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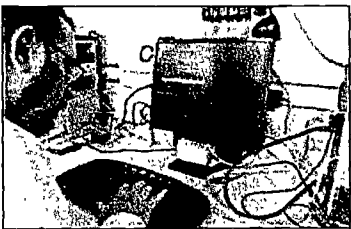
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THIS WEEK TOP CHOICE



District 64's 'preferred candidate' for superintendent meets, greets public.
SEE PAGE 14

THE UNEMPLOYEE



PC MD
Reporter learns a bit about bytes.
SEE PAGE 11

Inside!

today's homes

Look for it in the center of
SearchChicago-Autos



TRAGEDY MOURNED

A woman cries Saturday at the foot of the Katyn monument in Niles as she mourns the plane-crash death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski and other Polish officials. PAGE 3 (Allen Kaleta/for STM)

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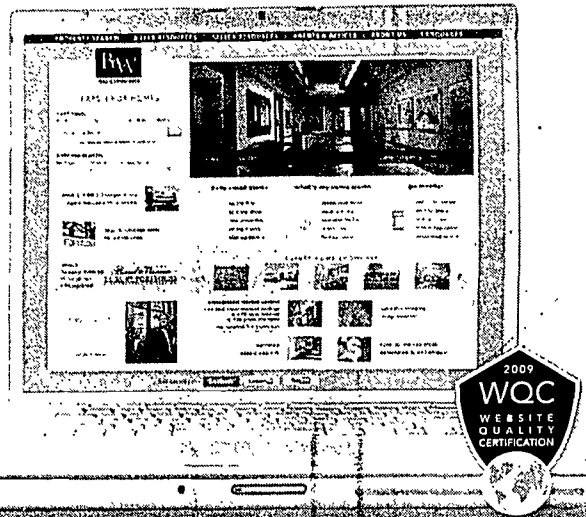


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Skokie \$379,000
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ID#93109248
Julie Naumiak 847-491-1855



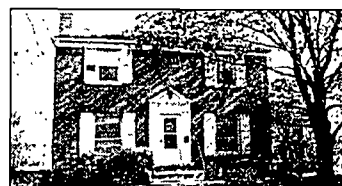
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Lincolnwood \$375,000
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Lynn Pufpaf 773-775-1855



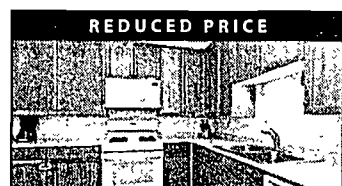
Skokie \$307,500
Wonderful 4bd/2ba brick ranch! Hrdwd flr on main lvl, rmdld cntmp lowr lvl.
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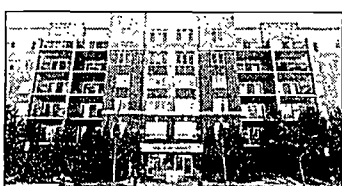
Skokie \$299,000
Cute & Charming Brck Colonial 3BR, 1.1BA w/lge yrd/2c gar. Priced to sell!
ID#3105050
Julie Naumiak 847-491-1855



Skokie \$285,000
Very Nice Brck Tri-Lvl, 4br/1.1ba, Kit w/EA, Hrdwd flrs, 2c gar. Must see!
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Della Joyce 847-491-1855



Morton Grove \$259,900
Newer construction, 2BR 2BTH condo, balcony, in-unit laundry, gar parking
ID#93109326
Della Joyce 847-491-1855



Skokie \$249,000
Spacious & bright condo feat lg LR w private balc. Open kit w maple cabts
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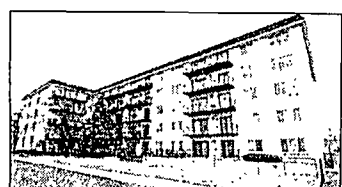
Skokie \$231,000
Optima Woods Condo 1BD/1BA. In unit ldy, hardwood floors, private balcony.
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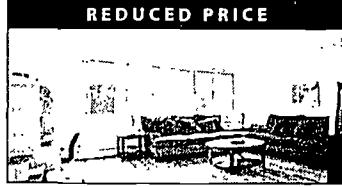
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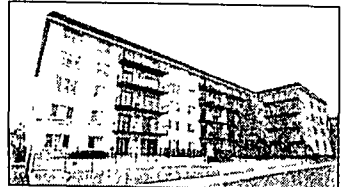
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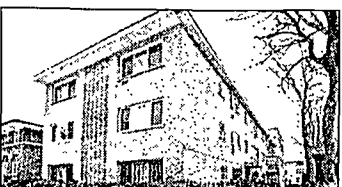
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Xavier Oravanakathil 847-823-1855



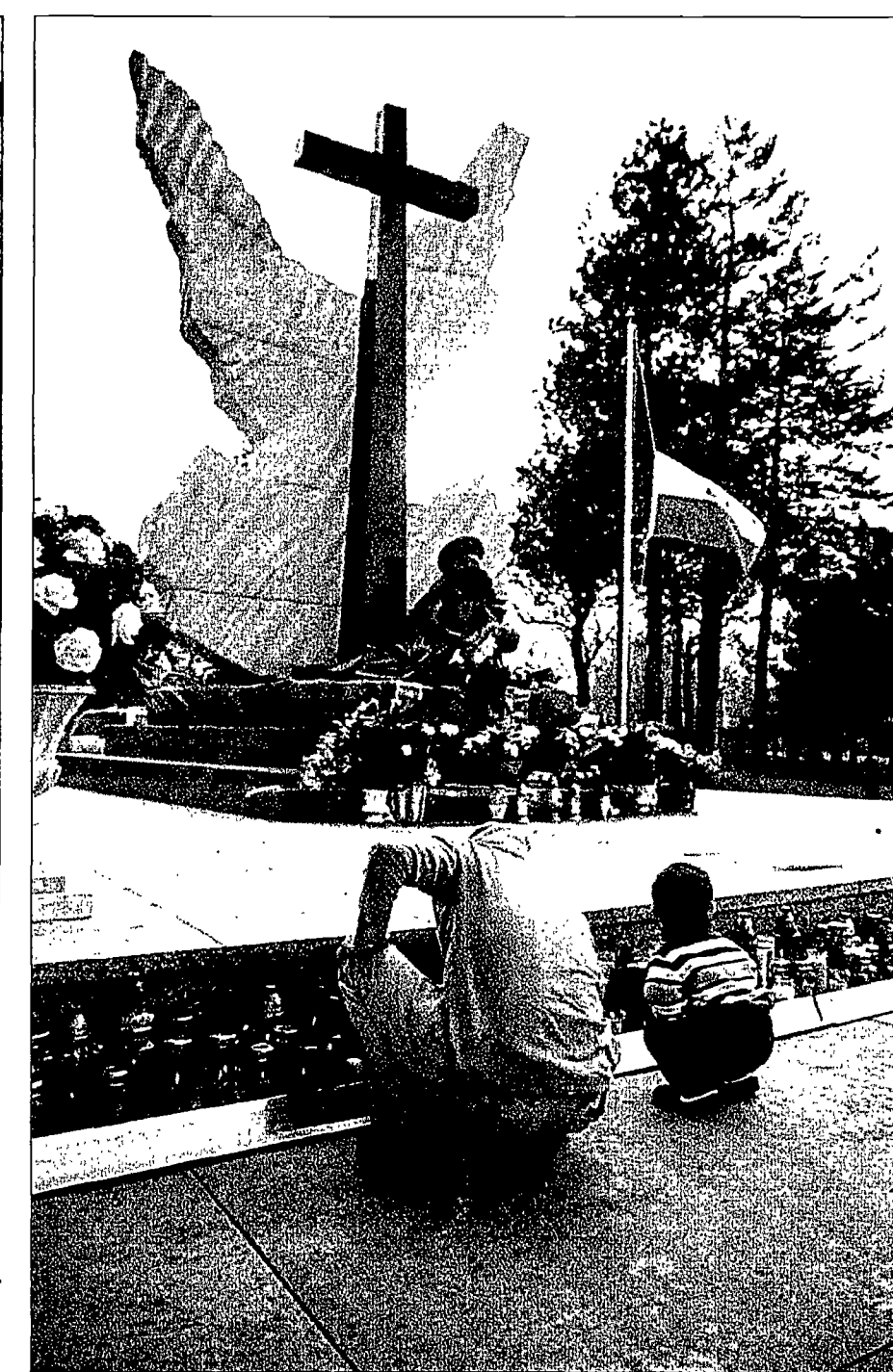
Morton Grove \$129,000
Immaculate condition! Huge 1,285 sq ft 1st floor one bedroom unit w/lg balc
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Great deal on 3rd fl 1BR 1BA condo. Hip, custom paint main wall, maple kit
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Family members console each other Saturday near the Katyn monument in Niles as they joined others mourning the death of Polish officials killed in a plane crash in Russia. (Allen Kaleta/for STM)



Jurek Wojtek and his son Oliver, 2, light a candle and say a prayer Saturday at the foot of the Katyn monument in Niles. (Allen Kaleta/for STM)

ST. ADALBERT CEMETERY

Polish community mourns loss of leaders in crash

BY MARK J. KONKOL AND LEWIS LAZARE
Chicago Sun-Times

Hundreds of Chicago area Poles gathered Sunday at the Katyn Massacre monument at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles to mourn Polish President Lech Kaczynski, top Polish officials and respected Chicago artist Wojciech Seweryn, who were among the 96 killed Saturday in a plane crash in Russia.

The crash occurred near the site of the Katyn Massacre — where Soviet Secret Police in 1940 systematically slaughtered 22,000 Polish military officers and civilian intellectuals.

The Chicago area's Polish population — the largest in the world outside Warsaw

— remained shocked, saddened and "devastated" by the loss as they turned out at special church services and vigils throughout the area.

On Sunday afternoon, the Niles cemetery was packed with cars, many with Polish flags affixed to their windows. More than 100 Polish motorcycleists rumbled into the cemetery, where people crowded around the monument. They laid flowers, lit candles and filled two journals with messages written in Polish.

"It's a big loss for us, for Poland, for everybody," Wojtek Dudzinski said. "We want to pay respects in Chicago for those who died in 1940 and those who died April 10. In times like this, we come together."

Many Polish mourners remarked about the irony that Saturday's crash occurred so near the anniversary of the Katyn Massacre, and the Katyn forest — and that the statue of the Virgin Mary holding a Polish military officer they gathered around in the cemetery was designed by Seweryn.

Seweryn's father was killed at Katyn, and Seweryn was invited by the Polish president to fly to the 70th anniversary ceremony, said his daughter, Anna Wojtowicz.

In fact, the Katyn coincidence has fueled a deluge of conspiracy theories that suggest Russia may have been involved in causing Saturday's plane crash.

It's a topic that won't die, on Polish-language radio

and Web sites.

"Most people here think this plane crash is not a coincidence," said Sophia Boris, a radio talk show host for 25 years on WPNA.

Boris, 71, said she lived many of her prime years in Poland and, "I know what the Russians are capable of doing."

But on Sunday, the Polish government praised Russia for its cooperation in the crash investigation. Russia said a preliminary analysis of the recording of the

crew's conversations indicated the plane had no technical problems. Russian dispatchers had asked the Polish crew to divert from the military airport because of the fog.

Zygmunt Matynia, the Polish consul general in Chicago, had planned to pick up a Polish official from O'Hare Airport at 3 p.m. Sunday to help map out the Polish president's planned April 29-May 1 visit to Chicago.

Kaczynski had previous-

ly visited Niles in 2006, making a stop at the White Eagle Banquet Hall.

Instead, Matynia found himself among the hundreds packing St. Hyacinth, 3636 W. Wolfram St., in Chicago's Avondale neighborhood, for a memorial service honoring Kaczynski and the other crash victims.

The church was one of the places Kaczynski and his wife planned to visit, Matynia said.

— STM

B&W HAIR & MAKEUP... The Expanded First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit is available this year...

LAST WEEK
TOP FIVE STORIES

1. Niles man charged with having sex with 14-year-old Norridge girl

Niles Police Department announced April 6 the arrest of a Niles man charged with sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl he originally met on the Internet.

2. Former Niles cop pleads not guilty to stealing from dead man

A veteran Niles police officer charged with stealing nearly \$2,000 from a dead man's room at a YMCA pleaded not guilty April 8. William Christie, 48, was charged with theft and official misconduct following an investigation by the Cook County State's Attorney's office and Niles police. On April 8, he pleaded not guilty, according to Cook County State's Attorney's office spokesman Andy Conklin. A status hearing was set for May 24 at the Skokie Courthouse.

3. Free Bus could face identity crisis

At a meeting on March 22 the Board of Trustees discussed the possibility of charging for the Free Bus or cutting its routes. Now village leaders have dramatically different opinions about the future of the famous bus.

4. Village could tap reserves to make pension payment

Over a trustee's objections to falling back on Niles' financial cushion, village staff continued to consider a proposal to move \$2 million from reserves into the police and fire pension fund, which is low.

5. Board won't share name of 'preferred' superintendent candidate

The Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education will introduce its "preferred candidate" for superintendent of the district during an informal reception April 8.

To find stories go to www.pioneerlocal.com.

WE ARE YOUR NILES herald-spectator

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Be a part of the story - and the storytelling? There are photos and stories we want to publish in our new section, Your Niles Herald-Spectator. But we need your help. E-mail Managing Editor Matt Schmitz at mschmitz@pioneerlocal.com.



A wall at Wright-Way Animal Rescue in Niles shows thank-you cards and updates on dogs and cats that have been adopted. Every September the rescue holds a "Family Reunion" picnic. (Michelle LaVigne/Staff Photographer)

Nad and Nate, two puppies available for adoption at Wright-Way Animal Rescue in Niles, watch as Jose Carrasquillo and Debbie Sax, of Chicago, take a look around the facility. When a customer is interested in adopting, the dogs and cats available for adoption are brought out of their kennels into the open floor space for better socialization time. (Michelle LaVigne/Staff Photographer)

Must love dogs (and cats)

Wright-Way Rescue has been in operation for a year in Niles. The animal shelter has adopted out 1,800 animals, 10 percent of those being cats.

SEE PAGE 10.

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NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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CRIME

Man, 33, charged with having sex with 14-year-old Norridge girl

Bond was set at \$200,000 April 6 for a Niles man charged with sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl he originally met on the Internet. Gregory J. Chmiel, 33, of 9029 N. Maryland Ave. in Niles was arrested April 5 and charged with six counts of felony aggravated criminal sexual abuse to a victim between 13 and 16, according to a release from Niles police.

Prosecutors allege that Chmiel met a 14-year-old Norridge girl online and then him in person on Feb. 25 and April 1, when they engaged in sexual activity at his home and at a motel in the 6800 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

On April 1, he allegedly picked up the girl at her Park Ridge high school, then drove to the motel in Niles

to engage in sex, the release said. The girl's mother reported her missing to Park Ridge police and when she returned home in the early hours of April 2, Norridge police contacted Park Ridge police to report she was home.

Park Ridge officers went to the girl's home and she told them what had happened, according to the release. She was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge for examination. After further questioning, police brought Chmiel in for questioning.

He was arrested and charged on April 5 and appeared at the Skokie Courthouse on April 6, when Judge Marcia Orr set bond at \$200,000 and set a preliminary hearing for 1:30 p.m. May 4 in Skokie.

MAINE SOUTH

Car burglars overlook secret stash, cops don't

A 17-year-old Park Ridge girl went from victim in one crime to suspect in another, all in matter of minutes.

The girl was charged with possession of marijuana March 29 after she reported a burglary of the student's car discovered .75 grams of suspected marijuana inside her glove compartment.

She was released on her own recognizance and assigned an April 18 adjudication court date.

Man's propane tank stockpile ignites discussion about safety

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A recent garage fire in unincorporated Maine Township led to the discovery of a collection of potentially hazardous propane tanks in a neighboring yard.

According to North Maine Fire Marshal Arnie Witzke, 20 used propane tanks, the type commonly attached to gas grills, were found stored against a backyard fence in the area of Barberry Lane

and Aspen Drive. Witzke said he learned of the tanks from a resident in the area following a March 23 garage fire at another Barberry Lane home.

In speaking to the resident who owned the tanks, Witzke learned some had been left by the previous owner of the house and the man did not know how to get rid of them. Although some stores have tank-exchange programs, they require the purchase of a new

tank when they accept a used one, Witzke explained. Witzke helped the man find a place in Niles that accepts propane tanks free of charge and recycles them.

Even though the 20-pound tanks may appear empty and harmless, they really are not, Witzke told the Maine Township Neighborhood Watch on Wednesday. "There is no such thing as an empty tank," he said. "If there's ever been pressure in it, it is not empty because

the second it gets warm, whatever vapor's in it will expand and something's going to give sooner or later." If a fire broke out nearby, it could also cause the tanks to explode.

"If they are involved in a fire they will blow," Witzke said. Anyone with questions about propane tanks or how to properly dispose of them should call Witzke, (847) 297-5020.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

MAINE TOWNSHIP

Biederman honored for decade of service

Kim Sychowski Biederman was appointed to the Board of Trustees and Zoning Board of Appeals on April 5, 1999, to replace retiring Commissioner Jerry LaCerra, a news release stated.

She served as a Plan Commissioner for four years

until July 2003 when she was appointed to the Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy left by Trustee Mahoney. The voters elected her as trustee in 2005 and she was re-elected in 2007 for a total of six and a half years as a trustee serving the residents of the village of Niles.

As trustee she served as chairwoman of the Milwaukee Avenue Redevelopment Committee and as a commissioner on the Community Task Force Council, which encompasses the Niles Teen Center. She was instrumental in securing the new, successful Golf Mill

Location for the Teen Center, the release stated.

Sychowski Biederman resigned her position as trustee in November to pursue new opportunities. She was recently honored by the Village Board for her decade of community service.



Trustee Hanusiak, Trustee Weel, Kim Biederman, Mayor Bob Callero, Trustee Preston, Trustee Hynes and Trustee Przybylo. Biederman recently was recognized for her service to the community during the past decade.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Budget talks stop short of cuts to Family Services, Free bus

By ALEX MCLEESE
Contributor

The Niles Board of Trustees continued a budget process notable for its transparency April 8 but avoided making the most controversial cuts proposed to erase a projected budget deficit, causing it to actually grow slightly during

the evening to just more than \$1.8 million.

Trustee Louella Preston said the board meeting was part of a historic change in Niles governance.

"We have never had to cut back the budget like we did," she said. "The process was for the first time ever."

In the past, she said, the Niles mayor, village manager,

finance director and Finance Committee would meet behind closed doors to prepare the budget before making a recommendation the board would approve. Each year the budget would grow because of rising sales-tax returns, so cuts to the village's range of services were rarely necessary.

"We've been lucky enough to add new services to the village of Niles," Preston said. "But without the sales-tax revenues to pay for services, we can't offer them, and that's the reality of 2010."

As at the past budget meeting on March 22 the most contentious items were Niles Family Services and the Free Bus. Family Services Director Martin Friedman and Mayor Robert Callero clashed over statistics regarding the number of clients served by the organization and the availability of alternative services.

Family Services examined

Callero contested Friedman's claim that Niles Family Services provides 244 hours of service each week and argued that nearby communities did not run similar agencies "because the state and the township are handling those services."

Friedman responded that Niles Family Services "heads off crises. People in this community are really hurting, and we've been the only resource they have." He said his organization now has a waiting list, unlike in the past, "because the state and federal governments are not doing their jobs."

Friedman bristled at Callero's criticisms. He said that he wished the mayor would "not imply that we're not efficient." But Friedman acknowledged his agency had struggled with the transition to a new billing system.

"We didn't know what we were doing," he said. "We're not business people."

Friedman said Niles Family Services has long operated at a loss.

"When I came here 15 years ago, I was told not to worry about being in the red," he said. "I was told that the organization receives

over \$800,000 from the Niles government each year, but brings in far less in revenues from counseling charges, serving many clients for minimal costs according to need.

At the past meeting on March 22, village administrators proposed cutting 50 percent of Niles Family Services' budget. At the April 8 meeting Callero proposed a 35-percent cut, but a majority of trustees moved him to reduce the cut to 25 percent, just more than \$200,000, a change Friedman and his staff said they could tolerate.

"Niles Family Services is so critical to the quality of life in Niles," said Trustee Joe LoVerde, who called for the board to be fair and examine every other agency with equal rigor.

Free Bus fee?

LoVerde expressed a lower opinion regarding the other controversial budget item, the Free Bus. He and other trustees said they were upset because they were not being provided with reliable statistics about ridership on the bus, which costs the village about \$550,000 each year.

Trustees disagreed about the importance of the Free Bus.

"This is the biggest luxury we have in our budget, and the whole issue of how many people ride it is to me irrelevant," said Trustee James Hynes.

Several trustees, including Andrew Przybylo, emphasized the benefits of the bus service. Przybylo argued for a compromise: charging \$1 for riding the bus. To applause he reminded the audience that the Free Bus was initially launched in the early-1970s to reduce dependence on gasoline.

"Don't cut it, make it better," he said. "It takes cars and pollution off the street."

Trustees Chris Hanusiak, Joe LoVerde recommended a charge for riding the bus.

"Family Services is important, but if you must choose between buses and it, I have to choose bus transportation because it's a basic need," said Preston.

Callero won consensus by proposing to initiate a study of the bus to be completed on July 15, with the aim of saving \$200,000 for the next fiscal year, 2012.

Resident Joe Makula was not impressed by the board's examination of Family Services and the Free Bus.

"We need to do things like a business here in this village. You're running a bus line, a family-service center and various other enterprises that would be, if not better, run differently by the private sector," he said. Pointing to the officials responsible for statistics for Family Services and the Free Bus, he said: "They don't know."

Moving past the hotly contested items, the board considered liquor licenses and property taxes. Callero said communities surrounding Niles charge twice or sometime three times as much for a liquor license as Niles, but the board decided to remain committed to raising the price of a license by only 25 percent. In the future, Callero said, Niles may reconfigure its license policy to match the multiple price categories of its neighbors. The board decided to wait on voting on a proposed property-tax increase because several trustees said they wanted to find more information or make additional efforts to cut costs elsewhere.

Audit endorsed

As the open discussion drew to a close Trustees LoVerde and Preston called for the village to continue to increase accountability and transparency by hiring an outside auditing firm to study the village. Trustee

Joe LoVerde recommended a charge for riding the bus.

Budget, PAGE 8

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NILES ETHICS BOARD

Ethics ordinance nears completion as conclusion to corruption probe looms

By ALEX MCLEESE Contributor

Within weeks the Niles Ethics Board will present a revised ordinance to trustees and close an investigation into whether village employees were involved in corruption that led to a federal prison sentence for ex-Mayor Nicholas Blase.

Once the Ethics Board approves revisions the Board of Trustees can vote into law a version of the lengthy ethics ordinance created by the Citizens Compliance Plan Committee. Ethics

Board Chairman and Trustee Joe LoVerde said he is pleased with the progress.

"If there's any frustration over the delay, it's a document I don't think should have been rushed anyway," he said. "I hope it's a document that other communities can follow as a model."

"It's terrific that people have a chance to see how the government is working, and it's time people understand how their government functions."

Besides working on the ordinance, members of the

Ethics Board are investigating possible corruption involving village employees, a question raised by sentencing documents from Blase's case released in January.

LoVerde said he expects to receive the conclusion of the investigation being conducted by Village Attorney Joe Annunzio and outside lawyer Michael Siegel in the next few weeks. LoVerde said that he believes enough outside input has been sought, and said he is "confident they'll do an excellent job."

Annunzio said he will begin the investigation of village employees after the ethics ordinance is passed.

Beyond its current business LoVerde said the Ethics Board could become involved in outside auditing that the board has been discussing in its budget meetings.

"The results of any audit that can come out of this may or may not relate to the Ethics Board," he said. "If there are areas of concern, then the Ethics Board would get involved."

Budget

Continued from PAGE 6

with Wolf & Company auditing firm, which Village

Manager George Van Geem said has worked with Niles for 18 years.

"A new relationship would be good and healthy," he said. "The board should get more active in choosing au-

ditors."

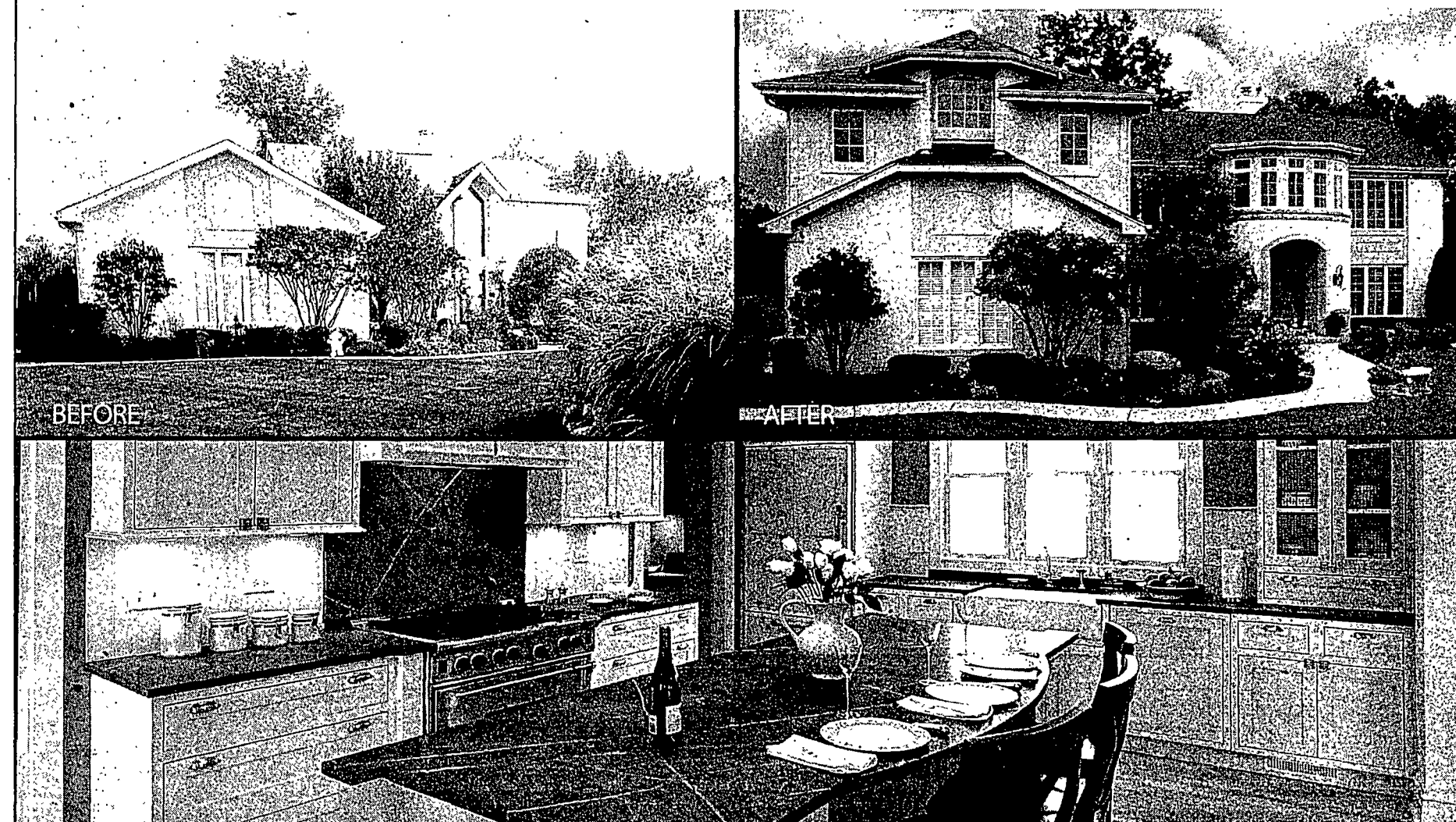
Mayor Callero proposed beginning an efficiency study after personnel issues are resolved, in about three months, and added \$20,000 as an approximate cost for

the study to the working draft of the budget.

