion. "Even though we lost, we were in every game. We hung with those teams. Now it's com-

ing together for us."

Each Notre Dame loss in California was by three runs or less, including two by one run. The Dons dropped their final game 6-5 to San Mateo's Junipero Serra after going into the final inning with the lead.

"Playing out there taught us something," Notre Dame coach Bob Kostuch said. "We know we can play with anybody, and that led to (Monday's win). We know we can win."

New Trier (2-3) sent 10 batters to the plate in the top of the seventh and took the lead on Chris Hall's two-out, two-strike single. The Trevisions added two more runs on a bases-loaded walk and a wild pitch.

Alex Babusci gave the Dons a 4-2 lead in the sixth with his two-out double.

Both starters shined Monday as New Trier's John Cook and Notre Dame's Charlie Jerger each went six innings.

Tilson contributed three hits, including a single in the seventh that fueled the comeback. Slick-fielding second baseman Eddie Fay added a pair of hits.

"I thought we did a good job coming back," said New Trier coach Mike Napoleon. "This was two teams going after each other. That's good to see. We have some things to work on. But this is an early April game. We don't want to get too caught up in it."

New Niles West coach stresses endurance

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

TENNIS — Niles West was scheduled to open the season Tuesday at home against Wheeling, and first-year head coach Andrew Suarez said he was looking forward to finally doing the game-coaching part of coaching.

After leading the frosh/soph team last season, Suarez has swapped places with longtime head coach Brad Wilson, who is hoping to spend more time with his family. Suarez said he quickly learned what kept Wilson so busy.

"There has been a lot of

(administrative) work. I expected it, but I didn't think it would be as time-consuming as it is," Suarez said. "I'm excited for the matches and the season to start."

Suarez certainly brings an impressive résumé to the job. A native of Venezuela, he played a year and a half at Glenbard East, before graduating in 1996. He then starred at College of DuPage, where he was a junior college All-American in singles and doubles for a team that won a National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament title.

Suarez then served as a pro at Medinah Country

Club in Itasca, before taking his current job teaching Spanish at Niles West. He said he has made fitness a major focus of his first team, and early morning endurance training has been the routine the last several months.

"The training has focused heavily on footwork and conditioning, which is one of the most important things," Suarez said. "You can have every stroke in the world. But if you can't hang on the court for two hours, it's not going to help you very much."

The Wolves, 5-8 last season, will miss graduate Vova Zverkovskiy, who

qualified for the IHSA State Meet as a junior. Suarez is confident that senior Daniel Langer can make the jump from No. 2 to No. 1 singles.

Otherwise, the coach said he will spend the early part of the season observing his players and deciding where they best fit in the lineup.

"I still haven't seen them play a competitive match, except among themselves, so in a couple of weeks I will start to set the lineup we will use for conference and sectional and stuff like that," Suarez said. "We may have one lineup for dual meets, and it may change for tournaments."

"I do believe doubles partners should be playing together, becoming a team, so they can start thinking alike."

Sophomores Robert Marohn and Simon Kim both played varsity tennis last season. Senior Bradley Shulman returns and junior Ben Kramer will be one of the key players promoted from Suarez's last frosh/soph team.

Up next: The Wolves will welcome Niles North, Notre Dame, St. Patrick, Lakes, Northside Prep, Schaumburg and Antioch for the 24th Ken Rosen Invitational at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Local Sports

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NIL - THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011

Managing Editor: Rich Martin
Phone: (847) 486-7481 | rmartin@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS TENNIS: MAINE EAST COMING OFF MEMORABLE SEASON | BASEBALL: NILES WEST GOES 4-0 DURING TRIP TO FLORIDA | GYMNASTICS: VIKINGS BATTLE THROUGH INJURIES AT NILES WEST INVITE

THIS WEEK MAINE EAST

Today
Girls soccer hosts Waukegan, 4:45 p.m.
Girls softball at Glenbrook South, 4:45 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Niles West, 6 p.m.
Friday
Girls badminton hosts Elk Grove, 4 p.m.
Boys baseball hosts Fenton, 4:30 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Mundelein Tourn., 6 p.m.
Girls water polo hosts Palatine, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Boys baseball hosts Mather, 10 a.m.
Girls softball at Proviso East, 10 a.m.
Boys tennis hosts Maine East Invite: Bolingbrook, Northridge Prep., South Elgin, 9 a.m.
Boys track at Prospect Relays, 12:30 p.m.
Girls track at Grant Invite, 1 p.m.
Boys water polo at Elk Grove/Hersey Invite, 8 a.m.

NOTRE DAME

Today
Boys baseball vs. St. Ignatius, at UIC, 7 p.m.
Boys tennis hosts Nazareth, 4:30 p.m.
Boys lacrosse at St. Ignatius, 5:30 p.m.
Friday
Boys baseball hosts Loyola, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Boys baseball at Lane Tech (DH), 10 a.m.
Boys tennis at Niles West, 9 a.m.
Boys track at Prospect, 12:30 p.m.
Sunday
Boys baseball vs. St. Rita, (Standard Bank Park), 1 p.m.
Monday
Boys baseball at Maine East, 4:30 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Lakes Comm., 5 p.m.