The village's fiscal year 2011 starts May 1, and the budget is traditionally passed by the end of May. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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Rescue ME!

Cathy Anderson says that dogs were always a part of her family's life. But she didn't think the love of the furry creatures would result in her being the manager of an animal rescue.

The beginning of what is now Wright-Way Animal Rescue in Niles started with Anderson's daughter, Christy Anderson.

"We sent her to Southern Illinois University and this is what she came back with," Anderson laughs.

Christy was developing a heavy heart after working in an animal shelter and feeling a connection with some of the animals, only to return a few days later to find these animals had been euthanized. Her solution was to start up the Wright-Way's Intake & Quarantine Facility in Murphysboro, Ill., serving as the starting point for animals rounded up from various State of Illinois animal control facilities in the area.

It's here that dogs and cats receive medical treatment, are microchipped and prepped for adoptability. After they have reached public-ready status, their photo is put up on Petfinder, and shortly thereafter they take a five-hour drive up to the adoption center in Niles, where they ready to be taken to a permanent home.

The Wright-Way Rescue has been in operation for a

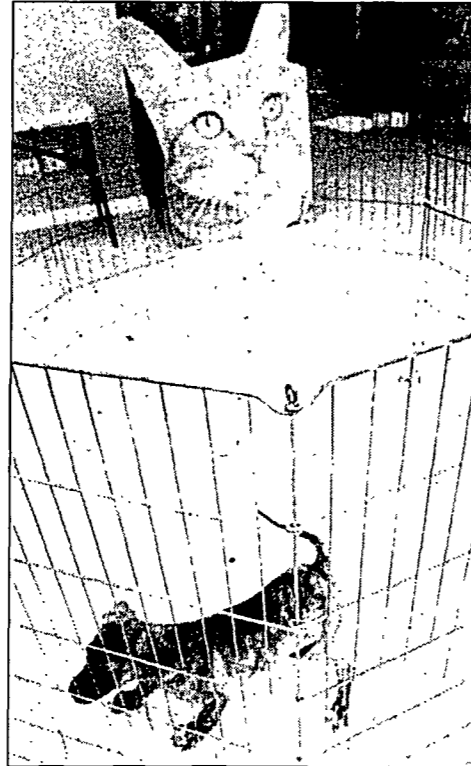


Donna Wurz of Deer Park, holds two adoptable dogs available at the Wright-way Animal Rescue in Niles. Wurz has been a volunteer with the rescue ever since it opened one year ago.

year, adopting out 1,800 animals, 10 percent of those being cats. Anderson feels the first year has been good.

"Everything has been going well here," Anderson said. "The animals are comfortable and spoiled rotten, which was our intent, so we are very happy."

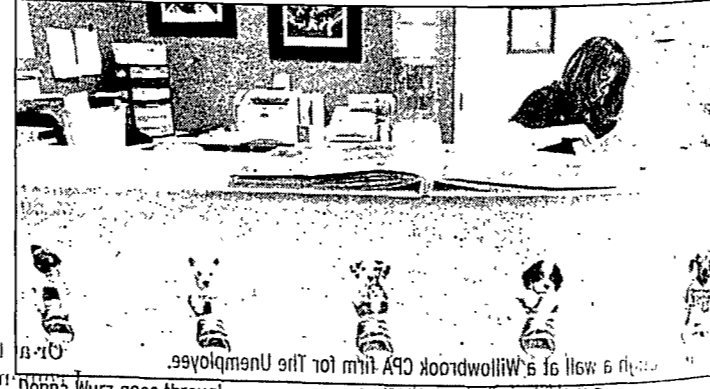
Photos & Story by Michelle LaVigne Staff Photographer



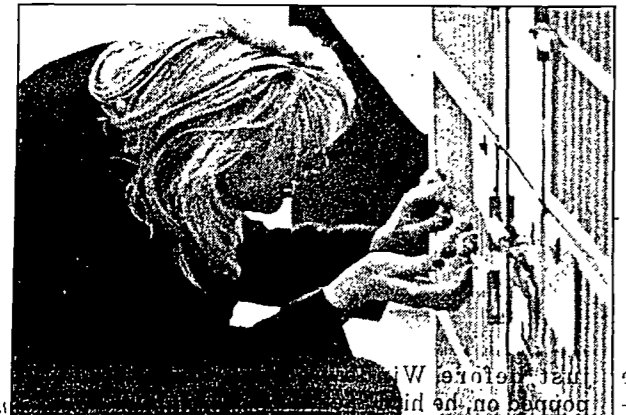
Jesse, an 11-week-old boxer mix available for adoption at the Wright-way Animal Rescue in Niles, explores the space outside of his kennel.



Wright-way Animal Rescue manager Cathy Anderson gives a treat to Jesse, an 11-week boxer mix available for adoption. Anderson's daughter started the Rescue after spending some time in Southern Illinois.



Donna Wurz goes through some paperwork.



LEFT- Dawn Calf of Chicago pets a cat available for adoption from the Wright-way Animal Rescue in Niles. Within one year, the rescue has adopted out 1,800 animals, 10% of those were cats.

Learning how to fry or debug a computer

By IRV LEAVITT
ileavitt@pioneerlocal.com

This operation will destroy all the data on the hard drive.

"Are you sure you want to continue?"

Darn right I wanted to continue. I was almost giddy with power. I hit return.

For years I've been tortured by computers' unfathomable faults, yearning just to stop the pain, to gladly go troglodyte, back to the typewriter with the simple sticky "t" key. It's too late for that, so I struggle on with the confounding digital black boxes now at the center of my life.

But I was blessed with this one little moment of intense satisfaction born of murdering the core of somebody else's computer. Thank you, Tom Weiland.

Weiland is the owner of PC MD, a Darien computer



A Pioneer Press reporter tries someone else's job for a day.

PLACE: PC MD
WHERE: 7221 Western Ave., Darien
JOB: Computer repair technician

Go to www.pioneerlocal.com/unemployee for more photos

repair company. He invited me to work at fixing computers one day, which is kind of like asking the bull to have a nice time in the china shop.

The hard drive destruction was not wanton violence — no matter how much I liked that idea — but a Secure Wipe at the behest of a customer who wanted proprietary information deep-sixed.

"Could have done the

same thing by hitting it with a hammer," Weiland shrugged.

Actually, I learned that the work of fixing digital hardware can be a lot like non-digital repair work.

Maybe not with hammers. But ...

"Here, try my high-tech tool," Weiland's assistant Tony Saucedo said when I asked for a voltmeter to test the wires: Paper clip.

"Stick one end in the green wire, one in black. In almost all of them, green is power, black is ground," he said. "If the power button lights up ..."

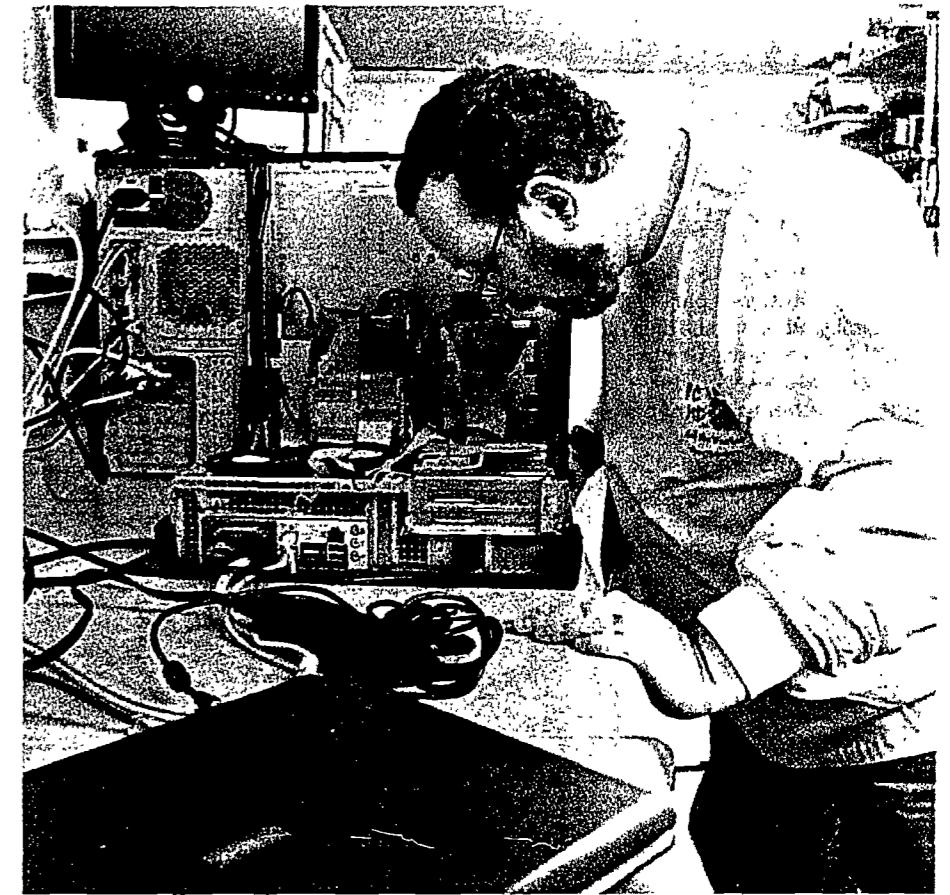
It didn't, so I pulled the power supply unit. Main thing here is to touch the metal case before you go in, so you don't send a static charge that fries the motherboard.

After that, it's pretty much just disconnecting all the little sockets that seem to go to everything inside the case, unscrewing the metal box that holds the power supply and its little slave fan, and doing everything backward when you put the new one in.

Or at least that's the way



PC MD technician Tony Saucedo holds a fish tape while Leavitt pushes it through a wall at a Willowbrook CPA firm for The Unemployee. (Suzanne Tennant/Staff Photographer)



Pioneer reporter Irv Leavitt stares into the guts of a Dell before embarking on a remedy for The Blue Screen of Death. (Suzanne Tennant/Staff Photographer)

time I did it.

We went on a cabling job in Willowbrook that was mostly low-tech, too. Arthur P. Donner of the eponymous accounting firm wanted to move a big printer away from the elbow of an employee, which entailed sending new network cable from the back-room junction board through the drop ceiling, down a wall on the opposite side of the office, and out at electrical-socket level.

This was satisfying work. Passing the wire through the overhead with a telescoping pole. Boring a hole in the wall above the ceiling to pass the wire into the wall. Cutting a rectangle in the drywall near the floor to receive the wire.

Bending the tabs on the frame of the receptacle to fit just so. Pushing the fish tape from above toward the receptacle ... only to be stopped a yard down against a length of aluminum bridging that wasn't supposed to be there.

"Let me try," said Saucedo.

He then turned the sickened computer off, and in the moment of blank screen

just before Windows popped on, he hit F8, en-

gaging Safe Mode. He followed the prompts asking him to Load Personal Settings, Always Open Internet Explorer Without This Add-on and Use XP Settings. Then he logged on to www.pcsafety.us, selected "comboxfix," followed more prompts, and debugged the computer, rebooted, and the safe mode was gone, and so was the virus. It took about six minutes.

If you can't get this to work on your diseased computer, don't feel bad. Two days later, I couldn't do it, either. Maybe that's why Weiland wasn't worried about revealing even one way of getting rid of some viruses.

"Most people tell me: 'What? Boot the computer up in the Safe Mode? What?'" Weiland said.

"Can we just drop the computer off with you?" Anytime. Eighty-five bucks an hour, 15-minute increments, three-hour maximum charge for viruses.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

BUSINESS

Old Navy eyes move to Four Flaggs

By ALEX MCLEESE
Contributor

If final procedures are completed a new Old Navy will move into the Four Flaggs Shopping Center, continuing the revitalization of that commercial strip.

Old Navy would relocate from Morton Grove to a space of just more than

17,300 square feet at 8315 Golf Road that is now occupied by an Office Depot, which is planning to move next door and remain part of Four Flaggs.

According to Niles economic-development official Denise McCreery, Old Navy must wait for Office Depot to vacate before receiving final permits. McCreery said she is par-

ticularly pleased Niles has attracted such a well-known brand.

"We're thrilled to have them, of course," she said. "Speaking from an economic-development standpoint, whenever a national chain comes into our community it's a great feather in our cap."

In addition to the new Old Navy's benefits for Niles as

a whole McCreery said the store would contribute to a stronger Four Flaggs shopping area.

"Four Flaggs itself has strengthened quite a bit over the last year," she said, mentioning the additions of Ashley Furniture, Cici's Pizza and Marshall's. "We're very excited about the health of that strip."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

BUSINESS BRIEF

Liberty Bank for Savings has recently made several personnel changes. It has named **Joseph J. Moravec** as its new senior vice president and chief operations officer. Moravec, 63, has been with Liberty for 35 years and has served as accounting manager, controller, senior vice president, treasurer and, most recently, chief financial officer.

Moravec graduated from Lewis University with a bachelor's degree in ac-

counting. He is also a Certified Financial Planner and, prior to joining Liberty, served as an auditor with Ernst and Young. Moravec volunteers his time at Lutheran General Hospital and resides in Niles with his wife of 18 years, Michelle.

Steven E. Stock has been named new Chief Financial Officer, replacing Moravec. Stock, 60, has been in the banking industry for more than 25 years, with extensive experience in many aspects of finance. Stock has served as senior vice presi-

dent and CFO for several banks in the Chicago suburbs throughout his successful career.

Stock graduated from Bradley University with a bachelor of science in 1971 and received his Illinois CPA Certificate the following year. He resides in Northbrook with his wife and son. Stock also has two rescued greyhounds and serves as treasurer of Grace Lutheran Church.

Liberty also named **Kurt Kluever** its vice president of retail. Kluever, 60, joined

Liberty in June 2009 and has been in the financial industry for more than 35 years. Kluever has worked in both marketing and retail for several banks throughout the Chicago area during his career.

Kluever received his bachelor's of science from Northern Illinois University and is a State of Illinois Life and Health Insurance License holder. He resides in Palos Hills with his wife, Christine, and is involved in Kiwanis Club, among other activities. Comment: pioneerlocal.com



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NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Big Read hawks *Maltese Falcon* theme

By ALEX MCLEESE
Contributor

The Niles Public Library kicked off its Big Read program the past weekend with activities related to Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*.

Offerings included: an interactive detective role-playing activity for village leaders; classic nightclub vocal music for seniors; a scavenger hunt for teenagers; and a supply of 450 free books for all.

Inside the library, visitors could see Big Read posters featuring Niles leaders like Mayor Robert Callero encouraging residents to read the detective novel.

The Big Read program is funded by a grant of about \$16,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Cyndi Rademacher, coordinator of the Big Read program, wore Maltese Falcon earrings, as well as period dress on Saturday, complete with cap, shawl and pearls. She said that the purpose of the events is to "bring reading back as a leisure activity."

The library, more than in past years, is attempting to reach out to the larger Niles community through programs like the Big Read. The library is a district service run independent of the Niles village administrators that also covers unin-

corporated Des Plaines and Glenview. But this year it is focusing more attention on Niles.

"We are looking forward to working more with the Chamber of Commerce and the village," said Assistant Director Barb Kruser.

With a stronger public presence the library hopes to recruit members to a related nonprofit organization, Friends of the Niles Public Library, which has grown from zero to 40 members in the past year under the leadership of Village Trustee Chris Hanusiak. Marketing and Publicity Supervisor Sue Wilsey said that she is happy about the growth of the nonprofit and the grant that made the Big Read possible.

"It's great to be the community cultural center," she said. "It's an exciting time at the library."

The Maltese Falcon features Hammett's famous detective character, Sam Spade, who later served as a model for Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe. In the novel Spade and other characters search San Francisco for a lost falcon rumored to be a centuries-old gift from the King of Spain to Malta, and to be covered with a black enamel meant to conceal its priceless jewels.

The library chose the book because mysteries are

popular with Niles residents, and the Hammett novel was the only mystery on an NEA-approved list. In addition seniors remember the book and movie from their younger years and local high school students read the novel in their English classes.

Many more Big Read

events, including 14 discussion sessions, are scheduled for April and May. Highlights include: a presentation, "Police Investigations: Then and Now" by Detective Sergeant Joseph O'Sullivan, of the Niles Police Department, Investigations Division, at 7 p.m. Tuesday; a class, "Ancient Falconry in

the Modern World" with live falcons for all ages presented by the Illinois Falconry Center at 2 p.m. May 8; and "San Francisco Noir and Dashiell Hammett" film series through the coming weeks on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

The 1941 version of "The

Maltese Falcon," starring Humphrey Bogart, will be shown at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Kerasotes ShowPlace 12-Niles. Free movie tickets must be picked up at the Niles Library in advance.

For more information stop by Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

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NEWS BRIEF

SWANCC recycles holiday lights

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County partnered with Elgin Recycling Inc. to provide a Holiday Light Recycling Program for its member communities this past season.

Residents dropped off about 7,000 pounds of burned-out string lighting and old extension cords, collectively, at the following communities: Arlington Heights, Elk Grove Village, Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Hoffman Estates, Lincolnwood, Park Ridge, Rolling Meadows, Wilmette and

Winnetka.

"It is important to divert as much material from the waste stream as possible," said Mary Allen, SWANCC's Recycling and Education director. "The Holiday Light Recycling Program is an opportunity for residents to have unusable materials recycled in an environmentally-responsible way rather than buried in a landfill."

The collected material was processed at Elgin Recycling Inc.'s Palatine facility. The strands were chopped, separated, baled and sold as a commodity to foundries and mills in the United States. For more information on recycling programs visit swancc.org.

PARK RIDGE-NILES SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

Superintendent 'top choice' revealed

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A Northern Indiana school administrator is Park Ridge-Niles School District 64's top choice for superintendent.

Phillip Bender, the current superintendent of New

Prairie United School Corp., in New Carlisle, Ind., was introduced to members of the community last week during a special appearance at Washington Elementary School.

Bender is considered to be the school board's "preferred candidate" and a vote

has not yet been taken to appoint him as the district's new superintendent.

School Board President John Heyde said the next step in the process will be to determine when to schedule a meeting at which consideration of appointing Bender will take place.

"I think we got a universally positive reaction," Heyde said to Bender's appearance at Washington School. Heyde stated that teachers, administrators and parents he has spoken with have commented on Bender's warmth, eagerness and willingness to listen.

"We've been listening to what we hear and in some cases reaching out and making sure we're hearing enough from the community and from different people who have met Dr. Bender," Heyde said.

The public can share their thoughts with members of the District 64 Board of Education by going to the dis-

trict's Web site, www.d64.org, and clicking on the "board of education" page.

Heyde said he believes Bender possesses the qualities in a superintendent that the school community chose when a candidate profile was developed last year.

"I think we're looking for somebody who respects the tradition of quality education we have in Park Ridge and Niles but is also willing to help us move to the next level," Heyde said.

Bender was named superintendent of New Prairie United School Corp. in 2008 after serving as assistant

superintendent for more than a year. New Prairie is a K-12 school district educating about 2,800 students at three elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. It is a rural school district serving several communities in portions of LaPorte and St. Joseph counties in northern Indiana.

Bender's educational experience also includes 11 years as an elementary school principal for Warrick County Schools in Boonville, Ind., near Evansville. Before that he taught math and science for 20 years in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

The following incidents were listed among 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.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Edin Demirov, 21, of 369 N. Central Road, Wood Dale, and Dontay Marshall, 22, of 10075 Linda Lane, Des Plaines, were charged April 3 with disorderly conduct for allegedly taking part in a fight at 9001 N. Milwaukee. Marshall was also

charged with resisting a police officer and battery. Their court date is May 18.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Michael Cachel, 20, of 8293 N. Wisner St., Niles, turned himself in April 6 to face charges of domestic violence. His court date was Wednesday.

DUI

Chungyin Lam, 27, of 3831 S. Emerald Ave., Chicago, was charged April 2 with driving under the influence of alcohol. He was stopped on the 7100 block of Mil-

waukee, and when taken to the Police Department he was found to have a blood alcohol level of 0.144. His court date is May 11.

Mars Thomas Sajbor, 19, of 4015 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, was charged April 7 with driving under the influence of drugs and speeding, heading west on Dempster from the 8000 block. His court date in May 20.

Rodrigo Lozano-Romero, 30, of 359 Inland Drive, Wheeling, was charged April 3 with driving under

the influence of alcohol. He allegedly drove with a blood alcohol level of 0.133. His initial court date was April 8.

THEFT

Kristia Berg, 18, of 10075 Linda Lane, Des Plaines, was charged April 7 with retail theft. She allegedly stole \$71.50 in women's clothes from the Walmart at 8500 W. Golf Road. Her court date is May 18.

Two girls from Park Ridge, ages 15 and 16, were both charged April 8 with retail theft at a salon at

7900 N. Milwaukee. They allegedly stole a purse carrying at least \$69 in cash. The offenders were released to the custody of Park Ridge Youth Campus employees.

Rogelio Aranda, 45, of 8994 N. Kennedy Drive, Des Plaines, was charged April 6 with driving under the influence of alcohol. He allegedly drove with a blood alcohol level of 0.182 percent. His court date is May 20.

Angela Pagone, 20, of 7616 W. Addison St., Chicago,

was charged April 6 with retail theft. She allegedly drove away with \$82.51 of stolen goods brought out by another offender, who has not been apprehended, from the Jewel grocery store at 8730 Dempster. Her court date is May 11.

Craig Rogers, 24, of 5549 W. Windsor Ave., Chicago, was charged April 3 with retail theft. He allegedly stole \$395.89 worth of DVDs from Target, 6150 Touhy Ave. His court date is today (April 15).

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 "preferred candidate" Phillip V. Bender, Ph.D., addresses people attending a meeting and greet April 8 at Washington School. (Jerry Daliege for STM)

Information provided by Record Information Services, P.O. Box 894, Elburn, IL 60119; Phone (630) 557-1000; Fax (630) 557-1001.

NILES

6980 W Touhy Ave. Apt 207, John Zuffante to Mariusz Beczko Agnieszka Jasiukiewicz Beczko, \$161,000, Mar. 10
7144 W Carol Court, Terri G

Berman to Daphne Balboa, \$225,000, Mar. 18
8277 N Elmore St., Veloso Trust to Reynaldo J Martinez, \$175,000, Mar. 18
8815 W Golf Road Apt 2j, Martin J Koppel to Maria Albulescu Mark M Koppel, \$95,000, Mar. 11

GLENVIEW

1027 Hunter Road, Sandlass Trust to Anthony Cotroneo Yulfiya

Cotroneo, \$392,000, Mar. 11
1119 Pine St., David Alfredson Estate to Angie McMahon Guillermo Estrada, \$435,000, Mar. 18
1126 Shermer Road, Ing Bank Fsb to Jason Pych Betty Jang, \$655,000, Mar. 16
136 Julie Drive, Waldemar Halicki to Adam Wosycki, \$385,000, Mar. 16
1515 Winnetka Road, Us Bank Na Trustee to Alexandr Domnenko Sophia Domnenko,

\$236,000, Mar. 17
1718 Elm Dale Ave., Deutsche Bank Natl Tr Co Tee to Andrew P Rychlak, \$550,000, Mar. 18
210 Washington St., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Konstantinos Mourgelas, \$136,000, Mar. 11
253 Princeton Lane Unit 1a, Lasalle Bank Na Trustee to Maciej Mikulka, \$257,500, Mar. 15
3106 Sandy Lane, Leonard Allen Lacour to Elsie Kim Hermann Michel Hermann, \$430,000,

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Mar. 18
3122 Sandy Lane, Brian D Ames to Patrick Barry Kelly Barry, \$459,000, Mar. 18

PARK RIDGE

1020 Glenlake Ave., John R Thomas Co to Katherine A Sullivan, \$385,000, Mar. 10
1209 Park Ridge Boulevard, James P McGrath to Kevin Roche Laura Roche, \$290,000, Mar. 17

1226 Potter Road, Pnc Bank Na to Leonardo Riccardi Rosa Riccardi, \$175,000, Mar. 12
1536 S Washington Ave., Martin A Noe to Kevin Collins Traci Collins, \$352,000, Mar. 10
1737 Park Ridge Point, Kopp Jr Trust to Aleksander Gjonj Alma Gjonj, \$400,000, Mar. 18
2112 Oakton St., Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Christopher P

Transfers, PAGE 17

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GUEST ESSAY

April is National Donate Life Month

By Cindy Primea
Contributor

Giving Hope — Making Miracles. This is not just the goal for the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). It's our goal as well a right here in Cook County as a group of caring and committed people helping families like the Swanson family, who live in Arlington Heights.

But what is COTA? For nearly 25 years, COTA has helped organize communities across the U.S. to raise funds used to help families pay transplant-related expenses and avoid financial crisis. Here in Arlington Heights, 17-month-old twins Luke and Jake Swanson are both waiting for a liver transplant. Their parents, Scott and Robyn Swanson, turned to COTA for help.

COTA is helping the Swansons with transplant-related expenses such as food and lodging while they are at the transplant center; transportation to and from the transplant center; co-pays, deductibles and medication expenses; and assistance with household expenses while a parent is out of work during the time of the transplant. All of these expenses add up quickly

and stand in the way of a child receiving a life-saving transplant. But you can help.

Since 1986, more than 1,500 families from every corner of this country have worked with COTA. Thousands of concerned people have donated their time to help COTA patients and more than 100,000 generous people have made contributions to help COTA families meet their financial needs. These individuals are COTA's Miracle Makers.

April is National Donate Life Month. More than 100,000 U.S. patients, including Luke and Jake, are waiting for a solid organ transplant, with more than 30,000 searching for a cord blood, marrow or stem cell match. Every day, 19 people die waiting for an organ transplant.

Luke and Jake Swanson need you to support our community fundraising campaign and to register as an organ donor. Go to www.COTAforLukeandJake.com to learn how you can help give hope and help make a miracle for Luke and Jake.