Ross tossed into elite group

By DAN SHALIN
Contributor

BASEBALL — Niles West head coach Garry Gustafson said he's had many good players, and a few great ones, in his 20 years at the helm.

He listed George Kontos (who recently returned to the New York Yankees organization), Jason Krynski (a star slugger at Northwestern from 2001 to '04) and Brad Niedermaier (who pitched in the Minnesota Twins organization) as three players who fit into the latter category.

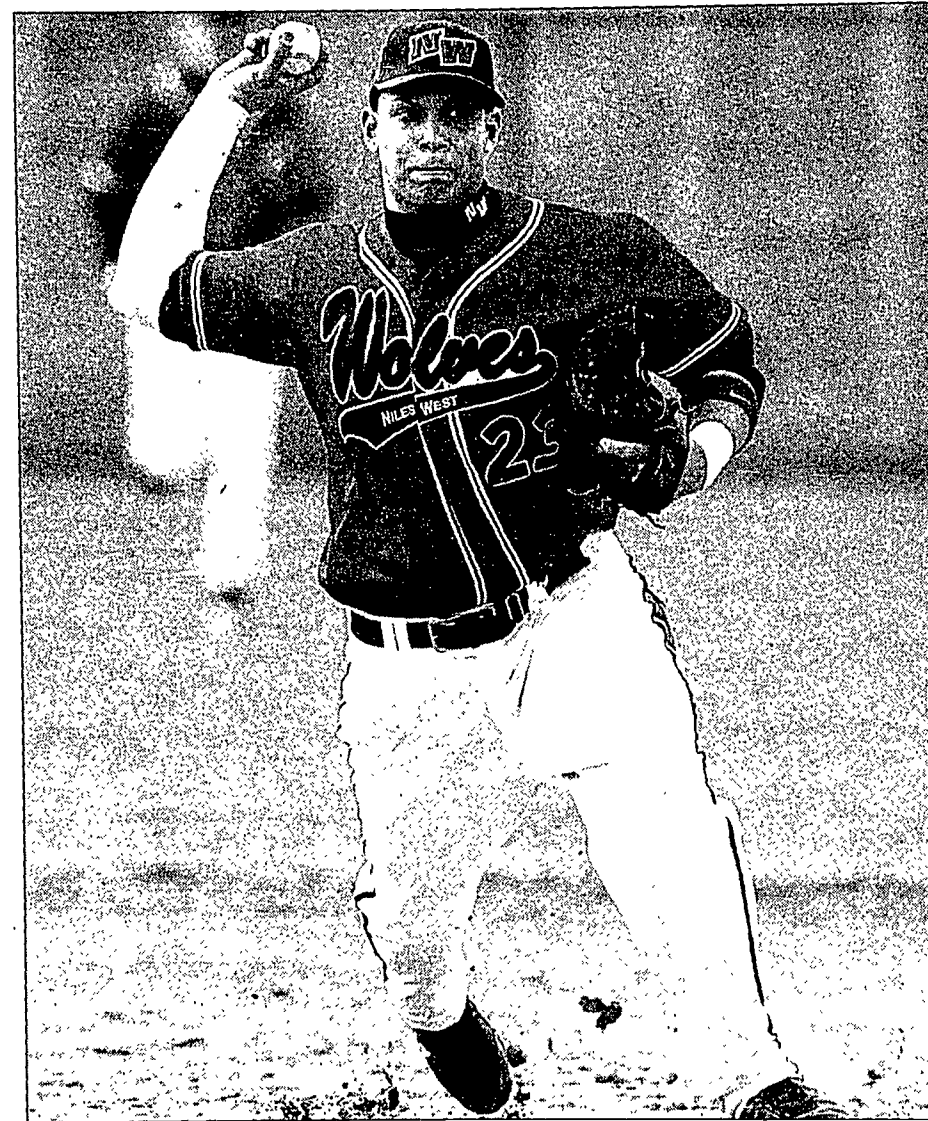
Gustafson believes current junior shortstop/pitcher Kevin Ross has what it takes to join that list of the school's greats.

"He can be a special player," said the coach about Ross, who transferred this season from Mather. "He has all the tools. He's a tremendous hitter for power and average, and is a tough out every time he comes up to the plate.

Defensively, he can definitely be as good as some of the shortstops we've had, when you take into account his arm and range and the way he throws the ball. We talk about players like Kontos, Krynski and Niedermaier, the type of guys who come along once every 10 years. (Ross) could be that kind of player."

Ross was considered one of the best high school prospects in Chicago, but was playing for a mediocre Mather team on a home field he described as, "a dirt pile."