— Cindy Primea is Public Relations Coordinator for COTA for Luke and Jake S.

YOU SAY

Support law for safer crosswalks

Legislation aimed at protecting children and other vulnerable road users is scheduled to come up for a vote in the next week.

House Bill 43 would require drivers to come to a complete stop for all

pedestrians in crosswalks. It clarifies current law, which requires drivers to only yield and stop when necessary. This measure will make the law clearer to

Letters, PAGE 17

1000 WORDS



From Cosmo Girl to Ma Barker



CHERYL O'DONOVAN

VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Holidays. Millions of we last-minute cooks mob local grocery stores, such as this Easter, pillaging for hams, egg-dyeing kits and chocolate bunnies pulled from last year's stock.

Oh, those soft drink specials. I spot a great buy, "six for \$9." But no way can I hoist all those boxes. I flag a stock boy and first ask for a steroid shot.

I load up the cart. Six of those 12-packers on the lower rack approximates the barge weight of Balkans. Pushing

"Oh, for those days, the newcomer to the family. The toothy newlyweds. We too whisked over to Jewel for \$5 bouquets and Fannie May meltaways."

cargo will be tough. Either I'll blow my heart out of my throat or create a pothole the size of the meteor that ended dinosaurs.

I push, my face red, lungs exploding. Someone behind me waves around baby aspirin.

A nasal voice on the intercom alerts shoppers. "Clean-up in Aisle Two." "Coronary in Aisle Seven."

Post-purchase, outside, I transfer groceries to the van trunk. A young couple boards their SUV. He's dressed in slacks and a dress shirt, she resplendent in a lavender dress, stockings, heels. She holds a floral arrangement.

He clutches a bottle of wine.

Oh, for those days, the newcomer to the family. The toothy newlyweds. We too whisked over to Jewel for \$5 bouquets and Fannie May meltaways. Long before I waddled into the birthing room with my poor unsuspecting husband. Before he saw me with the nursing pump.

I went from visitor to host. From a maid to a ma'am.

We women bear this truth, especially during holidays. Unless we are the Real Housewives of our counties and can have Botox shipped to us factory direct, we start out Cosmo

Girl and graduate to Ma Barker.

After all, I'm a "ma" and I "bark."

"You! Hide that entry rug. The last time, someone took bacteria specimens. Take those recyclables down before the dog drags them all over the house. OK, who didn't replace the toilet roll?"

Yep. No more glamour girl, but a frenzied cook, choreographing a meal and spritzing Febreze.

Our guests arrive. I greet them with a sweaty face, a flour-crested apron and burn injuries.

Heather, our newlywed, in her 20s, holds a flower.

I want to say, "Well, Heather, thanks for this \$5 lily. That makes up for the third-degree scar on my hand."

But I don't. I was once a Heather, too.

At least I brought Fannie May.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Transfers

Continued from PAGE 15

Kifer Maureen Kifer, \$133,000, Mar.

17

2221 Farrell Ave., Power Mart Real Estate Corp to Beata Gocal, \$781,000, Mar. 15

2400 N Talcott Road Unit 222, Wagner Trust to Marion L.

Massman, \$175,000, Mar. 15

312 W Talcott Road, Southstar I Lic to Karen Hodgson Adam Hodgson, \$156,500, Mar. 18

717 S Greenwood Ave., Paul H Connors Estate to Sharon Kuz-

menko Kathleen M Kuzmenko,

\$270,000, Mar. 10

75 Boardwalk Place Unit 304, Alice R Carter to Glenn

Gierke II, \$239,500, Mar. 10

Letters

Continued from PAGE 16

drivers and easier for police to enforce.

The measure, championed by Rep. Arroyo and Sen. Steans, would clarify Illinois law and make it safer for children, families and the elderly to walk in their communities.

Sen. Dan Kotowski will be a key vote on HB 43, and we are urging residents to tell Sen. Kotowski that they support HB 43.

More than 6,000 pedestrians are hit in Illinois each year. Those crashes result in more than 1,000 serious injuries and 170 fatalities a year.

Traffic safety is a shared commitment. Drivers sometimes walk. Pedestrians sometimes drive. Our

roads should be safe for everyone, whether they walk, bike, roll or drive.

More than a dozen other states have similar laws and those states now benefit from livable communities where it is safe and healthful to live, work and play. Sen. Kotowski can help Illinois prioritize our safety by supporting HB 43.

Rob Sadowsky
Active Transportation
Alliance, Chicago

Sign should say 'Save small business'

Wherever we look these days, there are "Save" signs: Save the planet; save the whales; save our schools; save our jobs; save us from the government.

Often the true believers march or conduct vigils to drive home their point for

the media. So far, though, darn few marches or candles for our most endangered species: The local merchant!

America — especially middle-class cities — has been built by the sweat and swagger of local retailers: butchers and bakers, barbers and beauticians, tailors and shoemakers, bookstores and florist shops, plus cozy mom-and-pop stores of all kinds.

Instead of faceless franchises owned somewhere by invisible bankers, these are friends and neighbors. Sure, you're sympathetic. But so long as you keep trekking to the flashy malls and buying on the glitzy Web sites — Pool! There goes a big chunk of America!

But here's the problem: Once people get something fixed in their mind (really,

their gut), it's hard to dislodge it. For instance, the recent Toyota debacle.

Overnight, the company's prestige crumbled. A new and disquieting narrative about their product took hold of the American mind (gut). Despite a massive public-relations campaign by Toyota, this negative narrative is lingering, very much like the negative narrative about local merchants being unable to compete with the big boys.

True or not (and it has often been proved "not"), this narrative may have found its way into our minds (gut) to the eventual detriment of Little Local America. You don't have to be old to start missing the sweet-used-to-be.

Jack Spatafora
Park Ridge



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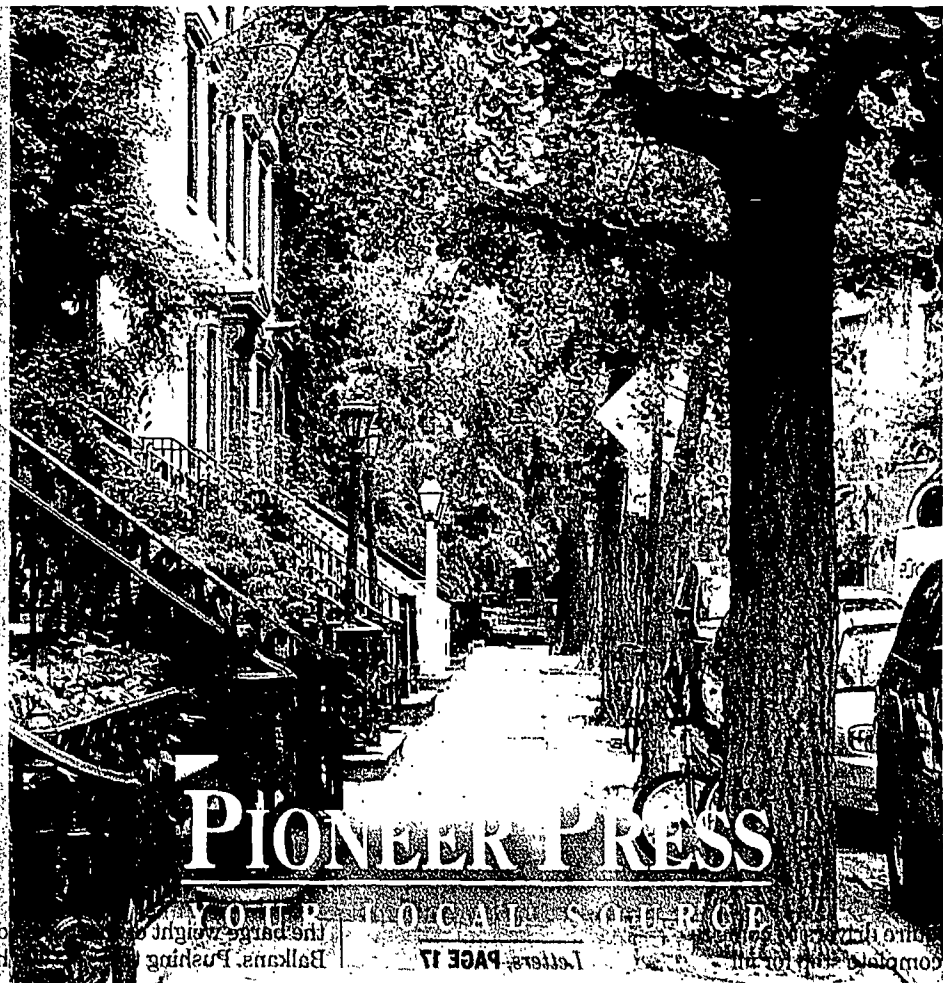
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Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Benefits
Maryville Academy Crisis Nursery hosts its Tea and Fashion Show from 11:30-2 p.m. May 6 at Sunset Ridge Country Club, 2100 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield. This event offers on-site boutique shopping lunch and a fashion show; \$85 per person or \$800 for a table of 10. Contact Maryville Academy's Development Department at (847) 294-1982 or development@maryvilleacademy.org. Online registration available on the Events page at www.maryvilleacademy.org.
Have Dreams hosts a "Night of Dreams" on May 8 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. Andy McKenna Jr. will be honored during this evening of dinner, dancing, entertainment. Robert Smigel, of Saturday Night Live fame, will again appear to help auction one-of-a-kind opportunities for the Dreams of a Lifetime live auction. Tickets may be purchased through the mail or online at www.havedreams.org. Lead and table sponsorships are available beginning at

\$3,500. Call Bobbi Goldman at Have Dreams, (847) 685-0250 or e-mail goldman@havedreams.org.
The Family Resource Center presents its Spring Benefit Gala beginning at 6:30 p.m. April 17 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont. The center, a Chicago-based child welfare agency, is celebrating 21 years of successful adoptions. The event will be emceed by WTTW's Chicago tour program host Geoffrey Baer. Participants will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, an inspirational program, a live auction, grand prize raffle drawing, and dancing and dinner. Tickets are \$125. Call Diane Foote, gala co-chair, (773) 750-3963. Proceeds help sustain families through adoption. Visit <http://www.frc.org/gala.php>.

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays (every week) - Employment counseling, by appointment.
Tuesday, April 20 - Medicare counseling, by appointment.
Wednesday, April 21 - Grief and loss support group: call first.
Saturday, April 24 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
Saturday, April 24 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).
Center counselors also are available

to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts. Illinois Cares Rx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the longtime-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption.
Support groups for Alzheimer's caregivers, those suffering from grief and loss, and seniors seeking to improve their nutrition are available at the Center of Concern in Park Ridge. The center also offers affordable personal counseling to adults of all ages. Call center social worker Myrna Fogarty, (847) 823-0453. The center is at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge. The center also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, in-home health care referrals, friendly visitors for the homebound and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field.

Employment counseling and preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also are available by appointment. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Chamber
The Niles Chamber of Commerce

Dollars for Scholars Chapter is offering its annual spring scholarship raffle. Only 250 tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$100 each. Buy five tickets and receive the sixth ticket free. Grand prize is \$10,000; second prize, \$1,000. Drawing will be at the Niles Chamber "Night of Roses - A Tribute to Home Grown Success Dinner" on April 24. Tickets may be purchased at Niles Chamber of Commerce, 8060 W. Oakton St., (847) 268-8180.
The Maine Township Food Pantry is in desperate need of nonperishable items, including: canned vegetables, canned fruit, jelly, peanut butter, hamburger/chicken helper, cookies, crackers, spaghetti, rice and snack bars. Items may be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Niles Chamber of Commerce office, 8060 W. Oakton St., inside the North Side Community Bank building.

Classes
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 dking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs
Les Bavauds du Nord, a monthly francophone lunch group, will meet at **Chamber**
The Niles Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, APRIL 24!

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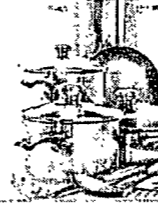
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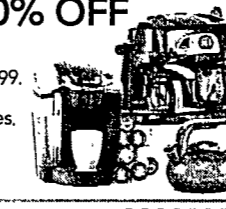


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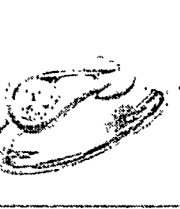
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Calendar

Continued from PAGE 18

1 p.m. April 17 at a new location to be announced. Participants have various levels of proficiency in speaking French, and include native speakers of the language. No membership dues are required, merely the willingness to converse in French. Visit les-bavardsfrancophones@blogspot.com. Attendees are asked to e-mail les-bavardsdunord@yahoo.com by the preceding Friday before noon. For questions, call (847) 921-7864.

The Women of St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 260 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, present their annual Salad Bar Luncheon at noon April 17 in the St. Andrews Multi-Purpose Room. Co-sponsor for the event is Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The theme for the afternoon is "Faith, Hope and Love" and features keyboard artist and vocalist Edizon Dayao as the entertainment. Dayao was a part of the Don Ho Band, and has performed locally. The luncheon includes an assortment of salads and features a taste-tempting "sweet table." "Gifts of the Day" are also featured. Ticket donation is \$15 per person; call St. Andrews Church office, (847) 823-6656. Luncheon chairman is Terry Ibe and Women of St. Andrews president is Chris Seiler. The community is invited.

Morton Grove Group of Hadassah North Shore hosts a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. April 21 at the

Chateau Ritz, 9100 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Niles. The afternoon will feature Dolores Hall, former writer for the Empower Women magazine who will speak about everyday "Humor." The day will include a raffles give-away to benefit the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Patient Tower, to be dedicated in 2012, the 100-year anniversary of Hadassah. Covert is \$18 for members and \$19, nonmembers. Call (847) 205-1900 or e-mail: northshore@hadassah.org.

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 from 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverly, (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.

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. This is a casual evening of conversation in Italian. The next meeting will be May 13. Call Gabriella, (847) 292-0089, or e-mail: ichiacchieroni@yahoo.com.

Join the Catholic Women's Bowling League for Ladies Night Out at Classic Bowl, 8530 Waukegan Road, Morton

Grove. Fee is \$15 per week. All skill levels welcome. Call Deanne Drozd at (224) 628-4009 or d.drozd@comcast.net.

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

Niles Chapter Toastmasters meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

Community

State Representative and newly-elected Maine Township GOP Committeeman Rosemary Mulligan will present a dinner dance April 16 at the Chateau Ritz, 9100 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Dinner is at 7, preceded by a social hour at 6. Dancing to the music of the "Synod" Band and open bar throughout the evening until midnight. Tickets are \$75 per person. Call (847) 692-5555 or e-mail mainetownshiprepublicans@gmail.com.

Internationally known Polonia Dance and Song Ensemble of Chicago will hold its Spring Recital and Dinner Dance at 3 p.m. April 25 at the White Eagle Banquets, 6839 Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Join in an afternoon of Polish folk dancing and singing, as well as a delicious family-style dinner, followed by music for dancing. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children ages 14 years and under. For reservations,

contact Anna Krynski, (847) 529-2555. www.poloniensemble.com.
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, will hold an Electronics and Appliance Recycling Day from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. April 26. Items for recycling include keyboards/mouses, computers and monitors, laptops, printers, cell phones, radios/stereos, DVD/CD players, Walkmans, clocks, TVs, and small and large appliances. Drop off equipment at the collection truck parked in the far northeast corner of the north surface lot.

The grand opening of the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 Milwaukee Ave., takes place from 2-4 p.m. April 25. The dedication of the magnetic elevator also will take place. The Niles VFW Post will present colors and raise a flag that has recently flown over the nation's capitol. There will be ribbon cutting, short speeches, food, refreshments and a bird's eye view of all the work accomplished while the museum was closed. Call (847) 390-0160.

The Polish National Alliance Sports and Youth Department will present "Dinosauria," an educational program about the age of dinosaurs, presented by Don Pfister and Lisa Zago-Martin at the PNA Home Office Building, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., promptly at 10 a.m. April 17. Pfister and Zago-Martin work at a paleontological digsite in Wyoming. People of all ages will enjoy the excitement of dinosaur hunting and get a hands-on look at real dinosaur bones. Attendees are asked to make reservations at (773) 286-0500. Ext. 316. Admission is free.

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MEET THE EXPERTS

OH, MY ACHING HANDS!
Hand Surgeon Srdjan Andrei Ostric, M.D., will discuss the causes, symptoms and treatment options for various hand and wrist disorders, including carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis. Free.
WEDNESDAY • APRIL 21 • 6-7PM

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Board certified Orthopedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Physician Christopher Mahr, M.D., discusses common orthopedic and fitness problems and treatment. A physical therapist will demonstrate preventative and pre/post-injury exercises. Light refreshments will be served. Free.
WEDNESDAY • MAY 5 • 6-7PM

URINARY INCONTINENCE AND PELVIC FLOOR DISORDERS
Thythy Pham, M.D., Obstetrics & Gynecology, will discuss the diagnosis and treatment of urinary incontinence and other common pelvic floor disorders. Free. Light refreshments served.
THURSDAY • MAY 6 • 6-7PM

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The Park Ridge Newcomers Kids' Sale will be held from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. May 1 at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 260 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. The sale contains a wide variety of children's clothes, baby gear and essentials like strollers and car seats. For information on how to become a seller, call (847) 622-4399.

Join the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center to welcome Roz Varon, ABC 7 reporter, to read Curious George books to Museum visitors at 2:30 p.m. April 25. This program complements the Museum's temporary exhibition, "The Wartime Escape: Margaret & H.A. Rey's Journey from France." Free with Museum admission. For reservations, call (847) 967-4889 or visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org.

Join the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center to celebrate its inaugural year with two days of special events April 18 and 19. April 18 - 11:30-12:30: Eyewitness to the Holocaust. Goodman Auditorium. Hear the story of someone who experienced history firsthand. 12:30-close: Cake and refreshments. Pritzker Hall of Reflection. 2:30-3:15 p.m.: "Man in the Yellow Hat" reading. Miller Family Youth Exhibition. Bring the Kids. 2:30-3:20 p.m.: Eyewitness to the Holocaust. Goodman Auditorium. Hear the story of someone who experienced history firsthand. Call (847) 967-4889 or visit www.ilholocaustmuseum.org.

Dempster Street and Lehigh Avenue. Morton Grove. Cost is \$45. Call (312) 939-0490. Ext. 15, to register.

Saint Andrew Life Center, 7000 N. Newark Ave., Niles, will host a Spring Breakfast and Bingo from 8-11 a.m. April 17. Bingo will begin at 10 a.m. Personal tours will also be given. Plenty of free parking is available. Space is limited, so registration is required; call (847) 647-8332 or visit www.saintandrew.reshealth.org.

The International Quilt Festival will be held April 16-18 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. Classes begin April 15, followed by Preview Night that evening from 5-9 p.m. Hours for the show are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. There will be 270 vendors offering antique and contemporary art quilts, fabrics, patterns, notions, machines, and books. Additional vendors will sell antiques, crafts, and home decor items, as well as jewelry, bags, and gifts. In addition, the popular Make It University! will return, celebrating the burgeoning textile and mixed-media art scene and spotlighting new techniques in art quilting, bookmaking and paper crafts, as well as fabric and paper-dyeing and painting. The festival also offers educational opportunities, including more than 60 hands-on classes, three luncheon/lecture events, and more than 20 free demonstrations. Tickets are \$10, regular daily admission, and \$8 students/seniors. Preview Night admission is \$10 and includes one free additional day. A Full Show Pass (includes Preview Night) is \$25. Visit www.quilts.com to purchase advance tickets.

Internationally known Polonia Dance and Song Ensemble of Chicago will hold its Spring Recital and Dinner Dance at 3 p.m. April 25 at White Eagle Banquets, 6839 Milwaukee Ave., Niles. The event will include Polish folk dancing and singing, as well as a family-style dinner, followed by music for dancing. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children ages 14 years and under. For reservations, contact Anna Krynski at (847) 529-2555, www.poloniensemble.com.

The Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Trauma Services Department will present a bike and multi-sport helmet sale from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 21 in the 10 floor Special Functions Dining Room of the hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. The helmets are just \$10 (cash or check only), available in adult and children's sizes, and come in a variety of colors and designs. Free helmet fittings will be provided with each purchase. Call (847) 723-6522, H1.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the parish, Our Lady of Ransom Parish in Niles, will hold its "Fabulous Fifty Gala" dinner-dance on April 16 at Allgauer's on the Riverfront Restaurant, beginning at 6 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner and dancing. Cost of tickets is \$90. Contact the Ministry Center, (847) 823-2550.

Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices

are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "boutique" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and finer merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are accepted 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

Fitness Center
Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Dr. Niles, (847) 588-8400 or www.nilesfitness.com.
Classes to kick a workout into high gear:
Body Flex: Increase lean muscle mass and boost resting metabolic rate with this strength training class. Use hand weights, body bars, exercise balls, and floor exercises to develop a toned, strong body.
BOSU Blast: Challenges balance while taking cardiovascular drills that target glutes and thighs, and core strengthening exercises which challenge abs, back and waist. Intermediate to Advanced.
Fantasy Fight Express: 30 minutes of choreographed low-impact simulated fight sequences derived from the martial arts, boxing and basic self-defense, designed to condition the heart, burn calories and improve self-confidence.
Heart Rate Up & Pump: Get heart rate up with this variety of high-intensity, low-impact cardiovascular routines with some muscle conditioning. Beginner to Advanced.
Turbo Kick - The fat-blasting, ab-defining cardio workout allows participants to burn up to 1,000 calories an hour: a mix of kickboxing and simple dance grooves set to heart pounding dance music. Intermediate to Advanced.
Zumba - A Latin inspired dance class designed for everyone. This group exercise class features salsa, merengue, cumbia and even belly dancing to tar-

get glutes, legs, arms, abs and the most important muscle, the heart.
Friday Night Fun for ages 5-12 offers an evening of swimming, gym, crafts, snack and more. The program runs from 6-9 p.m. April 23 and May 21. Cost is \$10, members: \$15, nonmembers.

Nonmember group Express Card options includes: Spinning and "Free Member Classes" - Land and Water, 10 Class Express Card: \$71 resident; \$81 nonresident; 20 Class Express Card: \$124 resident; \$144 nonresident; 30 Class Express Card: \$149 resident; \$179 nonresident.

Daily Drop In Class Fees - Spinning (indoor cycling): \$6 member; \$9 non-member; "Free Member Classes" \$8 resident; \$9 nonresident. Fitness classes include: A.I.S. Stretch, Body

Flex, BOSU Blast, Cardio Fusion, Core & Strength, Dance Aerobics, Fantasy Fight Express, Heart Rate Up & Pump, Lite & Fit, Step & Stretch, Turbo Kick, Yoga, Zumba.
Thai Yoga Bodywork sessions are offered. Thai Yoga Body Work is like yoga combined with acupressure, combining the stretching aspects of yoga and the subtle use of pressure, enabling a relaxing therapeutic benefit that restores bodily harmony, flexibility, and overall health. Sessions are performed on a cushioned floor mat. A 50-minute session costs \$55 for members or \$65, nonmembers; 25-minute session is \$30, members or \$35, nonmembers.

Health
The American Red Cross, in collaboration with the Agape Life Outreach Center and Ministries, will host a one-day Blood Drive for Victims of Haiti's recent Earthquake. The Blood Drive will be held from 1:30-5 p.m. April 18 at Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. Before donating blood, eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Photo identification is required for giving blood. For those concerned about whether they are eligible to give blood, the American Red Cross will screen all patrons and declare their suitability. For information about Agape Life Outreach Center and Ministries and the Blood Drive, visit www.alocministries.org or www.give-

Calendar, PAGE 29

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Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
www.risingstarsco.com

4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for the coming week



Inna Faliks

1. Pianist Inna Faliks performs works by Chopin and Schumann at 8 p.m. April 16 at Northeastern Illinois University's Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. \$25 for general admission; \$15 seniors; \$10 students. Call (773) 442-4636.

2. JustStories Storytelling Festival, 7:30-9:30 p.m. April 17 at SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The event will feature Nancy Wang premiering an original piece, "Bittersweet: A Chinese American Daughter's Legacy," Robert Jones of Detroit blending music and stories in "Roots to Rap," and Susan O'Halaran telling "The Other 9/11 Story." \$10. www.racebridges.net/just-stories.

3. The Edge Comedy Club, featuring Skokie-area standup comics, 8 p.m. April 16 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokie-theatre.com.

4. "Oliver!" will be presented by the Rising Stars Theatre Co. April 17-May 2 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago, at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. General admission is \$15, with discounts for senior citizens and children. Call (773) 736-2490 or visit www.risingstarstc.org.

Rising Stars serves up musicals, glorious musicals like 'Oliver!'

'Oliver!'
April 17-May 2 at Rising Stars Theatre Company, Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and children. (773) 736-2490; www.risingstarstc.org.

By **DONALD LIEBENSON**
Contributor

Edgy and provocative the Rising Stars Theatre Company is not, but for anyone hungry for musicals, glorious musicals, consider yourself at home.

Rising Stars' spring production "Oliver!," which will run for six performances on Saturdays and Sundays from April 17 to May 2, continues a nearly 25-year tradition of bringing mainstream family-oriented "quality entertainment at reasonable prices to the Chicagoland community," said Judy Sheehan, troupe president.

The company is based at the Stahl Family Theatre at the 300-seat Saint Patrick High School's Performing Arts Centre at 5900 W. Belmont in Chicago.

"We are pretty much the only resident community theater company on the Northwest Side," Sheehan said. "It's a great venue for us."

Portage Park School elementary teacher Ann Dunn founded what would become Rising Stars in 1979 as an Explorer post, a co-educational division of the Boy Scouts of America. Dunn, who led the company's board of directors until her death in 2005, conceived Rising Stars as a way to introduce children to the arts and give them an outlet to perform. The troupe performed at hospitals and senior facilities.

In 1987 Rising Stars became an adult company. You've heard of comfort television. Rising Stars offers comfort theater. Recent productions have included "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "The King and I," "The Pajama Game" and "The Sound of Music."

"Oliver!," the Tony Award-winning musical based on Charles Dickens' classic story, features some of Broadway's most enduring songs, including "Food, Glorious Food," "Consider Yourself" and "As

Long As He Needs Me."

"Our audiences come to be entertained," Sheehan said. "We choose plays with wide appeal, classic musicals that are very well known. We learned our lesson with (last year's production of) 'The Wedding Singer.' We had come off of a successful run of 'Grease' and we were trying to branch out and attract a younger crowd and still appeal to our seniors. It had recently been on Broadway and it was based on a popular movie. We did OK, but not great."

Rising Stars holds auditions for each show. Matt Rice (Oliver), John Milewski (Fagin), Brando Crawford (the Artful Dodger) and Jess Iovinelli (Nancy) are each making their Rising Stars debuts.

"Bruce Moore, our Bill Sykes, will scare you to death," Sheehan said, "but he's the greatest guy you'd ever want to meet."