He's glad to be taking advantage of better athletic facilities and Niles West's comprehensive strength and conditioning program. Ross also is looking forward to mixing it with the big



Niles West shortstop Kevin Ross measures his throw before firing to first Saturday during the Wolves' 4-1 victory. | Brian O'Mahoney-for Sun-Times Media

ment last fall.

"I can't wait to start conference," said Ross, whose Wolves stood at 7-1 entering the week. "Our whole team is good and we have the ability to win conference. We play together as a team — nobody stands out. We hope to win conference and go far in State."

Ross was not part of the Wolves summer league team in 2010. But he did get an opportunity to play with the squad during a tourna-

ment last fall. He edged out incumbent Kyle Colletta for the starting shortstop job, while Colletta, a super-talented sophomore, shifted to second base. The duo now anchors a fine infield that also includes junior third baseman Jason Meger and junior first baseman Max Markoff.

"Kyle and I had a friendly battle (for shortstop), and we told each other the best man would win," Ross said. "Of course, I was not just

going to get the job. I had to work for it. But now we have a great infield. We have good chemistry. 'Meegs' at third base knocks everything down. He's a five-tool player."

That five-tool label is one Gustafson used to describe the 6-foot-1, 190-pound Ross. The coach also gushes over the player's work ethic and off-the-field contributions. "He's a great kid," Gustafson said. "He's as hard working a kid as I've

ever had. Not a day goes by that he's not swinging and throwing. That kind of talent and the striving to get better is a rarity."

Ross said his father, Gerald, has been his primary coach and trainer over the years. Ross' affiliation with the Chi-Town Cream also provided a positive influence. In addition to playing top-level tournaments around the country, the program afforded Ross lessons with Cubs hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo in Texas, workouts with former MLB slugger Rob Deer in Arizona and individual instruction from Tampa Bay Rays coaches in Florida.

"They've taught me that working hard is everything. It's how they got to where they are," Ross said. "If you have the potential to go somewhere, and you don't work, you won't go anywhere. So I keep working as hard as possible."

Recap: Ross was 1-for-2 and scored two runs in Niles West's 4-1 win over Buffalo Grove on Saturday. Wolves senior Ryan Olen batted 2-for-3 with two RBI.

Senior Nick Wheeler spread out four hits and a run over five innings to earn the victory. Junior Evan Athanasios nabbed the save.

Danville defeated the visiting Wolves 10-3 on March 31.

The previous day, Niles West senior Harry Smyrniotes was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to force in the winning run in a 6-5 victory over Mather, Ross' former team.

Meger and senior Kenny Blanchard each collected a pair of hits in support of Colletta, who earned the victory in relief.

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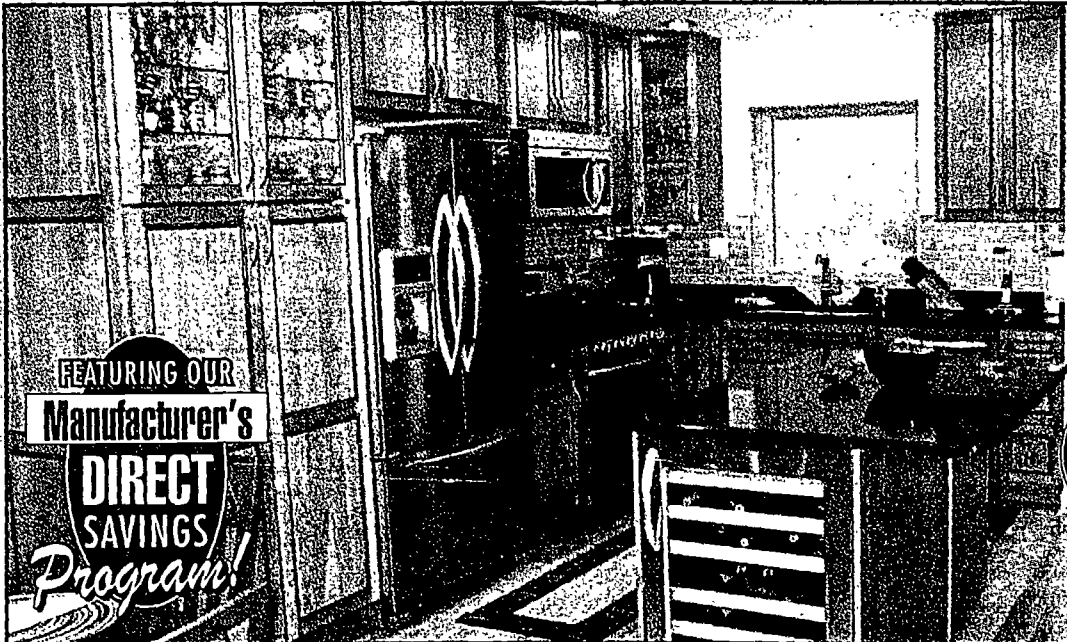
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