The company attracts a cross-section of talent, Sheehan said, including young people looking to move forward professionally in theater to those like herself who return to the theater after devoting themselves to family and career.

"We also get those who come for the camaraderie or find performing as a nice break from their regular lives," she said.

In the "let's put on a show" tradition of community theater, all of the board members do double duty handling choreography, tickets, props, lighting, sound, programs and sets. Sheehan, 57, who has served as president for three years, also directs, acts and is the company's costumer.

"I'm actually parked outside of Jo-Ann Fabric and Crafts," she laughed about our phone interview.

The company needs to be resourceful, she added.

"We're self-sufficient," Sheehan said. "We scrap and scrape. My world is resale stores. We don't have a park district supporting us. We don't have a sugar daddy, although we'd love to have one. Sponsors, as well as people who give donations, help us."

"We all have a passion for the theater and a love of the arts. We take a lot of pride in what we do."
Comment: pioneerlocal.com



Brando Crawford (The Artful Dodger), Matt Rice (Oliver), Jess Iovinelli (Nancy), and in the back John Milewski (Fagin) in "Oliver!"



Peter Mikos (Mr. Bumble), Kathy Bedrio (Widow Corney), and Matt Rice (Oliver) in Rising Stars Theatre Company's production of "Oliver!"

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation Presents

Ronnie Rice

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'Aladdin Jr.' casts a spell on Skokie

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Disney's "Aladdin" was one of Dana Omar's favorite movies when she was a child. That's why she is delighted to be directing 27 young people, ages 7 to 12, in "Aladdin Jr.," a musical adapted from the film, for Devonshire Children's Theatre at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 W. Greenwood, Skokie.

Omar described the "Jr." version as "funny, well-written and a great kids' show to stage." Five songs from the film are featured, including the popular "A Whole New World."

Omar noted that although the musical follows the film's plot closely, the characters interact more in this version. "Aladdin has everything," she said. "It's funny and kind of heartbreaking."
Performances are 3 and 7



Cast members from Devonshire Children's Theatre's production of "Aladdin Jr."

p.m. Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays, April 24-May 2. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for students and seniors.
For details, call (847) 674-1500, Ext. 2400.

Happy Earth Day to you

Everyone is invited to join the Earth Day Celebration that runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 17 at Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley Ave., Park Ridge. There will be live music, vendors and games.
For details, call (847) 692-5127.

Big, but not so bad

Alexander Wolf says he was framed in "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs." See Emerald City Theatre's original adaptation of the classic tale from 4 to 5 p.m. April 17 at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 W. Oakton St. Pick up free tickets at 3:30 p.m.
For details, call (847) 673-7774.

Join the parade

Girls ages 3-8 are encouraged to decorate a hat they can wear in the parade of

hats at Niles Park District's Little Ladies Tea Party, noon to 1:30 p.m. April 24 at the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Mom, grandma or an aunt should join them for tea, punch, sandwiches, a craft project and a photo. Cost is \$25 per couple for residents, \$30 for nonresidents, \$10 per additional person. Registration is required.
For details, call (847) 967-6633.

Keeping score

Show your winning style at the Family Wii Bowling Tournament, 6 to 8 p.m. April 22 at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. Register with a team of two or four: Registration is required.
For details, call (847) 965-4220.
Comment: pioneerlocal.com

go.

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

STAGE

"Anne & Emmett, An Imaginary Conversation Between Anne Frank & Emmett Till," a one-act play by Janet Langhart Cohen, will be presented at 8 p.m. April 24 at Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, Northfield, in cooperation with the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. Tickets are \$5. For reservations or information, call (847) 441-5760.

"The Informer," through April 18 at Prop Thtr, 3502 N. Elston Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$20 for general admission; \$15 for students and seniors. Call (773) 539-7838 or visit www.prophtr.org.

"Keeping Time," 8 p.m. April 30 and May 6-7; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. May 1 and 8; and 2 p.m. May 2 and 9 in Northwestern University's Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. The 79th annual Waa-Mu production is a time-traveling showcase of song and dance. Tickets: \$21-\$28; \$17 for seniors; \$11 for full-time students and children. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tic.northwestern.edu.



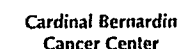


"A Life," through May 2 at Northlight Theatre, located in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. John Mahoney stars in a play about the evolution of friendships in a small Irish town. Performances on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except April 20 and 27); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at

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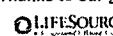




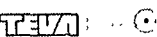
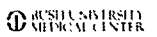

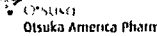
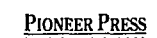
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Dr. Patrick Stiff, Loyola University Medical Center

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Dr. Willis Navarro, National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)

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Dr. Todd Zimmerman, University of Chicago Medical Center

CLL: WHEN TO TREAT OR NOT TO TREAT
Dr. Parameswaran Venugopal, Rush University Medical Center

NEW THERAPIES FOR FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA
Dr. Damiano Rondelli, UIC Medical Center

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Matan Porat, piano
Chabrier: *España*
Saint-Saëns: *Symphony No. 3 in C minor ("Organ")*

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North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie
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The Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra has received arts jobs preservation support from the Illinois Arts Council made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts through funds allocated from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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Continued from PAGE B5

2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except April 18 and May 2). Tickets: \$35-\$50. Young adult (25 and under) tickets are \$10. For information, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

"Number of People," through April 18 at Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday: 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and grappling with the challenges of aging, a Holocaust survivor bears witness to his past in an exploration on the elusive nature of memory. Tickets: \$25. Call (773) 753-4472 or visit www.piventheatre.org.

"Oliver!" will be presented by the Rising Stars Theatre Co. April 17-May 2 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. General admission is \$15, with discounts for senior citizens, children under 12 and groups. Call (773) 736-2490 or visit www.risingstarsco.org.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," through May 9 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25. For information, call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

"Six Dead Queens and an Inflatable Henry" will be presented by the Women of Piccolo Theatre through June 5 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600

Main St., Evanston, with performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$25; \$20 seniors; \$15 students. There will be a special "Theater Thursday" performance at 8 p.m. April 22, with free refreshments and an actor "Talk Back" session. For more information, call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolothatre.com.

CLASSICAL

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. June 28, 7:30 p.m.: André Rieu and his 55-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra. "Celebration of Music Tour." \$39-\$139.

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. Tickets: \$44-\$70, with discounts for seniors and students. May 2, 4:30 p.m.: Young Artist Showcase, featuring violinist Matthew Lipman, winner of the Music Institute of Chicago Concerto Competition, performing William Walton's Concerto for Viola and Orchestra. The program also includes John Corigliano's "To Music" and Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C minor. The afternoon includes an instrument petting zoo for children at 4:30 p.m., as well as the Music for Life program, in which parents or grandparents to bring their children/grandchildren to the concert free of charge. Children 4-

10 years old listen to the first part of the concert with their parents and then are escorted by teachers from the Music Institute of Chicago to classrooms in the building to participate in entertaining music education. Child-care is provided for siblings younger than 5.

Bach Week Festival, featuring the Bach Week Festival Orchestra, chorus and soloists, with Richard Webster, organist. April 23, 7:30 p.m.: "Organ and Brass Spectacular" at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. The program includes Bach works for solo organ, brass ensemble and organ and brass together, plus Webster's "Baroque Suite." April 25, 7:30 p.m.: Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Program includes Bach's Concerto for Violin & Orchestra in E Major; Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major; and Canzona No. 17, "Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben." April 30, 7:30 p.m.: Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Program includes Bach's Overture No. 2 for Flute and Orchestra in B minor; Concerto for Violin, Oboe and Orchestra in C minor; and Magnificat in D Major. Single ticket prices are \$35; \$25 seniors; \$20 students; \$10 children under 12. Festival subscriptions are \$65; \$60 for seniors; \$45 for students; \$30 for children. Call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.bach-week.org.

Chicago a cappella performs in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$35 for preferred

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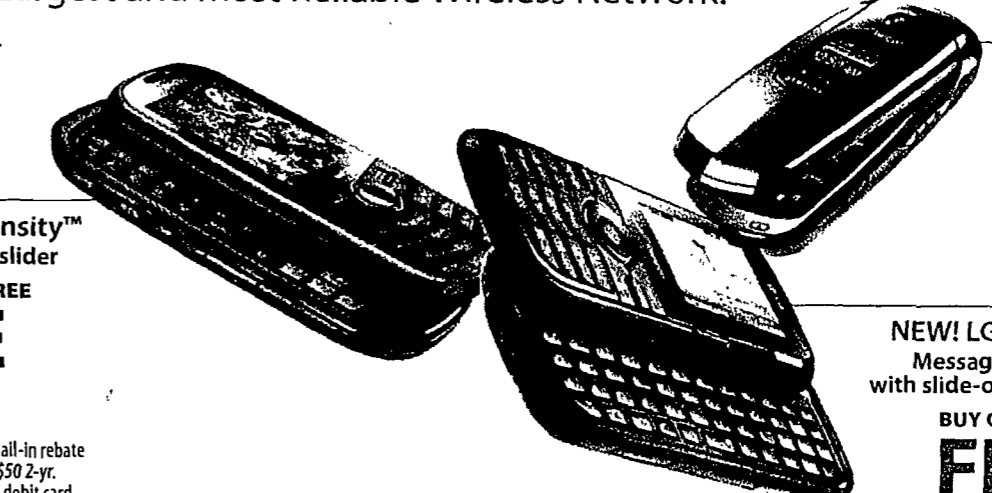
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"Begonias at Butchart Gardens" by Pat Rolie is one of the quilts included in the International Quilt Festival April 16-18 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. Hours for the show are 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. There will be 270 vendors offering antique and contemporary art quilts, fabrics, patterns, machines and books. Additional vendors will sell antiques, crafts, home decor items, jewelry, bags and gifts. In addition, the Make It University! will return, celebrating the textile and mixed-media art scene and spotlighting new techniques in art quilting, bookmaking and paper crafts. The festival also offers educational opportunities, including hands-on classes, luncheon/lecture events and free demonstrations. Tickets are \$10, \$8 students/seniors. A Full Show Pass is \$25. Visit www.quilts.com.

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Continued from PAGE B6

seating, \$28 for general admission, \$22 for seniors; and \$12 for students. For tickets, call (773) 755-1628 or see www.chicagoappella.org. April 18, 4 p.m.: "The Birds and the Bees," including Renaissance madrigals about birds, Daniel Pinkham's "Bugs," and other works.

Chicago Chamber Choir presents "Grounded: Songs of Our Majestic Earth" at 3 p.m. April 18 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Ave., Evanston. The program includes the music of Haydn, Brahms and Vaughan Williams. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door; \$15 for students and groups of 10 or more. For information, visit www.chicagochamberchoir.org or call (312) 409-6890.

Chicago Early Music Consort presents 14th century French and Italian music at 7:30 p.m. April 22 in the Music Institute of Chicago's Nichols Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. \$15; free for ages 16 and under. Call (847) 296-4829 or visit www.chicagoearlymusicconsort.org.

The Lakeside Singers will present "Whoa, What Was That?" at 8 p.m. April 16 at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The classical first half features pieces from Venezuela, South Korea, Hungary and Russia. The second half of the program includes gospel music, contemporary pop and Broadway tunes. Tickets: \$30;

\$20 seniors and students; \$10 for children under 12. Visit www.lakesidesingers.com.

Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation AG Beth Israel, 717 N. Crawford Ave., Lincolnwood. (847) 676-0491. www.ljcb.org. April 18, 7:45 p.m.: Yom Ha-Atzmaut concert honoring Israel's Independence Day, featuring soprano Michelle Auslander Cohen performing Jewish and Israeli melodies.

Lutkin Hall at Northwestern University, 700 University Place, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. April 17, 7:30 p.m.: Segovia Classical Guitar Series, Oscar Ghiglia and Elena Papandreou with the Waller and Maxwell Guitar Duo, "La Guitarra!" The concert includes Spanish and Latin classics by Manuel de Falla, Manuel Ponce and Joaquin Rodrigo. \$20/\$17/\$10. April 18, 3 p.m.: Janina Fialkowska, piano, plays works by Chopin. \$9/\$7/\$5. April 23, 8 p.m.: Newberry Consort, "By a Celestial Fountain - The Music of William Byrd," featuring the Newberry Consort of Viols and Newberry Consort Singers. A 7 p.m. lecture in Lutkin Hall will precede the concert. \$25/\$5. April 24, 3 p.m.: Thav-u-Isaak Endowed Piano Scholarship Competition. Admission is free.

Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. April 17, 7:30 p.m.: Axiom Brass Quintet performs works by Victor Ewald and Jukka Linkola. \$20; \$15 seniors; \$7 students. April 20, 7 p.m.: Wendy Warner, cello, and Marta Aznavoorian, piano, present sonatas by Brahms, Beethoven and Barber. \$20; \$15 seniors; \$7 students.

Northeastern Illinois University, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4636. April 16, 8 p.m.: Pianist Inna Faliks performs. The program includes Chopin's Etude in C-Sharp minor Op. 25, No. 7, Polonaise Fantaisie Op. 61 in A flat major, and Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35; and Schumann's Fantasie in C major opus 17. \$25 for general admission; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students.

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.parkridgecivicochestra.org or call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-8861. April 25, 2:30 p.m.: Haydn's "The Creation," with soloists Sarah Hibbard, soprano; Kurt Hansen, tenor; and Peter Van De Graaf, bass-baritone; and commentator Sasha Gerritson. Also featuring the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus, John Goodwin, director, and the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir, Sasha Gerritson, director.

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7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra, in a program that includes Bela Bartok's Piano Concerto No. 3 in E Major and Josef Suk's Symphony No. 2 in C Minor ("Asrael"). \$9/\$7/\$5. April 19, 5:30 p.m.: Northwestern Concerto/Aria Competition. Admission is free. April 20, 11:30 a.m.: Mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick presents a vocal master class. \$7/\$5/\$4. April 23, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Wind Ensemble performs works by Arthur Bird, Charles Ives, John Cheetham, Frank Zappa and Arnold Schoenberg. \$7/\$5/\$4. Six Piano Ensemble celebrates 30 years of precision performance with concerts at 8 p.m. April 24 and 3 p.m. April 25 at Oakton Community College.

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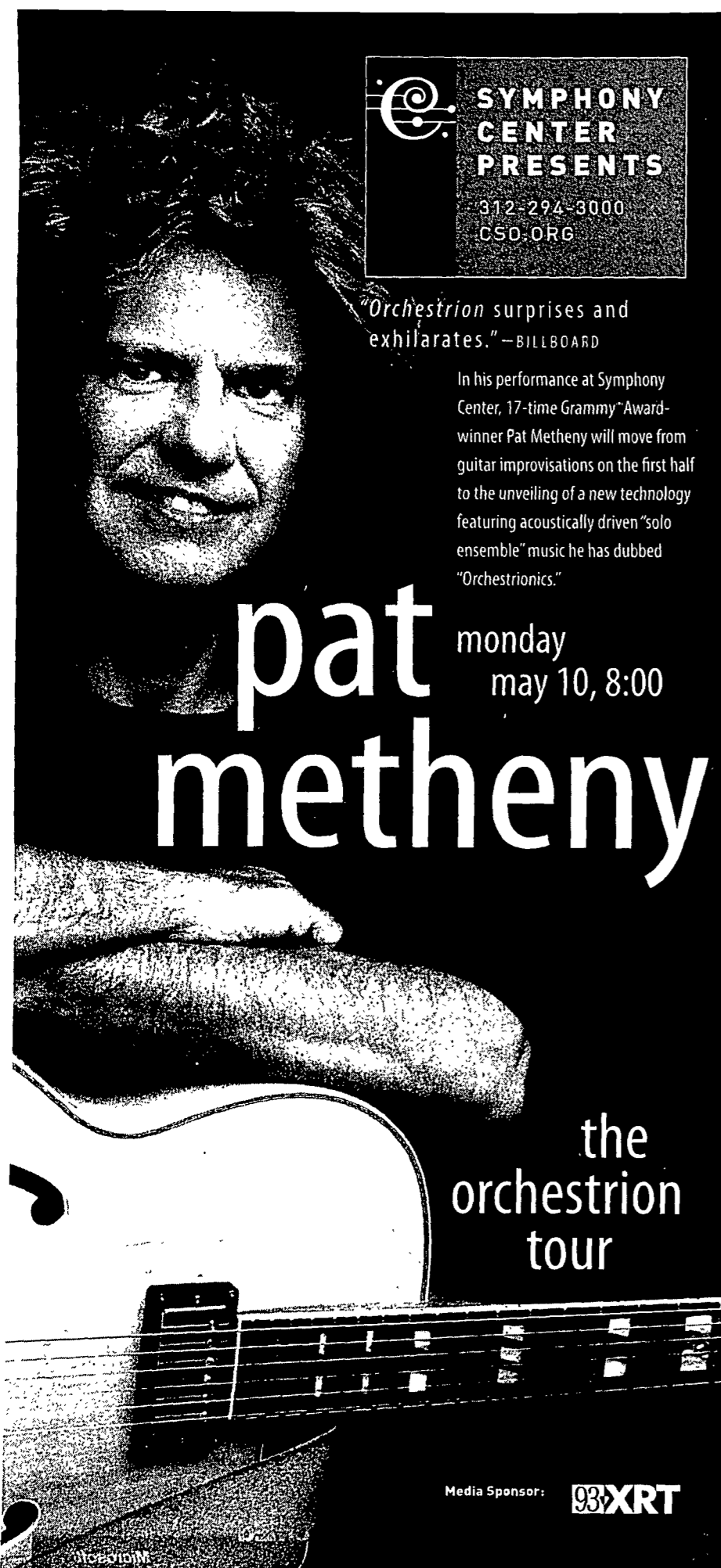
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1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. The program features works by Bach, Mozart, Dvorak, Khachaturian, Leonard Bernstein and Scott Joplin, all arranged for multiple keyboards by founder and conductor Glenn Sprague. Tickets: \$17-\$14 for students and seniors. Call the box office, (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 \$22-\$30; \$9 for children. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:45 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit

www.svso.org. April 25: "A Season of Sweet Sunday Treats: Paris in the Spring," under the direction of Francesco Miloto. The program includes Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major, with Malan Porat as guest soloist; Saint Saens's Symphony No. 3 in C minor (the Organ Symphony); Chabrier's "España"; and Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun.

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. May 1, 7 p.m.: Freight Train Tour — Alan Jackson

with Josh Turner and Chris Young \$25, \$45, \$75. May 18, 6:30 p.m.: Nickelback 2010 Dark Horse World Tour with guests Breaking Benjamin, Shinedown and Sick Puppies. \$46.50, \$60, \$85, May 24, 7:30 p.m.: Carole King and James Taylor. \$45, \$85, \$125.

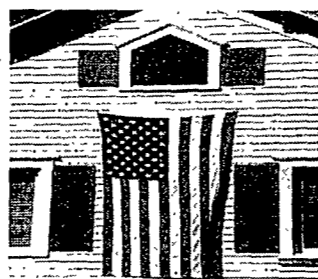
Blues Bar, 2 W. Busse Ave., Mount Prospect. (847) 788-9977. www.bluesbar.com. Music from 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m., unless noted otherwise. April 16: K Michaels Band. April 17: Rodney Brown Duo. 5-8:30 p.m.: Howard & the White Boys. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. April 23: Finneas. April 24: The Mike Dangeroux Duo. 5-8:30 p.m.: The Linsey Alexander Band. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. April 30: Mr. State. Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.cce-



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Ellen Wierzewski, Executive Director
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SUMMER IN NORWOOD PARK



Our Board of Directors and Events Committee are planning a series of Farmers' Market days at the beautiful Centennial Park, adjacent to the Norwood Park Train Station. The park location promises a wonderful ambiance for a summer family outing.
Farmers' Markets will be held on Tuesdays, 3:30 - 7:30 PM, starting on June 22nd,

the park is located at 6088 N. Northwest Highway. Many commuters on their way home from downtown can stop at the Market, do some shopping of fresh produce and enjoy an evening in the park or a quick bite at the Northwest Café at the historic Train Station. Last year's September Fall Fest was a big hit with Norwood Park families. This year's Fall Fest is scheduled for September 25th, it will include the Halloween topic: costume contests, games, jumping jacks, story tellers, music and lots of great food. Beer bar for adults will return! All our events are fundraisers and support from our member businesses is crucial.

lreast.org. April 17, 8 p.m.: "A Night in the Catskills with Mike Burstyn and Mal Z. Lawrence." \$48-\$54.

Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. (847) 647-8282. www.thechambersonline.com. Sunday music is from 5-9 p.m.; Thursday music is from 7:30-11:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday music is from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. April 15, 22 and 29: John Bany. Charles Braugham and Don Stille (jazz). April 16: The Renditions (oldies). \$5. April 17: Second Hand Soul Band. \$5. April 18: Marc Pompe (jazz vocal and piano). April 23: The Fairlanes (oldies). April 24: The Meteors (oldies). \$5.

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse. 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhuman.org. May 8, 8 p.m.: Folk singing duos February Sky (Phil Cooper and Susan Urban) and Cooper and Nelson (Phil Cooper and Margaret Nelson). \$7 minimum donation includes hot and cold beverages and pastries.

Hogeye Folk Arts, Ltd. hosts concerts at Lake Street Church of Evanston, 607 Lake St. (847) 475-6165. www.hogeyefolkarts.org. All concerts start at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. \$15 general admission; \$13 for senior citizens; \$5 for students; free for children under 12. April 17: Archie Fisher.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. www.ichohare.com/montrose_room. (847) 544-5300. Friday Nights Live, featuring music from 8:30 p.m.-midnight in the Montrose Room. \$5 cover, unless noted otherwise. April 16: Peace (playing music of Jimi Hendrix and Cream).

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irish-american.org. Irish Music Concert Series — April 16, 8 p.m.: Bua, a quintet that performs traditional Irish music. \$15. April 23, 8 p.m.: The Elders present original Celtic music combined with roots rock. \$15. Entertainment at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in the Fifth Province Lounge, no cover — April 16: Gerry Haughey. April 17: The Dooley Brothers.

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 25-26, 7:30 p.m.: "Glee Live! in Concert!" "Glee" stars Lea Michele, Cory Monteith, Amber Riley, Chris Colfer, Kevin McHale, Jenna Ushkowitz, Mark Salling, Dianna Agron, Naya Rivera, Heather Morris, Harry Shum Jr. and Dijon Talton will perform in a musical celebration of the Golden Globe Award-winning show. Tickets are \$39.50-\$89.50.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokiethatre.com. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. April 17, 8 p.m.: Charlene Brooks in "Big Band Meets Broadway." April 18, 2 p.m.: "Goddesses Unleashed," with Michelle Greenberg & Friends. April 18, 7 p.m.: Latino Opera Hour presents "The Songs of James Fernandez." April 21, 1:30 p.m.: Marcus Gentry's "Tribute

to Nat King Cole." April 24, 8 p.m., and April 25, 2 p.m.: Three Cat Media presents "Bab Fabs: The Barbra Streisand Celebration." April 28, 1:30 p.m.: Tony Bernard's "Memories of the Vegas Strip." April 29, 7 p.m.: Marcus Gentry in "Stand By Me." April 30, 8 p.m.: Jann Klose and Anne Harris present folk, pop and roots rock. S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.evanstonpace.com. (847) 492-8860. Most ticket prices listed in three categories: in advance; at the door; and reserved table seating. April 16, 8 p.m.: Ellis Paul (folk/rock). \$18/\$22/\$30. April 17, 11 a.m.: Ellis Paul Kids' Show (kid rock). \$10. April 18, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.: Kathleen Keane and William Coulter Duo with James Conway (Irish-American traditional). \$12-\$26. April 20, 8 p.m.: Hoots & Hellmouth with Garrison Starr (indie/roots). \$8/\$12. April 21, 8 p.m.: Guitar Republic. \$12/\$15. April 22, 8 p.m.: Joel Patterson's Modern Sounds (jazz/roots). \$10/\$15. April 23, 8 p.m.: The Guitars of Spain presents "Flamenco Fusion" with flamenco dancer Timo Lozano. \$20/\$25/\$32.

ART GALLERIES

Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. (847) 674-1500. Visitor hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sundays. Through April 27: "Nature's Palette," the Skokie Art Guild 2010 members only spring exhibit. For more information, visit www.skokieartguild.org. April 30-June 27: "American

go, PAGE B12

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endgame

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directed by ensemble member Frank Galati
featuring ensemble members Ian Barford, Francis Guinan, Martha Lavey and William Petersen

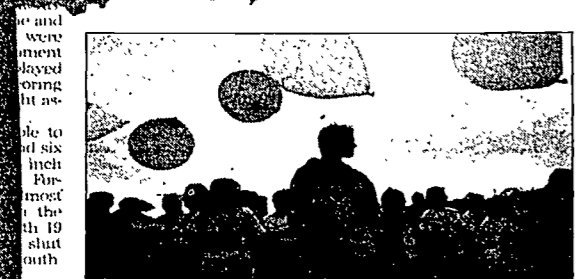
Beckett's absurd comic masterpiece follows Hamm, a blind man unable to stand, and his servant Clov, who is unable to sit. Pestored by his parents, Hamm directs this unusual family through their daily rituals, awaiting the end of everything. Swerving from the profound to the profoundly ridiculous, a powerful all-ensemble cast brings to life this epic tale set in a tiny room. Endgame is a compelling exploration of the stories we construct to make sense of our lives.

Endgame Wine Tasting
Wednesday April 21 at 6:00 p.m.
Live music, wine and appetizers from VINCI before the show, tickets \$60. Please use code 5824.

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▲ Jason Han - Pioneer Press Staff Photographer

but we're not making Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose 250th birthday on Jan. 27 is being marked with such volume? He was the child prodigy, whose father trotted him around the capitals of Europe to much acclaim, until he grew too fat to be cute anymore.

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Continued from PAGE B11

Nature." paintings by artists from Wilmette, Chicago, Evanston, Niles and Skokie. Opening reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. April 30. 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 30: "The Skyway Conference Art Competition," an exhibition of works by Illinois community college students. Works include paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics and digital art.

Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. (847) 673-7774. www.skokieilibrary.info. Through April 28: District 219 Art Exhibit, featuring more than 130 works of art created by Niles North and Niles West art students.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

MUSICIANS
Volunteer accompanist sought for a senior citizen performance troupe sponsored by the Skokie Park District. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday afternoons and some Thursdays at the Oakton Community Center in Skokie. Candidates should be able to read a lead sheet and transpose, and be available year-round, with time off in January

and July. Sight-reading is a plus. Call (847) 998-8894.

ARTISTS

Ridgewood High School in Norridge is seeking alumni artists for its 50th anniversary Fine Arts Festival on May 15. Artists can submit and show their work in the Visual Artists Exhibition at the festival. Artists must be RHS alumni, faculty or staff (either former or current.) All media types will be accepted for the juried exhibition. Ribbons will be awarded at the opening reception from noon-2 p.m. May 15. No fees. Drop-off date for all artwork is April 19 from 4-8 p.m. Entry forms can be found on the RHS Web site. www.ridgenet.org, under the "50th Anniversary" link, then to the "Fine Arts Festival" pdf. For information, call (630) 408-3516.

Skokie Art Guild's 49th annual Art Fair will be held July 10-11 on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton, downtown Skokie, featuring fine art and offering prizes and awards. For an application or information, visit www.skokieartguild.org or call (847) 677-8163.

BENEFITS

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra's annual benefit dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. April 20 at the Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park. The evening includes cocktails, auction, dinner and music by Ilya Kaler, violin, and Lori Kaufman, piano. Call (847) 615-1911. The Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Artisan Guild will host Spring Show 2010 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. April 21-22 at the Lake

Forest Recreation CROVA Wing, 400 Hastings Road, Lake Forest. Proceeds will benefit CROVA (Committee Representing Our Young Adults). For information, visit www.lfbartisansguild.com. "Spring From Darkness Into Light," a folk music concert benefiting the Hadley School for the Blind, will be held at 7:30 p.m. April 24 at the Music Institute of Chicago's Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Singer/songwriters Anne Hills and David Roth will perform. The event will include a raffle and silent auction. Tickets: \$25; \$15 for ages 17 and under. Visit www.hadley.edu/concert or call (847) 784-2762.

BOOKS & POETRY

Borders Books and Music, 909 N. Elmhurst Road, Mount Prospect, (847) 342-6421. April 24, 2 p.m.: Nancy Woodruff will read and sign *My Wife's Affair*. Irving Cutler will read and sign his book, *Chicago's Jewish West Side*, at 1 p.m. April 20 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 Dempster St., Skokie, (847) 675-0951; and from 10-11:30 a.m. April 25 at Ezra Habonim-Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster, Skokie, (847) 675-4141. The book features more than 200 vintage photographs along with a supportive narrative. Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St. (847) 253-5675. April 16-18: Friends of the Library Spring Used Book Sale. Members only sale will be from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, with annual memberships available at the door for \$5. General public sale will be from 9

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seats (excluding Gold Circle) are \$15. "A Summer in the Theater" will be offered by Three Cat Productions at the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation, June 14-Aug. 20. The camp, open to children and teens, includes the U.S. premiere of "Cinderella" by the British composer Ric Brunall. "Let Me Entertain You," a celebration of Broadway classics. "Broadway Rocks!" the student-created play "Choose Your Own Fairytale Adventure" and the "Golly Gee Glee" show choir camp. Camps vary in length from one to four weeks. "Cinderella" and "Choose Your Own Fairytale Adventure" are both \$695 per camper. "Let Me Entertain You" and "Broadway Rocks" are both \$195 per camper. "Golly Gee Glee" is \$250 per camper. For information or to register, visit www.threecatproductions.com/education or call (312) 725-6859.

CHILD'S PLAY

"Aladdin, Jr." will be presented by Devonshire Playhouse Children's Theatre at 3 and 7 p.m. April 24 and May 1, and 3 p.m. April 25 and May 2 at the Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Tickets: \$10; \$8 for students and senior citizens. Pre-Show Make & Take Craft Party, 2:15 p.m. April 25. Young audience members pick a craft to make and take home. Call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400. Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org. Kids Fare series, featuring hour-long concerts for children ages 3 to 8 and their families. All Kids Fare concerts begin at 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$6; \$5 for senior citizens; \$4 for children. April 24: "Percolating Percussion." A diverse assortment of percussion instruments will explore a variety of energetic musical styles. 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 6-9: Sesame Street Live: "Elmo's Green Thumb." 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, \$20 and \$30. Gold Circle seats are \$35. Opening night, all

Line Is It Anyway?!" \$58. May 15, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Mark Russell, \$50. Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. April 16, 8 p.m.: The Edge Comedy Club, featuring Skokie-area standup comics. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door.

DANCE
Northwestern University, Josephine Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, April 23-24, April 29-30 and May 1, 8 p.m., and April 25 and May 2, 2 p.m.: "DanceWorks 2010," featuring Jump Rhythm Jazz, modern, classic jazz and contemporary dance. Tickets: \$20; \$18 for seniors; \$10 for full-time students. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tlc.northwestern.edu.

PERFORMANCES

GROUPS & LESSONS
Chicago Dance Latin & Ballroom School, 3660 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, (773) 267-3411. www.chicago-dance.com. April 27, 8-9 p.m.: "Key to Better Partner Dancing," a ballroom dance workshop taught by John Swick. \$25. May 8, June 12, 8:30-11 p.m.: Salsa dance parties, \$15. Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May 8, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. \$6 per guest. For information, call (847) 698-5501 or (773) 685-8407. Squires Sunday Evening Club holds ballroom dances from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

COMEDY

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. May 1, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.: "Whose Live Anyway?," featuring improvised comedy and song by the stars of the television show. "Whose

seats (excluding Gold Circle) are \$15. "A Summer in the Theater" will be offered by Three Cat Productions at the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation, June 14-Aug. 20. The camp, open to children and teens, includes the U.S. premiere of "Cinderella" by the British composer Ric Brunall. "Let Me Entertain You," a celebration of Broadway classics. "Broadway Rocks!" the student-created play "Choose Your Own Fairytale Adventure" and the "Golly Gee Glee" show choir camp. Camps vary in length from one to four weeks. "Cinderella" and "Choose Your Own Fairytale Adventure" are both \$695 per camper. "Let Me Entertain You" and "Broadway Rocks" are both \$195 per camper. "Golly Gee Glee" is \$250 per camper. For information or to register, visit www.threecatproductions.com/education or call (312) 725-6859.

the first and third Sundays of each month at the American Legion, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park. Admission is \$8 for members; \$9 guests. April 18: Music by The Music Men. Square Spires & Pairs Square Dance Club, a club for couples and singles, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month 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 26: "April Showers and Flowers," with Rick Allison and Chuck Jaworski. Square Wheels Square Dance Club dances the fourth Saturday of each month, September through May, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 304 W. Palatine Road, Prospect Heights. Round dancing begins at 7:30 p.m. with Howard and Anna Hoffman, and square dancing starts at 8 p.m. with guest callers. \$6. For information, call (847) 392-5512 or (847) 253-3206. April 24: John Martocci.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS
Green Family Festival, an Earth Day celebration, will be held from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. April 17 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 18 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, Chicago. Admission is \$5 per family or a canned food donation that will be collected for Chicago's Catholic Charities. The festival will feature experts, demonstrations and ex-

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Joshua Redman

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hibitors focused on raising children in a balanced, holistic way. Visit www.irish-american.org.

A Fair to Remember, 1-4 p.m. April 24 at Seniors Action Service, 1123 Emerson, #200, Evanston. The boutique fair showcases jewelry, crafts and wearable art by local artisans Lindsay Obermeyer, Patty Kochaver, Judy Lichtenstein, Sally Schoch, Roulette 18, Ruth Richman, David Mellis and others. Free admission. A portion of the proceeds will benefit SASI. Call (847) 864-7274 or visit www.SeniorsActionService.org.

Fine Arts Festival, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. May 15 at Ridgewood High School, 7500 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge, featuring an art exhibit, concert, swing dance workshop, a performance of "Much Ado About Nothing," dinner and more. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.ridgenet.org. For information, call Carol Valentino-Barry, (708) 456-4242, ext. 225.

Skokie Festival of Cultures Planning Committee meets at the Oakton Community Center at least one Monday per month leading up to the 20th annual Festival of Cultures on May 22-23. To participate or for information, call Pamela Zeid, (847) 929-2715.

LECTURES

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irish-american.org, April 25, 2

p.m.; "Percy French - Painter and Poet," \$5.

ORGANIZATIONS

Des Plaines Art Guild meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 Thacker St., Des Plaines. New members are welcome. For information, call Margaret Newman, (847) 924-8952, or visit www.dpag.org.

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 43 will meet at 7:30 p.m. April 16 in the South Conference Room at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Argentine magician Henry Evans will perform and explain his tricks. \$15 guest fee. Contact Robert K. Miller at (847) 272-3850 or miracles@magickmiller.com.

Park Ridge Art League meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Friday of the month in the South Park Fieldhouse, 833 Talcott Road, Park Ridge. Guest fee is \$3. Call Dorothy DuSod, (847) 825-3505.

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, April 27, 7 p.m.; Catherine Cajandig - The Art of the Book.

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

SINGLES

Young at Heart Singles Club sponsors

ballroom dancing for all ages. Semi-dressy to dressy attire for women; jackets for men. No jeans or gym shoes. All dances are from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 for members; \$9 for guests. Call (847) 678-7068, April 16; Hobo Dinner Dance will be at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific, Franklin Park, with music by Ken Jandes. Tickets will be sold in advance, \$12 for members; \$14 for guests. April 23: Dance at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific, Franklin Park, with music by The Variety Pak, April 30: Dance at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific, Franklin Park, with music by The Music Men.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Evanston Writers Workshop will host a spring conference, "In the Trenches With the Writer," from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 15-16 at the Winnetka Community House. The keynote speaker will be Mary Janice Davidson, a best-selling writer who is published primarily in paranormal romance but also young adult and nonfiction. Other guests include Sherrill Bodine, Jaime Fraveletti, Libby Hellman, Jennifer Stevenson, Amy Guth and Lynn Laundry. The conference will include a writing session, appointments with agents, book signings and panel discussions for the novice to the experienced writer in all genres. Fee is \$100, with discounts for members. To register, visit www.eww-conference.com.

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/emertus. Thumbs Down (HUM E74-72) allows movie buffs to share opinions about recent films. Four-week course meets from 1-3 p.m., Fridays, starting April 23. Course fee is \$70.

ET CETERA

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. May 8, 7:30 p.m.: Smucker's Stars on Ice Tour, including Evan Lysacek, Tanith Belbin, Benjamin Agosto, Sasha Cohen, Todd Eldredge and Michael Weiss. Tickets start at \$25.

The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, (847) 864-1679. www.celticknotpub.com, April 18, 2 p.m.: Family Storytelling in the Snug with Sandi Sylvester, ventriloquist and songstress. Ages 5 and up. April 18, 8 p.m.: Storytelling in the Snug with Kucha Brownlee and Baba Tony Brown.

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org, May 22, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.: "One-Man Star Wars Trilogy," written and performed by Charles Ross. \$30.

The Chicago Photographic Collectors Society will present its 39th annual International Camera & Image Show And Sale from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 2 at the North Shore Holiday Inn, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie. Free camera appraisals and free camera check-ups will be available on-site. More than 80 dealers will buy, sell and trade contemporary, antique, collectable and digital cameras, photo equipment, books and images of all kinds. Admission is \$6; \$4 for children under 12 and photography students (with school ID). Visit www.chicagophotographic.org.

JustStories Storytelling Festival, 7:30-9:30 p.m. April 17 at SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The event will feature Nancy Wang of San Francisco premiering an original piece, "Bittersweet: A Chinese American Daughter's Legacy." Robert Jones of Detroit blending music and stories in "Roots to Rap," and Susan O'Halaran telling "The Other 9/11 Story." \$10. For information, see www.racebridges.net/juststories.

Polonia Dance and Song Ensemble of Chicago will hold its spring recital and dinner dance at 3 p.m. April 25 at White Eagle Banquets, 6839 Milwaukee Ave., Niles. The afternoon includes Polish folk dancing and singing, followed by a family-style dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$35; \$15 for children ages 14 years and under. For reservations, call Anna Krynski, (847) 529-2555 or visit www.poloniaensemble.com.

"Science Fiction: An Experiment in Circus" will be presented by The Actors Gymnasium through April 18 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. With live music, physical comedy and flights through the air, the production is suitable for families. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday; 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 3 p.m. Sunday. \$15; \$10 for ages 12 and under. For tickets, see www.brownpapertickets.com or call (800) 838-3006.

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. April 15-18: International Quilt Festival/Chicago. Hours are 5-9 p.m. Thursday (Preview Night); 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Featuring more than 700 quilts, textiles and wearable art on display; 60-plus classes, lectures and special events; and vendor booths offering quilts, fabrics, books, notions, crafts, patterns, machines and sewing supplies. Admission: \$10; \$8 seniors and students.

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A Tale of Serendipity
Adventure Begins
written and illustrated by Rosy Aronson

Niles North High School alum Rosy Aronson has written and illustrated a children's book, *A Tale of Serendipity*. The adventure story is about a close-knit family of seals that is torn apart by a devastating storm and a ship of vicious seal-hunters. While the narrative focuses on the fate of five seal pups separated from their mother, it is a story about the hopes, fears and challenges that all children and adults face in life. For more on the book, visit www.serendipitytale.com.

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Saturday, April 17

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Questions?
Contact Jackie Herron-Whitfield
224-512-6637

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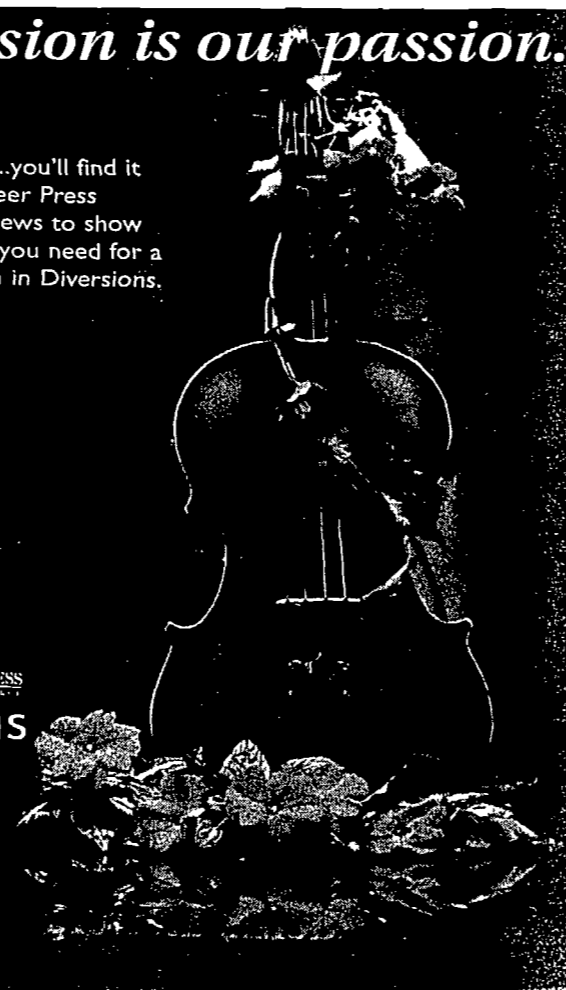
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Continued from PAGE B15

students. \$10 Preview Night Pass includes one free additional day. \$25 full show pass includes Preview Night. For information, call (713) 781-6864 or visit www.quilts.com.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.illholocaustmuseum.org. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission: \$8; \$5

for children ages 5-12; \$6 for students ages 12-22 and senior citizens. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through June 20: "The Wartime Escape: Margaret and H.A. Rey's Journey from France." More than three generations of Americans have grown up reading the stories about an irrepressible little brown monkey known as Curious George. But few people know about the incredible journey made by his creators, Margaret and H.A. Rey, to escape the Nazi invasion of Paris at the start of World War II. Based in part on the 2005 book, *The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey*, written by Louise Borden and illustrated by Allan Drummond, the exhibition features 27 framed art prints by

Drummond and supplemental archival images. April 18: Inaugural year celebration, including Eyewitness to the Holocaust in the Goodman Auditorium, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; and "Man in the Yellow Hat" reading, Miller Family Youth Exhibition, 2:30 p.m. Free with museum admission. April 19, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.: Open house with extended hours and free admission. April 25, 2:30 p.m.: Roz Varon, ABC 7 reporter, will read Curious George books to museum visitors. This program complements the exhibition, "The Wartime Escape: Margaret & H.A. Rey's Journey from France." Free with museum admission. April 29, 5-7 p.m.: Appearance by Louise Borden, author of *The Journey that Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey*.

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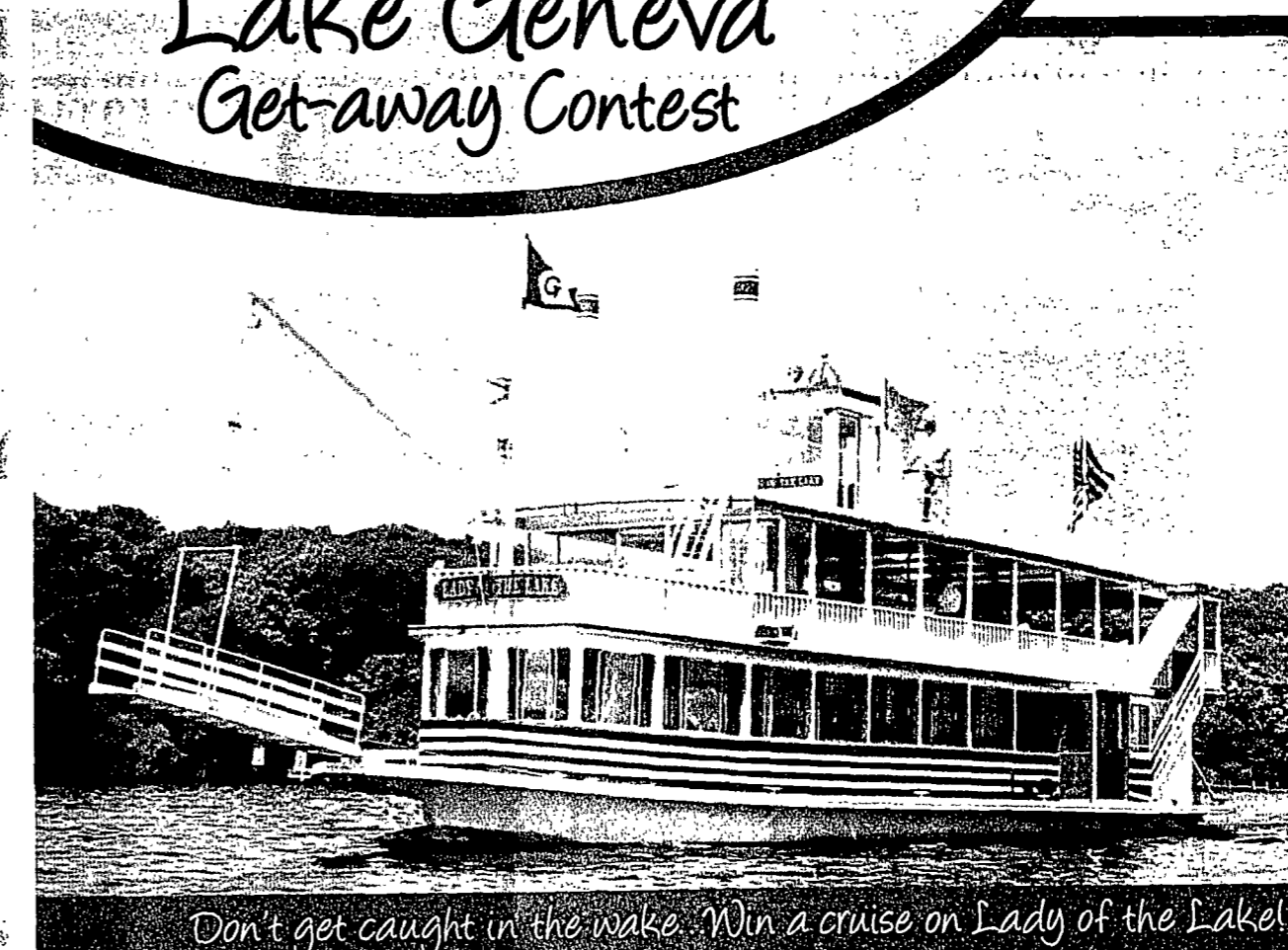
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Lake Geneva Get-away Contest

GRAND PRIZE

Two winners will each receive a Lake Geneva Getaway package, courtesy of The Abbey Resort & Spa and Grand Geneva.



FIRST PLACE PRIZE

Sunday, May 30
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Twenty-five winners will be chosen at random to each receive four **Dinner Cruise** tickets, which includes dinner, soft drinks, and a cash bar available.

SECOND PLACE PRIZE

Sunday, May 30
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Twenty-five winners will be chosen at random to each receive four **Dessert Cruise** tickets, which includes champagne boarding toast, desserts, soft drinks and a cash bar available.

To be eligible to win, contestants must include personal e-mail address and fill out the official entry form below. All entries must be received by **May 6, 2010**.

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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. Contest open to legal residents of Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane or McHenry county in Illinois who are six (6) years of age and older. See PioneerLocal.com/win for restrictions and complete official rules which apply. Void where prohibited. Approximate retail value (ARV) of each grand prize, \$500. ARV of each First Prize: \$200, ARV of each Second Prize: \$150. ARV of all prizes: \$13,500. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Limit of one (1) entry per person regardless of method of entry. Sponsor: Sun-Times Media Productions, LLC, 350 N. Orleans St., 10th Floor, Chicago, IL 60654.

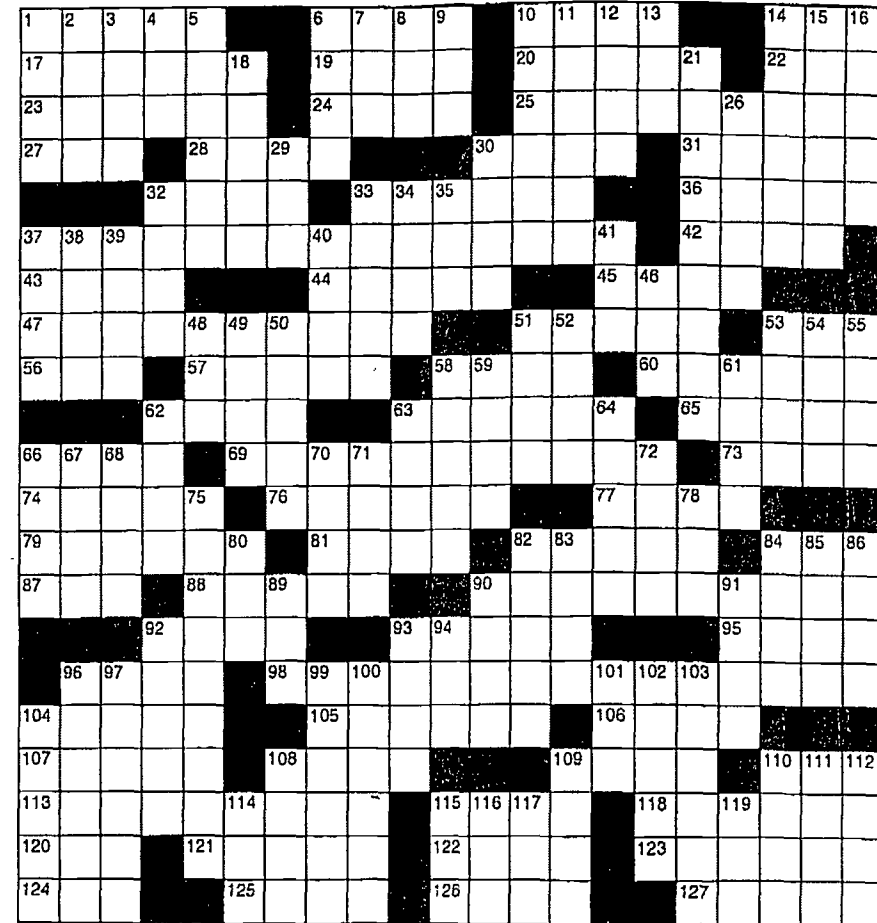
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ Alternate Phone _____
 E-mail _____ Yes, I would like more information about Lake Geneva.
 Mail this form to: Red White & Cruise!, c/o Lake Geneva Convention & Visitors Bureau, 201 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva, WI 53147 or
 Online entry form can be found by visiting www.pioneerlocal.com

Super Crossword

WHAT A REELIEF!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bmo bloke
 - 6 "— Show" (94 film)
 - 10 Ferber or O'Brien
 - 14 Hum bug?
 - 17 Buy back
 - 19 Till
 - 20 Approaches
 - 22 — Locka, FL
 - 23 Luanda's land
 - 24 "— fixe"
 - 25 Start of a remark
 - 27 Curly poker?
 - 28 Way out
 - 30 Actress Sorvino
 - 31 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'—"
 - 32 Tizzy
 - 33 French novelist
 - 36 Sell out
 - 37 Part 2 of remark
 - 42 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
 - 43 Wine valley
 - 44 Cabinet wood
 - 45 Pack the freight
 - 47 Upset
 - 51 Panache
 - 53 Weldon or Wray
 - 56 Horatian creation
 - 57 Christened
 - 58 Role for 80 Down
 - 60 Ida of "High Sierra"
 - 62 Wear out the carpet
 - 63 Vaccaro or Lee
 - 65 Barbara's rank
 - 66 Holler
 - 69 Part 3 of remark
 - 73 Sausage segment
 - 74 Knock for —
 - 76 Ran amok
 - 77 Dashboard feature
 - 79 Explosive mixture
 - 81 No pleasure trip
 - 82 Complains
 - 84 You can retire on it
 - 87 "Casualties of War" setting
 - 88 Pigeonhole
 - 90 Resilience
 - 92 Carpenter's tool
 - 93 Celebrations
 - 95 "Rule Britannia" composer
 - 96 Unadorned
 - 98 Part 4 of remark
 - 104 Mr. Hiss
 - 105 Paradiacial
 - 106 Romain de Tiroff
 - 107 Nero's instrument
 - 108 From the top
 - 109 Big rig
 - 110 Dainty
 - 113 End of remark
 - 115 George of "Scarface" subject
 - 118 Journalist
 - 120 — Na Na
 - 121 Sharon of Israel
 - 122 Comrade
 - 123 Expire
 - 124 Shorten a skirt
 - 125 Valuable linen
 - 126 Linen in the beginnin'?
 - 127 Rhythm of life
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Learn fast?
 - 2 Paradoxical philosopher
 - 3 Maugham's "The Razor's —"
 - 4 Corporate VIP
 - 5 Actress Bonham Carter
 - 6 Pack it in
 - 7 Sturm —
 - 8 "Graph" ending
 - 9 Caldwell or Akins
 - 10 Don a uniform
 - 11 Want
 - 12 Astronauts' agcy.
 - 13 School subject
 - 14 Colombia's capital
 - 15 Screenwriter Nora
 - 16 Consumed
 - 18 Adage
 - 21 Percussion instrument
 - 26 PR concern
 - 29 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
 - 30 "The Ghost and Mrs. —" (47 film)
 - 32 Nab a gnat
 - 33 Heaped
 - 34 Funnyman
 - 35 Be obligated
 - 37 — Euro-pean
 - 38 "You — it!"
 - 39 Chartres part
 - 40 Ming thing
 - 41 Pie — mode
 - 46 Feel awful
 - 48 Genetic info
 - 49 Aplece
 - 50 Daub
 - 51 Ward (off)
 - 52 New Jersey borough
 - 53 Pacific archipelago
 - 54 Shortly
 - 55 Michael of "Cabaret"
 - 58 Stream
 - 59 Expect back
 - 61 Dampener
 - 62 Conspire
 - 63 Eight bits
 - 64 Llama turf
 - 66 James of "Brian's Song"
 - 67 — mater
 - 68 Com Belt
 - 69 Soil
 - 70 Core
 - 71 Skin feature
 - 72 Present
 - 75 Cartwright ranch
 - 76 "Just — thought!"
 - 80 Ms. Taylor
 - 82 Mont —
 - 83 Relaxation
 - 84 Logroll
 - 85 Sicilian
 - 86 Stained
 - 89 Middling mark
 - 90 Morlocks' prey
 - 91 Rib —
 - 92 Amphitheater feature
 - 93 Expanded
 - 94 Writer Rand
 - 96 "Hail to thee, — spirit!"
 - 97 Massachusetts city
 - 99 Thin covering
 - 100 Swimmer
 - 101 Elf
 - 102 Strong suit
 - 103 Foment
 - 104 Simian
 - 108 Saucy rival
 - 109 Charon's river
 - 110 Sheffield slammer
 - 111 Burden
 - 112 Granola fruit
 - 113 Rink legend
 - 115 Brit. fliers
 - 116 Dryden's "— for Love"
 - 117 Neighbor of Ga.
 - 119 Shiba — (Japanese dog)



Answers: Inside today's classified section

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HOROSCOPES

For the week of April 19 - April 25

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
You still might have to deal with some lingering confusion that marked a recent workplace situation. But for the most part, you should now be well on your way to your next project.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
A new commitment might demand more time than you'd expected to have to give it. But rely on that special Bovine gift for patience, and stick with it. You'll be glad you did.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
You're earning the admiration of a lot of people who like the way you handle yourself when your views are on the line. Even one or two of your detractors are being won over.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Taking your responsibilities seriously is what you do. But ease up on the pressure gauge and make time for much needed R & R. Start by making this weekend a "just for fun" time zone.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Some recently uncovered information might make a change of

plans inevitable. If so, deal with it as quickly as possible, and then find out what went wrong and why. What you learn might surprise you.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Aspects favor moving carefully and deliberately when making any significant changes. Could be there are more facts you need to know, which you might overlook if you rush things.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
A problem neighbor might be looking to goad you into an action you don't want to take. Ask someone you both respect if he or she would act as an impartial arbitrator for both of you.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
A recent workplace accomplishment hasn't been overlooked by those who watch these things. Meanwhile, start making travel plans for that much-too-long-deferred trip with someone special.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Those money matters continued to move in your favor. Now would be a good time

to start putting some money back into the house, both for esthetic as well as economic reasons.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
A changing workplace environment can create job pressures. But, once again, follow the example of your birth sign and take things a step at a time, like the sure-footed Goat you are.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Cheer up. You could soon have the funds you need for your worthy project. Your generous gifts of time and effort are well known, and someone might decide it's time to join with you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Your inner scam-catcher is right on target, and you're absolutely right to reject that "too-good-to-be-true" offer. Meanwhile, something positive should be making its way to you.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK:
You are generous, and also sympathetic to people who find they need the help of others.

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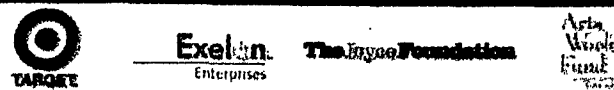
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Friday, April 30, 2010 7:30pm	Saturday, May 1, 2010 Stick Fly 3pm Joe Turner's Come and Gone 6pm	Sunday, May 2, 2010 Calentando 3pm Deep Azote 6pm

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Pottawatomie Golf Course, St. Charles

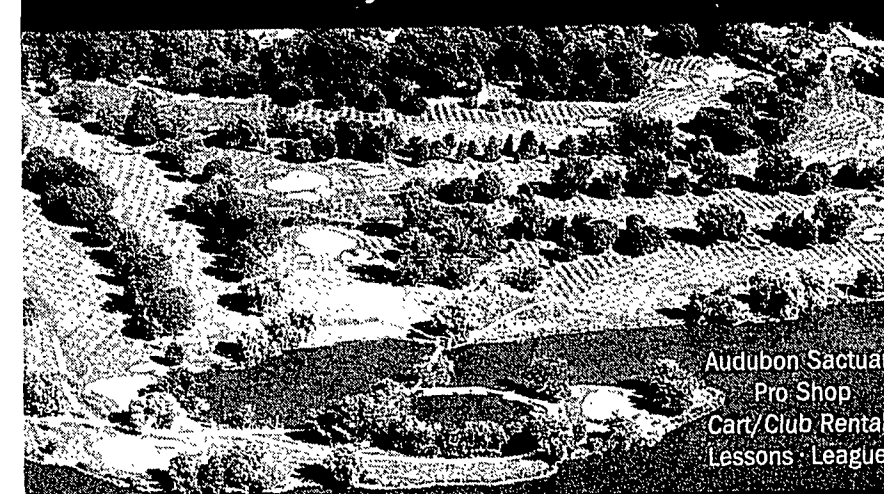
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Player's choice

Tiger Woods watches his tee shot from the 17th hole during the second round of the Cialis Western Open at Cog Hill Golf Club in Lemont.

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Courses afford golfers plenty of variety

By Tim Cronin
SouthtownStar

"It's a golfer's market these days," said Jeff Schmidt, the head pro at Phillips Park in Aurora.

Very much so. Our annual compilation of what we pay to play golf in the greater Chicago area finds most courses holding steady, a handful barely raising their rates, and discount rates continuing to encroach on the standard price.

That makes for a festival of bargains for players. With twilight rates beginning at noon at some courses, and what's come to be called "supertwilight" starting in the late afternoon in many cases, there's a price and a course for everyone.

There are also as many courses as before. There was a fear in the early stages of the severe recession that more than a few courses would close. That didn't happen in 2009, though the future of Cardinal Creek, the 27-hole facility in far south Beecher, was in doubt for a time. New ownership saved the day, and Cardinal Creek opened in mid-March.

Amazingly, given the economy, two courses opened late last year, and will have their first full season this year.

The new layouts are at opposite ends of the fee spectrum.

Bowes Creek, part of a housing complex on the west side of Elgin, is a sprawling course designed by Rick Jacobson. It winds through woodlands and across old farmland, and includes a massive practice area down the hill from a clubhouse that evokes

an Irish pub inside and looks a bit like a Tibetan retreat on the outside. The Dalai Lama, that big hitter, would be right at home.

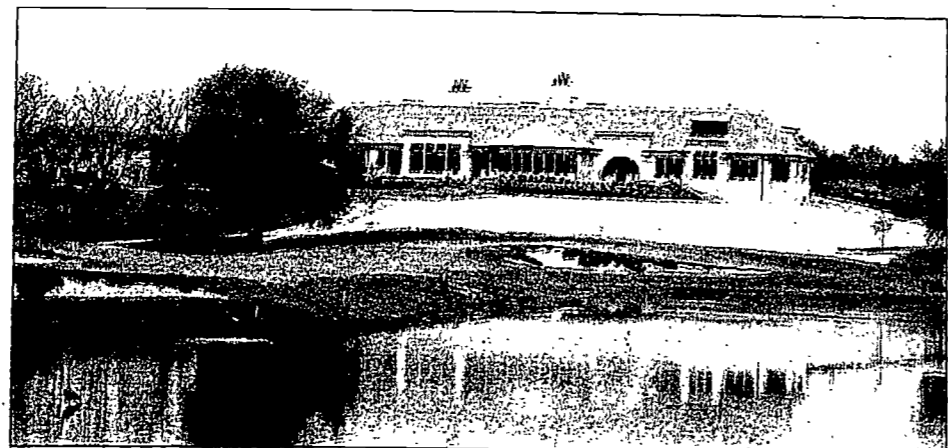
Happily, the houses never encroach on the golf course. While the prime weekend rate of \$95 would be a bit steep for most, the \$39 price in effect after 4 p.m. is a welcome break for enthusiasts.

The new Centennial Park is a nine-hole municipal course in Munster. It was designed by Tim Nugent, who had a large hand in Harborside International. Both courses were built on reclaimed waste area, and share the characteristics of wide

fairways stretching across treeless terrain.

While it's nine holes, Centennial is no push-over. The 18-hole rating of 72.4 from the back tees is impressive for a course that measures only 3,300 yards. It costs just \$15 to play on a Sunday morning, so it provides great value.

A course not far from Bowes Creek is undergoing a major change this year. Highlands of Elgin is scheduled to open its Quarry nine on July 2, replacing an older nine holes on the 18-hole course. There's also an 11-hole short course on the property.



Bowes Creek Country Club in Elgin opened in September 2009 despite the economy and has performed better than expected. SUN-TIMES MEDIA

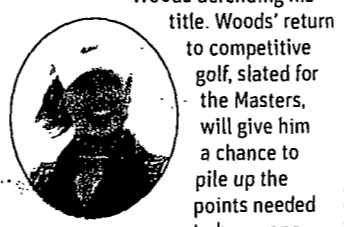


The crowd watches golfers play on the 14th green Thursday at the 2009 BMW Championship at Cog Hill in Lemont. JEAN LACHAT/SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Championships worth a view

If watching golf interests you, Cog Hill will be the place to be in early September, when the BMW Championship—the Western Open under the hood of the Beemer—visits Cog's Dubsdread layout the week after Labor Day. The Sept. 9-12 tournament in Lemont may or may not find Tiger Woods defending his title. Woods' return to competitive golf, slated for the Masters, will give him a chance to pile up the points needed to be among the top 70 in the standings by tournament time. Woods' presence drives daily ticket sales. If he isn't on hand, the attendance, and the Evans Scholars Foundation, the sole beneficiary of the tournament, will suffer.

There are two other big spectator tournaments in Illinois, both in the summer. The LPGA makes its annual stop at Panther Creek in Springfield from June 10-13, when State Farm Classic celebrates its 35th anniversary. From July 8-11, the PGA Tour visits the Quad Cities when the John Deere Classic takes place at Deere Run.



Tiger Woods may or may not defend his title in Lemont this fall. ROBYN BECK/GETTY IMAGES

Michelle Wei will be at Panther Creek in Springfield for the annual LPGA event. GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

ticket sales. If he isn't on hand, the attendance, and the Evans Scholars Foundation, the sole beneficiary of the tournament, will suffer.

Taking a lesson

Pros give advice before the first swing

By Tim Cronin
SouthtownStar

The best way for a golfer to improve is not to buy new equipment, but to buy knowledge.

That is best acquired by taking lessons from a certified professional.

But what's the best way to take a lesson? It starts with coming in with a definite goal.

"A pro may see all these major swing flaws, but if you're just looking for a quick fix for tomorrow, say so," said Mike Munro, owner of the White Pines Golf Dome in Bensenville. "A major swing change could take two to six months. Even Tiger Woods, when he made big swing changes, he didn't make them a week before the Masters. He did it after he put the clubs away for the (playing) season."

"A student should have an idea of what he wants when he goes to the pro," agreed three-time Illinois Open winner Marty Schiene, director of instruction at Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

The student should also know what not to expect. Miracles are in short supply on the lesson tee.

"So many people come in and say, I want to hit it farther," Schiene said. "That's not always possible. People have flexibility, athletic issues. They may not have the shoulder turn they once had. Speed is a hard thing to achieve. They may not be able to hit it more than 250 yards. Few people do."

Emil Esposito, a two-time Illinois Open winner who teaches at the Glen Club in Glenview, said simplicity goes a long way for both the teacher and the student.

"I teach everybody like they're 9 years old," Esposito said. "I don't want them to go away saying, 'What is he talking about?' The simpler you

give instructions, the better results you get. I work very fundamentally.

"If a pro tells you to do something but doesn't explain why, if he evades the issue and won't explain, then you need to find another instructor," Esposito added.

Gregg Tengerstrom, in his 28th year as head pro at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park, isn't a fan of the short-term fix. He believes students should look for a cure, not an aspirin.

"A quick fix is like glue," Tengerstrom said. "The glue lets go eventually. I like to start with a student's pre-shot routine. Most people don't have very good technique, and it starts with the pre-shot routine."

Virtually all teachers today use video to reinforce skills.

"One lesson with video is like four without video," Esposito said. He pointed out that a mistake can be "frozen" in a video so the student can see it clearly. Schiene even e-mails a link to a student's video so students can review the key points.

Pros at Munro's facility use video extensively to get their points across.

"It helps you better define what you're saying, such as, 'Closed at the top,'" Munro said. "They can see it."

Following up by practicing is critical to replacing old bad habits with new good habits.

"You want to make sure you get a lot of practice in right after the lesson to reinforce what you've learned," Munro said. "There should be two or three practices between lessons."

Schiene sees the opposite at times.

"People sometimes come for lessons too close together, without working on stuff in between," he said. "Over three to six months, someone else might take only four or five lessons, but with practice, there should be improvement."

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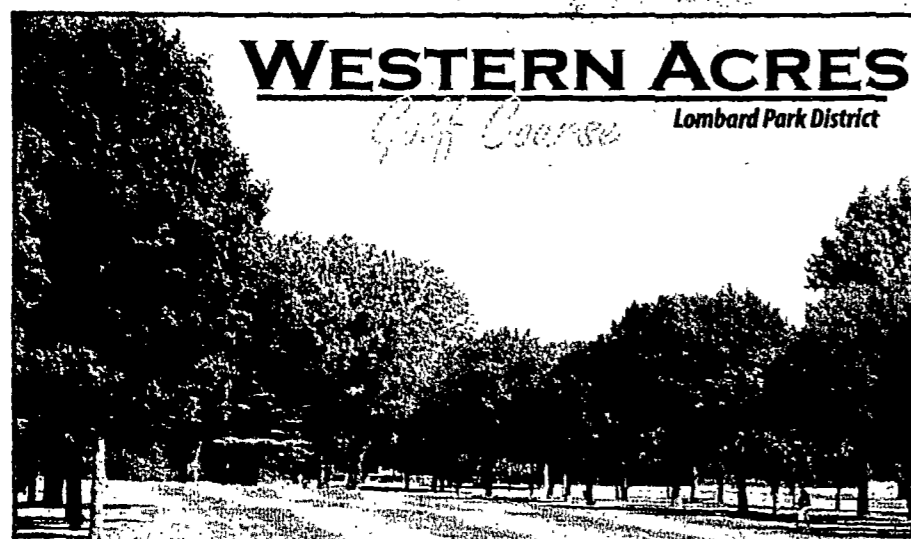
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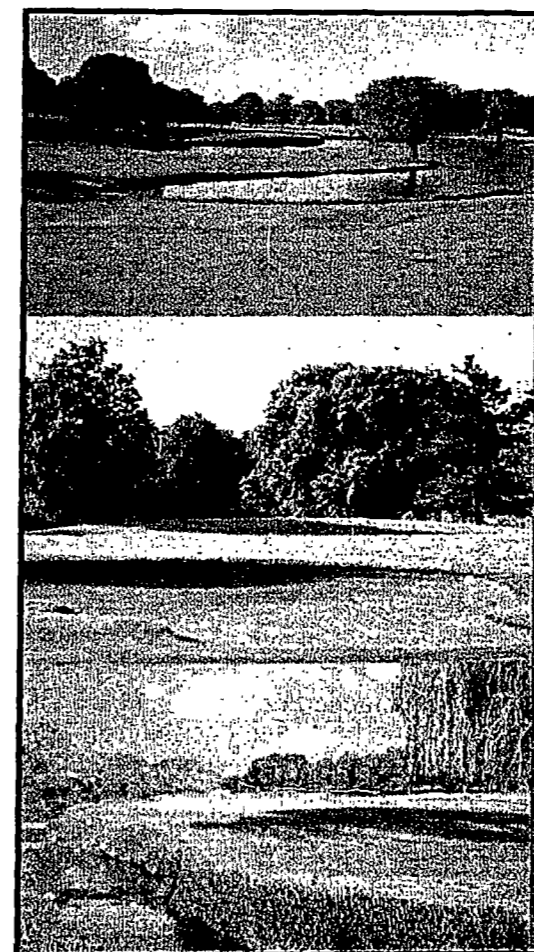
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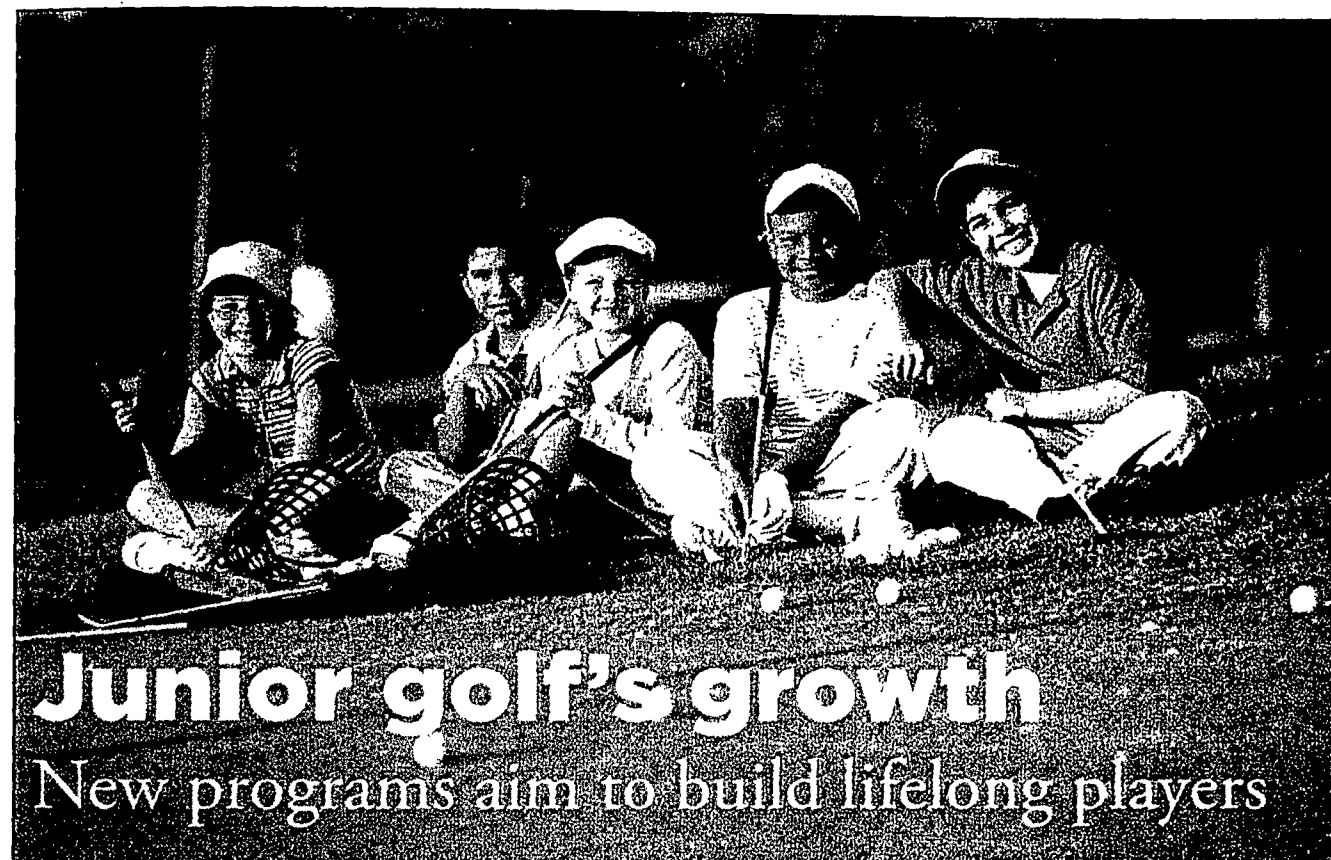
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Junior golf's growth

New programs aim to build lifelong players

By Tim Cronin
Southtown Star

The phrase "junior golf" used to conjure up two visions. One was of caddies with crazy swings getting a chance to play at the local country club on Monday, when the course was closed to members. The other was of kids playing the game with their parents once or twice a year.

Not today. Junior golf has grown up. More and more, it's the way players are brought into the game, taught the game, and grow to love the game.

Junior golfers have leagues to play in at many area courses, lesson programs they can follow, and summer-long state, regional and national tournament series to compete in. All of that has both improved the caliber of play at the top level of teenage (and younger) golf, and created more players who will stay in the game.

The stagnant economy hasn't had much effect on the juniors, according to Carrie Williams, executive director of the Illinois Junior Golf Association.

"Kids are the last line item parents will cut out of their budget," Williams said. "They may be replacing their spending, replacing a vacation with home-town programming, but they still spend on their children."

The 44-year-old IJGA, a non-profit organization headquartered at Midwest Golf House in Lemont, saw membership grow 3

percent from 2009 to 2010, Williams noted.

"We surveyed parents before 2009, and the average they said they would spend on their child was \$4,500," Williams said. "This year, that was \$5,200."

She estimated a \$13 million economic impact on the Chicago area this year because of the IJGA's two series. The second, the Mid-American Junior Golf Tour, began last year with tournaments in three states, and is expanding to three more this year. Overall, the IJGA conducts 128 tournaments in its two divisions, with 15,000 rounds of golf played. A decade ago, there were 85 tournaments and 6,800 rounds.

"Growth is begetting growth," Williams said.

The same is true nationally, where the American Junior Golf Association, created in 1978 with one tournament, has grown to encompass 85 tournaments featuring more than 5,000 players annually from coast-to-coast. It's a miniature version of the PGA and LPGA tours, with graduates, ranging from Tiger Woods to Paula Creamer, to match.

But players do not become players with the ability needed to compete in IJGA, MAJGT and AJGA tournaments by osmosis. They learn how to play at their local courses.

Most country clubs have junior programs, but they're only available to children of members. The good news is, more and more public courses, needing to cultivate

the players of the future, also run junior programs.

One of the longest-running public programs is at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. About 300 kids participate annually in the program started in 1983 by owners and brothers Bert, Dick and John Coghill.

"We build future golfers," Silver Lake head pro Gregg Tengerstrom said. "It's a lifetime sport."

In a typical year, Silver Lake has about 225 juniors from ages 8 to 13 playing nine holes on its Rolling Hills course on a Friday, plus another 80 juniors, 14 or 15 years old, in the Acers league. They're graduates of the Rolling Hills play, and play one of the nines on Silver Lakes' two regulation courses on Monday afternoons.

"Every year, from

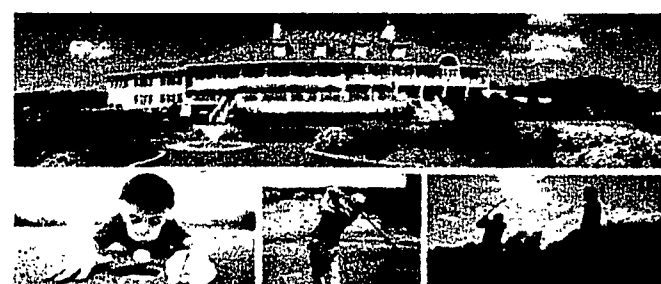
It's a miniature version of the PGA and LPGA tours, with graduates, ranging from Tiger Woods to Paula Creamer, to match.

80 to 100 new kids come into our Friday league," Tengerstrom said. "They play as well as get a mini-lesson on an aspect of the game weekly for eight weeks."

Tengerstrom's work with the program was recognized in 2003, when he received the Junior Golf Leader award from the PGA's Illinois Section. Few pros at public courses have worked with so many junior players, or for so long.

Cantigny Golf in Wheaton also has an extensive junior program, capped by a nine-hole course, the Cantigny Youth Links, open only to juniors, plus adults who are guests of juniors. Cantigny's lesson program offers four levels of development, from the "Little Linkers" entry stage, to the "Players Performance Development" stage, which includes instruction in course management, fitness training and preparation for college recruitment of high school players.

Things certainly have come a long way from the Monday afternoon caddie round.



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Weber Park Golf Course

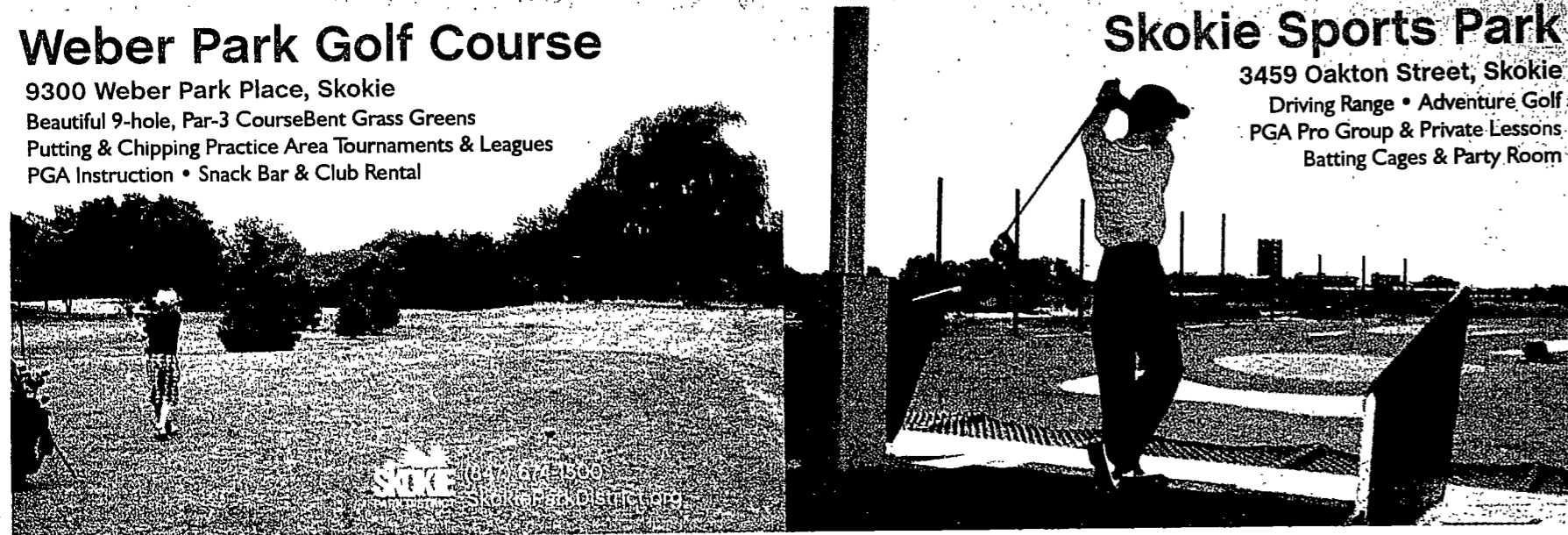
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BMW's 550i GT holds promise for sport sedans

BY JEFF TAYLOR
 SearchChicago-Autos Correspondent

Manufacturers are creating new vehicle segments or "spinoffs" of traditional models every year. This year BMW rolled out a sports activity vehicle (SAV) called the 550i Gran Turismo.

You are probably thinking wagon, right? If you are a die-hard BMW sports sedan loyalist, you'll probably squint hard and call it an SUV, which still means sports utility vehicle when run through the BMW decoder.

No matter how you categorize it, this is a new BMW offering. I actually like the lines and muscular fender bulges — the look reminded me of the X6 SUV. However, the 550i GT hugs the ground and the fat 19-inch performance tires offer zero off-roading pretense. The frameless doors guide the roofline down the back and the 550i GT finishes with a high rear, but the designers softened it with down-turned taillamps, chrome accents and a tidy bumper.

Now that I've sorted out the shape, let's

get to the punch: a refined 4.4-liter V-8 with twin turbos spooling up to 407 horsepower. The power is quick enough and strong enough to rocket the 4,900-pound rear-wheel-drive wagon from a standstill to 60 mph in just 5.4 seconds.

BMW claims a top speed of 150 mph — believe it.

While I tested the 550i GT model, BMW offers a milder 535i version with a 3.0-liter, 306-horsepower, straight six and a single turbo.

autoSPECS

2010 BMW 550i GRAN TURISMO GT

ENGINE: 407-horsepower 4.4-liter V-8

TRANSMISSION: eight-speed automatic

DRIVETRAIN: rear-wheel drive

FUEL ECONOMY: 15 city/21 highway

BASE PRICE: \$63,900

AS TESTED: \$83,275

WEB SITE: www.bmwusa.com

continued on page 4

today's homes

SearchChicago.com/homes



Modular-style homes get a second look

Two years ago, factory-built housing accounted for 4 percent of all new housing starts. Today that market share has grown to 18 percent and is rising. According to Linda Beem, project manager at Capital First Realty's Glenview office, and the developer for Sunset Village, a manufactured home community located in Northfield, magazines and newspapers such as the Washington Post, Sunset magazine and Popular Science have recently reported favorably on the use of high-tech modular-style home construction.

"The homes are greener, have great quality and appeal, and in this economy, the important factor of money savings are all reasons that more people are reporting favorably on—as well as buying—these modern systems built homes," Beem said.

"Sure price and quality are important," said Jeff Jestus, area manager for Capital First Realty's Chicago metro area developments. "But what I think means a lot to people is the looks and appeal."

Full story inside Today's Homes

SEE INSIDE FOR:

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 Buyer program tips, preventing foreclosure

Loan Structure
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House to Home
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'01 Volkswagen Passat.....	\$4,995	'06 Nissan Maxima SL Leather, Moonroof.....	\$12,995
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'02 Jaguar XJ8.....	\$9,995	'08 Chevrolet Malibu.....	\$13,495

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Gran Turismo is a wagon unlike any other

continued from page 1

My V-8 turbo test vehicle checked in with Environmental Protection Agency mileage estimates of 15 city and 21 highway. I did not achieve those numbers, but that's my fault for having on the heavy shoes the week I tested this beast. Note that those official EPA numbers mean that the 550i gets slapped with a \$1,000 gas guzzler tax.

Power direction comes in the form of a sweet eight-speed — yes, that's correct — eight-speed automatic transmission that is a nice blend of technology and precision.

My test vehicle greeted the road with the optional Sport package that runs a hefty \$4,200. The multilink front/rear suspension is crafted from lightweight aluminum to keep the 550i's weight below 5,000 pounds.

My test car came with dynamic stability and traction control along with dynamic brake control. A unique optional feature was integral active steering for \$1,750 that employs electronic sensors to select steering weight/response and turn the rear wheels the same as the front.

For such a big vehicle, it does not move with a massive feeling, but it can fool you in tight spaces. Overall, I thought that some of the electronic aids jumped in too quickly and the electronic steering wasn't calibrated to deliver the connected-to-the-road-feeling I prefer. I will allow that this is not a sports sedan or sports car, and the ride is smooth and well controlled, but I expected a bit more from the "ultimate driving machine" folks.

On the inside, the 550i GT rocks with wide front and rear seats, featuring nice side support. The rear accommodations are posi-

tively limolike, but the seats do not hold passengers during aggressive driving if you do that sort of thing with a full load.

The rest of the interior has moved ahead of the existing S-Series and I hope it's a preview of what's to come in the sedans. I like the grouping of controls and the leather and wood accents really warm things up, adding to the luxurious feeling. The shifter, with its gimmicky park/drive gears control, is easy to pick up. The navigation system is easy to use, and while the iDrive system has once again been refined, it still requires you to spend too much time flipping through screens, turning a knob and thus requiring you to take your eyes off the road.

My test vehicle came with a luxury rear-seat option package for a pricey \$3,650, but you get pampered by heated/cooled/reclining power rear seats, a huge center drink/storage console and power window shades that the kids really appreciated. The console cuts seating to four so that's unfortunate.

If you want to add more tech and safety, go for the camera system, a \$750 option that not only shows you what's behind you, but also

on the sides. The system audibly alerts you to objects on the sides and behind you and you start to get irritated because it goes off a lot.

The standout feature on the 2010 550i GT is the drivetrain. Yes, it sucks gas, but the twin turbos really felt strong, smooth and everything works to launch this buggy with authority. The eight-speed automatic transmission will become the benchmark for smoothness and power application.

Now get ready to buckle up. My 2010 BMW 550i Gran Turismo tester started at \$63,900. Once you add all the options like leather for \$1,000, active seat package at \$1,950, camera package for \$750, convenience package for \$1,900, cold weather package for \$950 and the previously mentioned rear seat luxury, sport package and guzzler tax, things really escalate.

The final as-tested price zoomed to \$83,275, including the \$875 for destination.

So, technically, the 2010 550i GT is a wagon, but it's an introduction to a whole new line of S-Series cars. The improved interior and stout power train hold promise for the sports sedan crowd.



autoREVIEW

Hyundai goes green with Elantra Blue

BY ANDY MIKONIS
SearchChicagoAutos Correspondent

As one of only three automakers to post a sales increase in the United States last year with continuing big gains through March, Hyundai must be doing something right. Genius marketing and significant warranty coverage will get you so far, but the product needs to back it up. Hyundai's compact Elantra Blue for 2010 offers a low price of entry, a substantial list of features and competitive fuel mileage.

Since saving fuel is all the rage, Hyundai is offering a "Blue" variation on several models this year. The Blue badge means that this Hyundai Elantra has been tweaked with new tires, new gear ratios for its manual transmission and lower friction engine components. A "smart" alternator management system also saves energy. So that you can do your part, a shift indicator has been added so you can optimize your driving for fuel economy. The improvements are significant. The Elantra Blue has picked up two miles per gallon in both city and highway driving over last year's Elantra equipped with manual transmission.

So why not do this to all Elantras? Well, actually Hyundai did incorporate most of these changes across the lineup and added a more efficient lock-up torque converter to the automatic transmission. Other Elantras pick up one mile per gallon in each category. As far as keeping the base price to a quite low \$14,145 before freight, most people will want to opt for the convenience package for another \$1,700. This includes air conditioning, cruise control and an audio system with satellite radio, CD and MP3 capability, and an auxiliary input jack for personal music devices.

That is not to say the Elantra Blue is a stripper at the base level. Noteworthy standard features include power locks with remote keyless entry, power windows, power heated mirrors, intermittent wipers and a tilt steering wheel to name a few.

For 2010, the Elantra sees some sprucing up in the form of a revised chrome grille and some other chrome bits. Stylish

head and taillights add some interest to its cutesy econo-car styling.

The instrument panel is nicely designed, with a curvy symmetrical shape that cuts into the glove box but adds some extra knee room. It's done in a two-tone color scheme with satin silver accents and touches of bright chrome. The control layout is simple overall. Radio controls are easy to use, and the heating/a/c-conditioning system employs a classic three-knob layout. Cruise control switches are on the wheel. The aforementioned shift indicator seems like an afterthought because it is small and hard to see.

Sometimes lower priced cars have Spartan interiors, but the Elantra Blue has comfortable accommodations. Seat cushions are softer than expected. The console lid is upholstered and there are elbow pads on the door panel armrests. However, the steering wheel is rock hard. The trunk is good sized. The pass-through behind the 60/40-split fold-down rear seats is limited, but better than not having one. A handy handle is located in the trunk to drop the seat backs.

The biggest surprise about the Hyundai Elantra Blue is it is much more engaging to drive than most economy cars. The 2.0-liter four-cylinder is adequate — it's no racer, nor would you expect it to be — so I'll credit the manual transmission. Clutch operation is just right. The shifter is positive as well. Front-wheel drive manual shifters often feel rubbery due to the lengthy mechanical linkage required. Not this one. The standard four-wheel disc brakes have an excellent pedal feel, adding to the driving experience.

Handling, while not stellar, is respectable. The suspension strikes a good compromise between firm cornering and comfortable ride quality. Unfortunately the fuel saving characteristics of the tires make their performance iffy in snow. This car would definitely benefit from some dedicated winter tires.

Overall, the Hyundai Elantra Blue is a good value. I can really get behind it as a reasonably priced gas-saving commuter with some character thrown in to boot. It's the right car at the right time. With products like this, it's no surprise Hyundai has been achieving unthinkable sales in this economic climate.

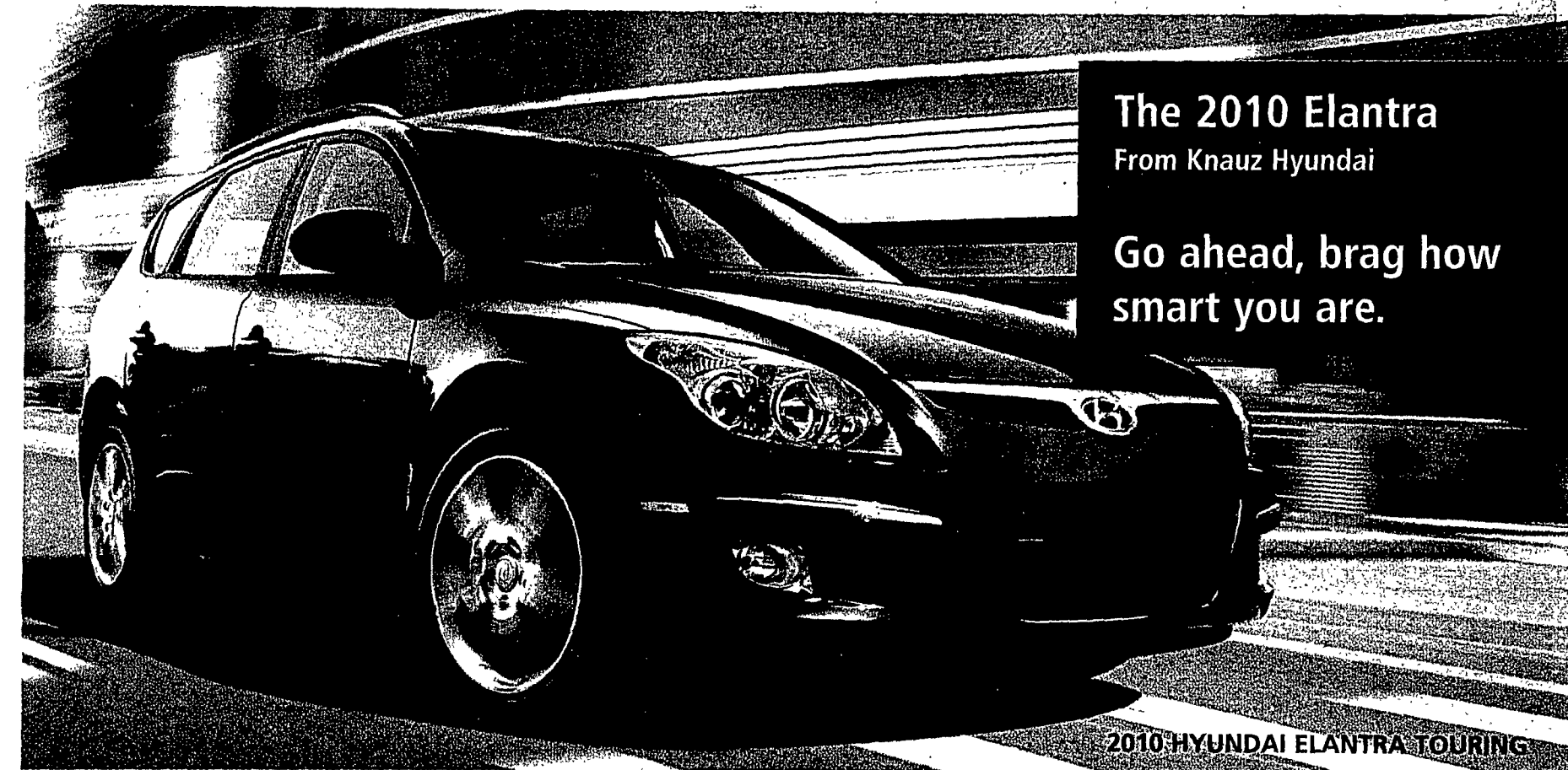
ENGINE: 138-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder
FUEL ECONOMY: 26 city/35 highway
BASE PRICE: \$14,145
TRANSMISSION: five speed manual
AS TESTED: \$17,926
DRIVETRAIN: front-wheel drive
WEB SITE: www.hyundaiusa.com



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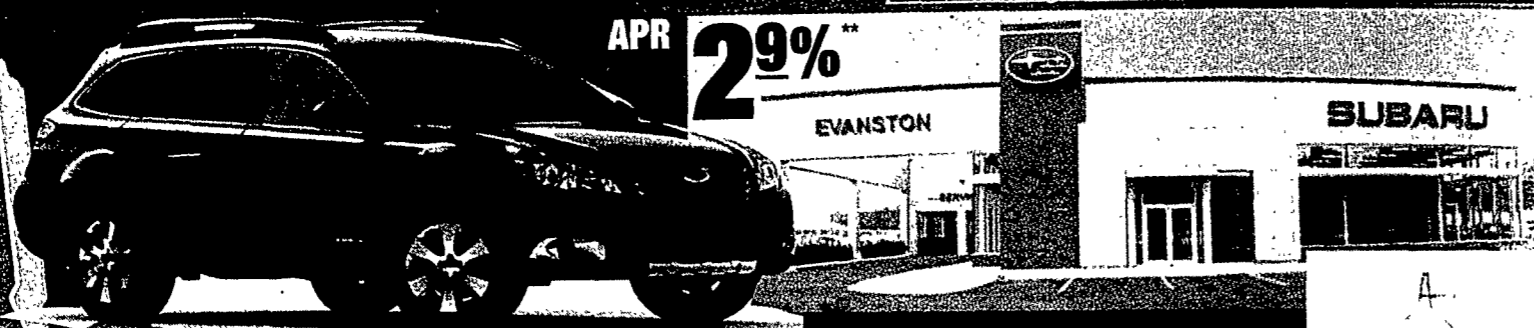
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'07 Mazda 3 Hatchback S	Leather, Sunroof, Automatic, 34K, Black, P3636	'07 Subaru Forester X-Prem	Auto, Sunroof, Heated Seats, Alloys, P3642	'09 Subaru Outback 2.5i	Automatic, Full Power, Blue, P3632
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'10 Mazda 3 Si	Auto, Sunroof, Spoiler, Alloys, Like New, 20K, Silver, P3638	SUBARU IMPREZAS		'07 Subaru Outback	Automatic, Sunroof, Bronze, 5710A
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'07 Mazda Miata MX5 Convertible	5-Speed, 39K, Red, #5815A	'09 Impreza Prem. 4-Door	Auto, Sunr, Alloys, P3646/48	'08 Subaru Legacy 2.5i SE	Auto, Full Power, Blue/Gold, P3543, P3493
'09 Toyota Matrix Hatchback	Automatic, Air, CD, MP3, 13K, 5886A	'09 Subaru Impreza 4-Door	Auto, Air, Full Power, Silver, P3641	SUBARU TRIBECA	
'07 Nissan Altima 2.5S	Automatic, Air, Full Power, Blue, 39K P3616	'08 Impreza 2.5i 4-Door	Automatic, Air, Silver or Grey, 3594/95	'08 Subaru Tribeca Ltd/NAVI	Leather, Sunroof, Full Luxury, P3610
'08 Mazda 6 Touring	Automatic, Alloys, ABS, Low Miles, 5383A	SUBARU LEGACY / OUTBACKS		'08 Subaru Tribeca Ltd.	Leather, Sunroof, Full Luxury, Silver, 18K, P3652
'08 Nissan Sentra	Automatic, Air, Full Power, P3614	'09 Subaru Outback LL Bean	Leather, Sunroof, 6K Miles, Bronze, P3639	'07 Subaru Tribeca Ltd.	Leather, Sunroof, Full Luxury, Silver, 25K, P3654
'07 Nissan Versa	Automatic, Air, Full Power, P3617	'09 Legacy 3.0 Ltd Sdn.	Auto, Leather, Sunroof, Heated Seats, 15K, P3609	'07 Subaru B9 Tribeca Ltd/NAVI/DVD	7 Pass., Leather, Sunroof, P3571
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today's homes

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION | NEAR NORTH EDITION | APRIL 15, 2010

CAPITAL FIRST REALTY'S SUNSET VILLAGE, NORTHFIELD

A bright future

Modular-style home construction receives good reviews

Two years ago factory-built housing had 4 percent market share of all new housing starts. Today it has grown to 18 percent market share and is rising.

According to Linda Beem, project manager at Capital First Realty's Glenview office, and the developer for Sunset Village, a manufactured home community located in Northfield, magazines and newspapers such as the Washington Post, Sunset magazine and Popular Science have recently reported favorably on the use of high-tech modular-style home construction.

"The homes are greener, have great quality and appeal, and in this economy, the important factor of money savings are all reasons that more people are reporting favorably on — as well as buying — these modern systems built homes," Beem said.

"Three years ago, I could see the value and the bright future in high-tech housing," said Mike Quam, a systems-built homeowner and



Manufactured housing, like this example at Sunset Village, are growing in both popularity and respect for its quality.

community resident turned housing consultant. "After shopping for a year — mostly on conventional housing and condos — I purchased here because it gave me far and away the most home for the money. I got great value, which means lower price and great quality."

"Sure price and quality are important," said Jeff Jestus, area manager for Capital First Realty's Chicago metro area developments. "But

what I think means a lot to people is the looks and appeal."

According to Jestus, 73 percent of the buying decision in a house comes from the women and women are looking for something appealing that reflects quality and good taste inside; something with good storage and a nice floor plan.

"Women can see past the wrapper of a package, they dig deeper," Jestus said. "Most of us men want

to know that we can affordably eat, sleep, shower, shave, park our shoes and clothes, and have a place to kick up our feet and relax. So we cover all those bases — great looks, great features, superior affordability — and all in a multigenerational home."

"Once people set the image aside of the 'old days' in factory building

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Local real estate transactions, PAGE 2

INSIDE Model Tour

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PAGE 7

REMAP is a plan that might save struggling community banks by allowing loans to be restructured.



DON DEBAT, PAGE 12

Rock Creek Homes in Henning Estates completes another model for viewing.

PAGE 3

Free home expo to be held Saturday, PAGE 14

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By design
Turnkey models popular at Heritage of Palatine

If you are looking to purchase a turnkey luxury condo, you should tour the new Geneva penthouse model at the Heritage of Palatine, a new condominium development at 50 S. Greeley St. in downtown northwest suburban Palatine.

The Geneva Residence 409 is the newest immediate-occupancy model to be unveiled at the 48-unit luxury development. The two-bedroom-plus-den, two-bath penthouse offers 1,518 square feet of living space.

Showcasing a split-bedroom plan, the Geneva features a dramatic entry foyer with views of the kitchen with a dual-height island and impressive great room with access to the balcony with a sunny western exposure. A large private office with French doors and full laundry room complete this home.

Additional appointments in the Geneva penthouse are upgraded raised panel cabinetry, upgraded granite countertops in kitchen and baths, Black Forest cherry wood flooring throughout kitchen and living areas, and designer-selected paint colors. It is priced at \$329,900.

"We are definitely seeing a trend of buyers looking for a new turnkey model home here in Palatine," said Katie Campbell, sales manager for R. Franzak & Associates.

"Buyers are looking for an immediate-occupancy home that has been created for them by a professional designer who chooses the tile, granite, carpet and carefully matches the paint," she added.

David Shelton, 60, had been renting in Palatine for five years and recently was condo shopping when he visited the Cypress model at the Heritage of Palatine.

"I decided now was the time to buy," Shelton said. "I saw the Cypress model and thought to myself, if I were to decorate this place myself, this is exactly the way I would do it, from the drapes to the paint colors and definitely the upgrades. It was just a phenomenal model."

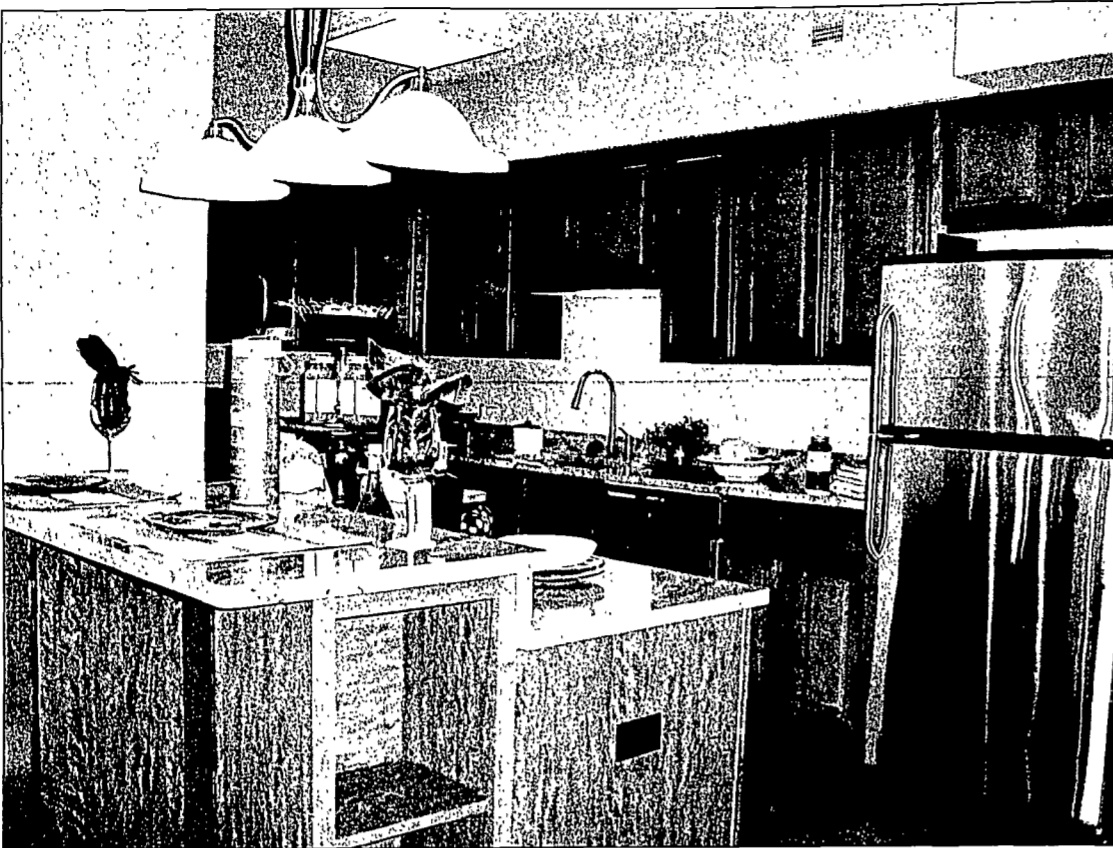
The Cypress Shelton purchased showcased a warm color scheme of neutral beige and burgundy as well as brown in the bedroom.

"My unit also has a beautiful art niche in the front hallway," Shelton said. "I am actually working with someone right now to find the right piece of artwork to put there, too."

Kevin Foss, 51, was also looking for a turnkey model and bought the Carlton at the Heritage of Palatine.

"I lived in a large 3,400-square-foot, four-bedroom, two-bath house in Cary that was on an acre of land, too," Foss said. "I downsized to a 1,600-square-foot condo and I certainly don't miss taking care of that acre yard."

Foss knew from the beginning he wanted to buy a decorated model.



The Geneva is the newest turnkey luxury condo offered for sale at the Heritage of Palatine development located in the northwest suburb's downtown area.

Visit this community

The Heritage of Palatine sales center is at 50 S. Greeley St. and is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information call 847-705-6238 or visit www.rfranzak.com.

"My last house in Cary was a custom home so I had to do all the interior selections and décor myself," he said. "That house in Cary had 54 windows. I had to do all the window treatments myself. So you can imagine how happy I was to have the window treatments already up in my new condominium."

His Carlton is painted in light greenish tones and all the upgraded selections were complete. "The carpet was perfect and all the granite in the baths and kitchen was basically exactly how I would have done it," he said. "I was definitely looking for a turnkey purchase and the Heritage of Palatine really met my needs."

The Heritage of Palatine is nearly 70 percent sold and offers one-bedroom, two-bedroom and two-bedroom-plus-den condominiums ranging in size from 1,126 to 1,716 square feet of living space.

Prices of the remaining units range from \$229,900 to \$359,900.

In addition to the new Geneva model, here are the details on a few other turnkey designer models available for immediate occupancy:

■ The Fairfield, Residence 208. This efficiently designed 1,126-square-foot plan features one bedroom and 1 1/2 baths. It has a master bedroom suite with large walk-in closet, a fully ap-



The Cypress is an award-winning floor plan that offers two bedrooms, two baths and 1,694 square feet of living space.

pointed kitchen with peninsula island and a spacious living/dining room with access to a balcony.

This home also features many luxury upgrades including oak wood flooring throughout the kitchen and living areas, granite countertops, birch cabinetry with a peninsula island, tiled baths and designer-selected wall colors. It is priced at \$229,900.

■ The Emerson, Residence 301. This two-bedroom, two-bath design

features 1,290 square feet of living space. This split-bedroom plan features a dramatic entry foyer with views of the tree-lined boulevard, kitchen with cat-in peninsula island and a great room with access to the balcony.

Finished with saddle birch cabinetry, granite counters, General Electric stainless-steel appliances and maple wood flooring throughout the kitchen and living areas, this home is priced at \$274,900.

■ The Colfax, Residence 215. The two-bedroom, two-bath home offers 1,515 square feet of living space. It is a split-bedroom plan featuring a dramatic entry with views of the kitchen and great room with access to the balcony. The Colfax is priced from \$289,900.

According to Campbell, this Colfax is the "eco-chic" model that MB Interiors has designed with many green products such as sustainable, organic, recycled and reclaimed materials, Energy Star appliances and eco-friendly paints.

The Colfax features a neutral color scheme of cream and mushroom accented by eco-chic materials such as bamboo wood floors, green-guard recyclable wall paper, shelves made of reclaimed railroad ties, draperies and pillows made with organic cotton and hemp fabrics.

A second Colfax, Residence 307, is also available and priced at \$299,900. It features a dramatic entry with views of the kitchen with breakfast bar and great room with access to the balcony. The home also has antique white cabinetry, upgraded granite countertops in kitchen and baths, exotic Saple wood flooring throughout kitchen and living area, and designer-selected paint.

■ The Cypress II, Residence 306. This award-winning floor plan offers

two bedrooms, two baths and 1,694 square feet of living space. This is one of the tierred floor models that showcase a large open floor plan and dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows in the dining room and access to a nearby balcony.

The Cypress II also features a large great room, autumn birch cabinetry, upgraded granite countertops, Black Forest cherry wood flooring and designer-selected paint; it is priced at \$359,900.

■ The Thoreau, Residence 311. This well-designed floor plan offers 1,456 square feet of living space with a west-facing exposure. The two-bedroom, two-bath model features an impressive kitchen with a cooktop island peninsula and a built-in double oven.

The kitchen opens to the dining room and living room with access to a nearby balcony. Additional upgrades include Java Glazed Maple cabinetry, upgraded granite countertops in kitchen and baths, exotic black cherry wood flooring throughout the kitchen and living areas, and designer-selected paint colors. It is priced at \$319,900.

■ The Belmont, Residence 216. The two-bedroom-plus-den, two-bath design has 1,518 square feet of living space. This split-bedroom plan features a dramatic entry foyer with views of the kitchen with cat-in bar and impressive great room with access to the balcony. An office and laundry room completes the home.

Additional appointments in the Belmont include toasted antique white cabinetry, upgraded granite countertops in kitchen and baths, black cherry wood flooring throughout kitchen and living areas, and designer-selected paint colors and custom window treatments. It is priced at \$334,900.



The Belmont model is a two-bedroom-plus-den, two-bath design with 1,518 square feet of living space.

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Make your deck a safer place for family fun

In every neighborhood, there's always that one house where people love to congregate. Sometimes all it takes is a sturdy front porch that draws neighbors for a glass of iced tea, or a backyard deck that becomes the outdoor kitchen, den and dining room, where everyone enjoys hanging out.

Making your home the hub for fun can be as easy as creating the space and inviting folks in. But it's important to make sure your outdoor living spaces are as safe as they are fun. If you already have a deck, give it a thorough checkup. See if you have any loose railings or balusters, and inspect the foundation of your deck for rotting wood, corroded or loose fasteners and any mold and mildew.

If you find that your deck needs repairs, consider updating it with new composite decking and railing. Lattitudes, a leading composite decking brand, offers several unique decking and railing combinations, each offer-

ing superior strength and resistance against the rotting, fading and warping that typically occur with wood due to varying weather cycles.

From a safety standpoint, check to make sure all the deck surfaces are slip-resistant and splinter-free.

In the outdoor kitchen "area," consider installing deck stones. One brand, Lattitudes, are self-draining, real stone tiles that create a fire and grease barrier under your grill. You can also use such stones as the base for a fire pit on the deck, which will make it a favorite hangout for teens and late-night marshmallow roasting.

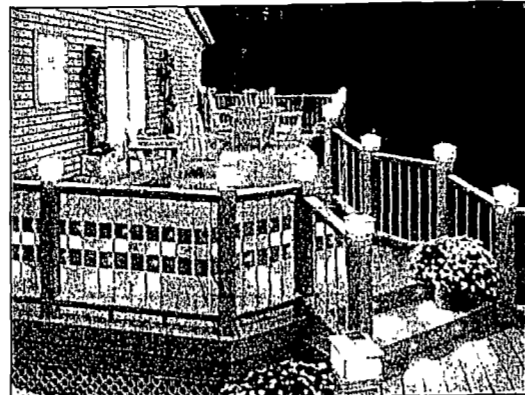
When safety is paramount, be sure to plan for lighting. There are many new products that provide direct or ambient lighting to help make your deck and outdoor living area safer for you and your guests, even late into the night. Lattitudes and Deckorators are two that offer low-voltage, LED recessed deck lights, which can be

set to turn on automatically at dusk, adding a measure of security to your home.

Eco-friendly solar-powered post cap lights come in styles ranging from the basic to the dramatic. Post cap lights are designed to fit on virtually any railing post on your deck. A rail with solar caps, no wiring is required.

If your existing deck simply needs to be refreshed — or needs sturdier rails to make it safe — the easiest way to update is with new balusters or rails. Some are sold in kits, with rails, post sleeves and post caps to help put a whole new face on a tired-looking deck.

This spring and summer, consider spending some of your home improvement dollars on the safety of your deck and the outdoor living areas of your home. These entertainment spots not only beckon to friends and neighbors, but add value to your home.



Perfect for deck stairs and walkways, low-voltage, recessed LED lights provide added safety. Shown are a light set from Deckorators.

Source: ARAContent

Model home tour features six new townhomes

M/I Homes is celebrating spring with a Model Home Tour of townhome communities. Six new professionally decorated models can be toured at Shelburne Crossing in Winfield, Plaza on New York in Aurora and Church Street Station in Hanover Park.

The Model Home Tour will begin this weekend and will continue the weekend of April 17 and 24. During that period, everyone who visits the six model homes in the three communities will receive a free gift, and may register to win a grand prize. In addition, those who purchase by the end of April will receive bonus savings.

In order to participate, visitors can download an entry form from MIHomes.com or pick up a card at the first sales office they visit and have it stamped at each sales office on their tours.

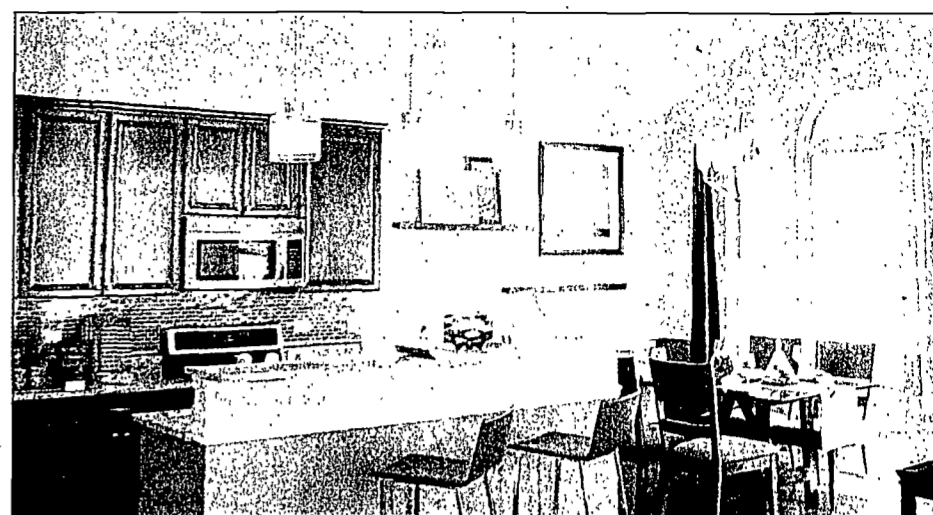
These brand new model homes are just being introduced to Chicago's home buyers in time for them to take advantage of the \$8,000 tax credit for qualified first-time home buyers and the \$6,500 repeat buyer tax credit before the April 30 contract deadline," said Ron Martin, area president, Chicago Division for Ohio-based M/I Homes, a leading national homebuilder. "In addition, we have 33 townhomes that can be ready to move into before the end of June, also in keeping with the requirements of the tax credits."

See federalhousingtaxcredit.com for more details.

Three model homes are featured representing the new Uptown Series at popular Shelburne Crossing in Winfield.

Nestled in a country setting with wooded views and a pond, Shelburne Crossing is within walking distance of the Metra commuter train station and downtown Winfield. The new Uptown Series includes four two-story designs with 1,579 to 1,858 square feet, two to three bedrooms, 1½ to three baths, and two-car attached garages, priced from \$191,990 to \$222,990.

In addition, a trio of two- and three-story rowhome-style



The Diversy is one of six new models featured in M/I Homes Spring Home Tour.

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Sunset Village FROM PAGE 1

and they step inside a few of our new models, they see that this is a concept whose time has come." Quam said.

"You fall in love with 9-foot ceilings, the rich look of crown molding, upgrade cabinetry with wood floors and adjustable shelves, the great Feig Shui from transom windows that let streams of natural lighting in," said Kathy Pagani, credit manager for Capital First's in-house financing division.

"You've got to be able to finance the home you love," Pagani said. "Not only do we have superior financing that is easy to qualify for, there is that incredible federal stimulus going on until April 30. Imagine, the money for your down payment could be advanced to you through our in-house process. It's like getting free money for your down payment, and that means you can live better while you live for less with us."

Modular-style home construction is easy to love and easy to buy, said Senior Vice President Jay Klarchek. It is greener and easier to keep up and it insures like regular construction.

With the federal homebuyers credits, buyers could purchase a home with no cash out of pocket. A great three bedroom and two full bath home starting in the \$90,000s, is ready to move into. Larger homes — up to and including a huge five-

bedroom three-bath custom home in the \$180,000s — are also available. All homes are in the top rated Glenview School district.

"There is nothing like this high-tech housing revolution, and Capital First is the company that has made this a popular reality in Chicago," Klarchek said. "Why buy a foreclosure and deal with tons of issues, when you can own a brand new home with full warranties, easy to buy, easy to live in?"

For more information and to set up an appointment to tour the high-tech modular style homes available at Sunset Village, call 847-724-7957. More information can also be found online at www.capitalfirstrealty.com/c_sunset.html.

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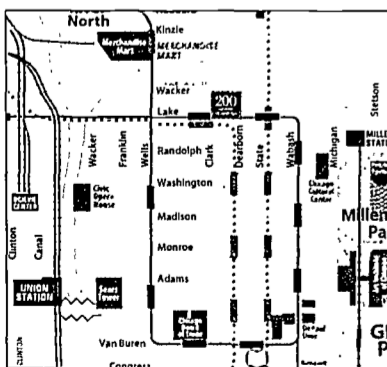
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1005	One Bedroom	\$340,200	\$190,069	44.13%
901	One Bedroom	\$355,100	\$190,223	46.43%
1105	One Bedroom	\$341,400	\$190,740	44.13%
1001	One Bedroom	\$356,400	\$191,001	46.41%
1205	One Bedroom	\$342,600	\$191,410	44.13%
1201	One Bedroom	\$358,800	\$192,437	46.37%
1405	One Bedroom	\$345,100	\$192,807	44.13%
1507	One Bedroom	\$348,700	\$193,119	44.62%
1301	One Bedroom	\$360,000	\$193,156	46.35%
1505	One Bedroom	\$346,300	\$193,477	44.13%
1607	One Bedroom	\$349,900	\$193,790	44.62%
1401	One Bedroom	\$361,300	\$193,934	46.32%
1605	One Bedroom	\$347,500	\$194,148	44.13%
1707	One Bedroom	\$354,200	\$194,517	44.61%
1807	One Bedroom	\$352,400	\$195,187	44.61%
803	One Bedroom	\$355,400	\$195,691	44.94%
1907	One Bedroom	\$353,600	\$195,858	44.61%
903	One Bedroom	\$356,600	\$196,418	44.92%
2007	One Bedroom	\$354,800	\$196,528	44.61%
1003	One Bedroom	\$357,900	\$197,088	44.93%
2107	One Bedroom	\$356,100	\$197,254	44.61%
1103	One Bedroom	\$359,100	\$197,759	44.93%
1203	One Bedroom	\$360,300	\$198,485	44.91%
1303	One Bedroom	\$361,500	\$199,155	44.91%
1102	One Bedroom	\$361,600	\$202,025	44.13%
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1302	One Bedroom	\$364,100	\$203,422	44.13%
1402	One Bedroom	\$365,300	\$204,093	44.13%
807	2 Bedroom	\$471,100	\$222,815	52.70%
907	2 Bedroom	\$472,900	\$242,365	48.75%
1007	2 Bedroom	\$474,700	\$243,370	48.73%
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1107	2 Bedroom	\$476,600	\$244,432	48.71%
1207	2 Bedroom	\$478,400	\$245,438	48.70%
806	2 Bedroom	\$486,400	\$271,751	44.13%
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Chicago task force unveils plan to save community banks

The backlash of the federal bailout of America's biggest banks now is being felt by the nation's community banks, the little guys like George Bailey and the Bailey Building and Loan in "It's a Wonderful Life," the classic Hollywood movie.

A task force of local banking experts predicts if substantial changes are not made soon to help community banks survive in metropolitan neighborhoods and rural farm towns, hundreds of these smaller lending institutions will be grabbed up by big banks.

Of the more than 200 community banks headquartered in the Chicago area, an estimated 119 — or nearly 60 percent — posted losses in 2009. Many



Don DeBat
ON THE HOME FRONT

In this environment, the competitive real estate market has virtually disappeared.

What this crisis means to the average home buyer shopping for a mortgage is fewer opportunities exist in your neighborhood to obtain an affordable deal from a banker you know and trust, like affable George Bailey, played by James Stewart in the 1946 movie.

Meanwhile, "banks too big to fail" received billions of federal TARP-bailout dollars, while community banks, viewed as "too small to succeed," received none, critics say.

However, the Community Banking Taskforce, a growing consortium of state-chartered

Illinois community banks, has a different point of view. The task force is proposing a plan that would allow the struggling community banks to restructure their non-performing real estate loans through property purchases by new qualified buyers.

"Property values are in a free-fall across America because there is no real competitive real estate market," explained Edward Kane, chairman of the Community Banking Taskforce.

"If the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), state regulators, community banks, state and federal legislators, real estate professionals and American citizens all work together, we can stop the

decline of property values," Kane said.

"We need to slow down the process of needless bank closures that cause spending of FDIC insurance funds and increase bank insurance premiums that then are passed on to the consumer," said Kane, senior vice president of Lincoln Park Savings Bank in Chicago.

"Banks are being forced to dump properties on the market due to pressures from FDIC regulators and the Illinois Division of Banks," Kane explained. "The effects of faulty property valuations at the time the regulatory authorities liquidate a financing institution all add to the continuing decline of the real

estate market."

The Community Banking Taskforce, led by Kane and Faye T. Pantazelos, president and CEO of Chicago-based New Century Bank, met in Washington, D.C., in late March with congressmen, the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers Association and the FDIC to unveil its innovative Real Estate Market Adjustment Plan (REMAP).

The REMAP plan requests an immediate moratorium on closing community banks that have adequate liquidity of 8 percent or better and are in a positive capital position. It allows prudent exceptions to

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Eleven units are discounted for immediate delivery at Prairie District Lofts, a true-loft building in the South Loop.

Rare true lofts discounted at Prairie District Lofts

The classic timber-beam loft is a vanishing species in Chicago, but a few choice units are still available at discounted prices at Prairie District Lofts, a 116-unit condominium conversion at 1727 S. Indiana in the South Loop.

"We have sold more than 20 units at greatly reduced prices in recent weeks and now only 11 immediate-occupancy units are available for purchase at Prairie District Lofts," said Keith Giles, president of Weichert, Realtors — Frankel & Giles, the exclusive marketing agent for Prairie District Lofts.

Prairie District Lofts is one of the last true-loft buildings remaining in the South Loop in a high-demand location at Indiana and 18th Street on the northern

edge of the Prairie Avenue Historic District, Giles said.

Here is a sampling of the available units, all marked down thousands of dollars from original pricing:

- Four one-bedroom, one-bath loft units are available with bargain prices starting at \$194,800.
- Six two-bedroom, two-bath loft residences are for sale at discount prices beginning at \$241,800.
- A three-bedroom, two-bath loft is priced at \$339,800, down from \$429,800 — a savings of \$90,000.

"This sale is an excellent opportunity for first-time buyers," Giles said.

Prairie District Lofts is approved for Federal Housing Administration-insured financing, so qualified buyers can purchase with a down payment as low as 3.5 percent, Giles said.

First-time buyers who sign a sales contract by April 30 and close before June 30 will be eligible to receive the \$8,000 federal tax credit through the federal government, he added.

The five-story brick building was erected in 1905 for a commercial photography company. Over the years it was converted into a rental apartment building, and now it has been transformed into a unique loft condominium development.

The lofts feature exposed brick walls, 12-foot to 20-foot-tall ceilings, timber or concrete beams and columns, fireplaces, track lighting and hardwood floors.

Visit this community

The Prairie District Lofts sales center at 1727 S. Indiana is open noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Monday and by appointment. For more information, call 312-360-9988 or visit www.pdccondominiums.com.

Lake County News-Sun

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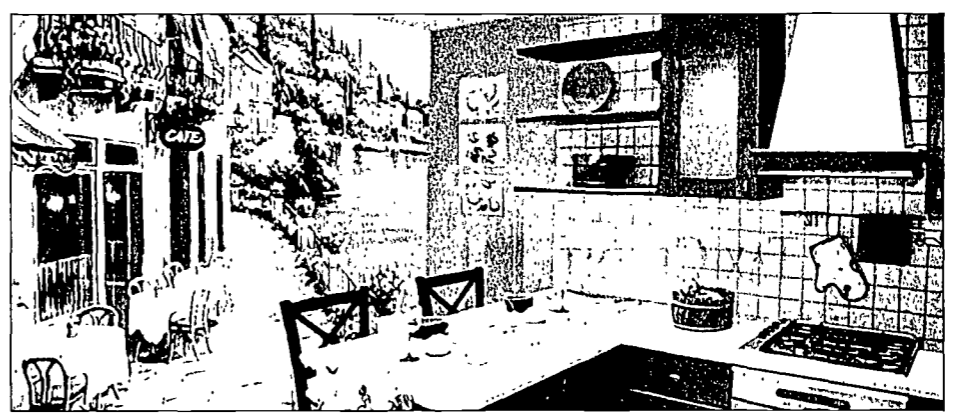
Five \$150 'tricks' to make your kitchen look new

If you've looked into kitchen renovation at all, you've probably heard some numbers ... it costs \$15,000 or more, on average, to update one of the most important rooms in the house. In this economy, who has that kind of budget? Yet don't we all deserve a kitchen we can live with?

Updates that will help you love your kitchen don't have to come with a heart-stopping cost, or involve tearing out cabinets and replacing countertops. In fact, it's possible to seriously improve the livability and usability of your kitchen with some designer tricks that each cost \$150 or less.

Here are five do-it-yourself ways to give your kitchen a whole new look for not a lot of money:

The softer side: Never underestimate the power of fabrics. The softer side of your kitchen decor can have a big impact on its overall look. The right window treatment on that still-tan window above the sink can really make it pop. New cushions can punch up the appeal and comfort of mundane kitchen chairs. And the right tablecloth and/or placemats can hide a multitude of flaws in your kitchen table.



A mural can change not only the look but the atmosphere of your kitchen at modest cost. ARACONTENT PHOTO COURTESY SHUTTERSTOCK

Many budget-friendly discount stores now offer curtains and kitchen accessories that mimic much pricier designer versions. It's not the most for your money, but the specialty shops and big department stores and head to your local discount retailer.

Take it to the wall: Another powerful and budget-friendly way to upgrade your kitchen is to give it a fresh coat of paint

and a designer-inspired wallpaper mural. A gallon or two of paint will cover most kitchens, and with some very good brands selling for less than \$30, that leaves you plenty of money left over for a mural. Use your mural to create a focal point in the room, draw attention to an architectural feature or make a windowless space feel more open and airy. Wallpaper murals are easy enough to do it yourself, and save money on installation.

Metal magic: Next, turn your attention to some of the easy-to-replace metal accents in your kitchen that might be looking worn or dated. These could include cabinet knobs, drawer pulls, electrical faceplates, even the kitchen faucet. All are easy enough to switch out for must-

do-it-yourselfers and you can easily replace all these items — including the faucet — for less than \$150 if you shop wisely. Remember, to improve the look of a kitchen, these accents don't need to be pricey designer name-brands, they just need to be new. New items will look better than old and shabby, even if they don't cost a lot.

Furniture fix: If your old kitchen set just isn't doing it for you anymore, there are a few things you can do to make things better. It's a good quality set that's just seen better days, consider refinishing it yourself to remove the scratches, dents and scuffs of age. Or, hit used furniture stores, flea markets and yard sales in search of a newer set that may be in better condition, or of better quality, than what you have. A third option is to check out a big box store that sells new, unfinished furniture and do the finishing yourself — which brings an added bonus of allowing you to have complete control over the color and look of the finished product.

Appliance magic: Your old washer may do its job just fine, but have some scratches in its finish from heavy use. Consider painting it. Check with your local paint store to find new, high-tech paints that bond perfectly with the metal or enamel on appliances to make them look like new. If your old stove can still crank up a sturn but has some stubborn stains and scratches on the top, or has grills that have seen better days, consider replacing grills and drip pans, or adding decorative covers.

Source: ARACONTENT

Debat

FROM PAGE 12

regulations with a year-end review of troubled banks on a bank-by-bank basis. REMAP also requests three urgent and immediate changes:

■ A moratorium on mark-to-market valuations on "held for maturity" loans. Mark-to-market is a trading accounting procedure that marks down the value of delinquent loans.

■ Allow community banks to restructure existing problem loans without loan-to-one-borrower restraint. Currently, state-chartered banks are limited in the aggregate amount of money that they can lend to one borrower.

■ Give community banks relief of loan-to-value and concentration regulations. State regulations say banks can not have a high loan-to-value concentration on various types of loans, such as commercial loans.

"The most important element needed to correct the current community-banking crisis is to suspend mark-to-market accounting rules," said Pantazelos. "Similar rules were suspended under President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression in the 1930s."

The taskforce hopes Gov. Patrick Quinn will issue an executive order incorporating these key points, Kane said.

"Because the primary regulator of state banking is

the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's Division of Banking, the state regulators have an opportunity to lead the nation in saving community banks," Kane said.

The task force also plans to ask for resolutions from both houses of the Illinois General Assembly incorporating the proposals.

REMAP would allow community banks to restructure existing problem loans and try to negotiate the best new loan they can. So not only will banks benefit, but so would new buyers and the community.

"If we are allowed to do this we may be able to stabilize the real estate market," Kane said.

The Community Banking Task Force says the renegotiated loans would establish market value based on the price the buyer is willing to pay for the asset, as opposed to selling the loans at sharp discounts.

"This is not a bailout. This is a workout," Kane said. Without a plan like REMAP, Kane said the rush to close hundreds of community banks nationwide will result in the loss of thousands of bank and real estate-related jobs and diminished the property tax revenue coming to the cities and states. This would accelerate the downward spiral of the economy and cause disinvestment in American neighborhoods.

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.

FREE HOME EXPO ON SATURDAY
Program includes repairs, foreclosure prevention, buyer programs and more

The Chesterfield Community Board of Review, Peoples Energy, the Illinois treasurer's office, several financial institutions and more.

In addition, a Foreclosure Prevention Seminar will be held at 11 a.m. with Judge Lewis Nixon, supervising judge of the Mortgage Foreclosure/Mechanics Lien Section for Cook County.

Visitors also will get to meet Glenn Harston of "The Fix It Man Show" on WYON Radio. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 773-651-3958 or visit online at chesterfieldcommunitycouncil.org.



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City gives green light to Eastern Tower project

Eastern Tower, a planned \$100 million mixed-use development in the Chinatown neighborhood, recently received final zoning approval from the city, according to Wabash Development Group.

"With affordable condominiums, an indoor shopping mall and a hotel, Eastern Tower promises to be a destination site and a totally new concept in mixed-use development in Chinatown," said developer See Y. Wong of Wabash Development Group.

Eastern Tower is planned in three phases on 2 1/2 acres at 24th Street and Wallace Avenue. Phase one will consist of 12,000 square feet of commercial space and 96 condominiums in a seven-story building, Wong said.

Affordable two-bedroom, one-bath condos with 700 square feet of space are expected to be priced at less than \$200,000 at Eastern Tower. Two-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath units with 800 square feet are expected to be priced in the mid-\$200,000 bracket.

Phase two of the development will include a six-level community center and indoor mall with 250,000 square feet

of commercial space and parking, Wong said.

The final stage is planned as a 22-story high-rise containing 150 condominiums and 100 deluxe hotel rooms.

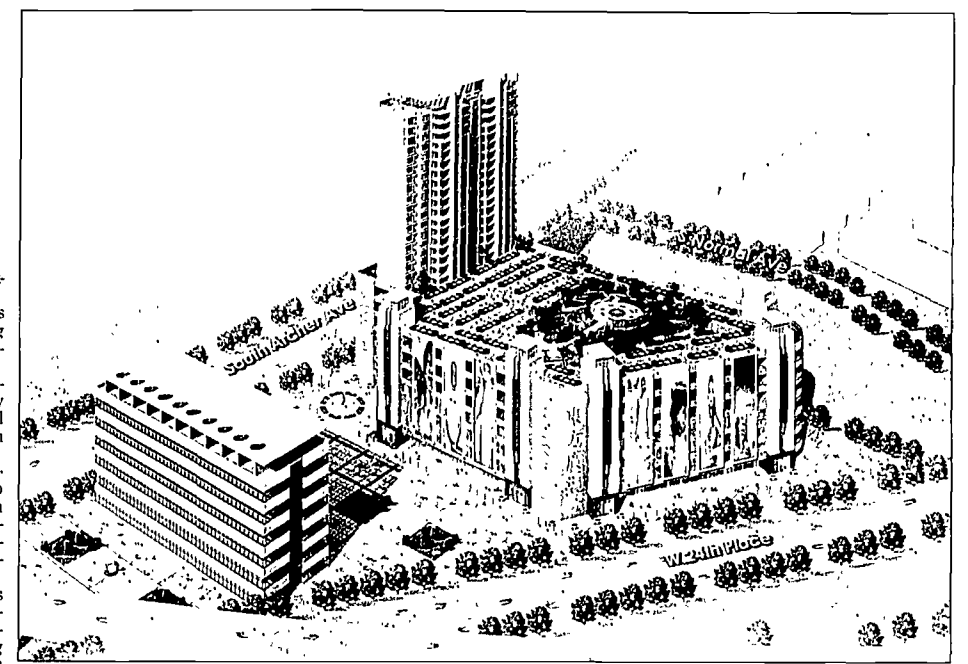
The Chinatown neighborhood is bounded roughly by 18th Street, Canal, 26th and Wentworth. Other Wabash projects in Chinatown include:

Grand Imperial Hotel, Wabash Development Group also is planning the \$50 million Grand Imperial Hotel Condominium, a two-phase Chinese-themed hotel-condominium development at 2150 S. Clark.

The initial stage is proposed as a 26,000-square-foot retail center and is targeted for groundbreaking in late 2010, Wong said. Phase Two is planned as an eight-story hotel with 80 rooms. The project is awaiting city approval, Wong said.

Canal Crossing, Wong is offering a special buyer's incentive at Canal Crossing, a 60-unit condominium development at 2318-2328 S. Canal.

"First-time buyers who purchase a condominium at Canal Crossing between now and April 30th can take advantage



This artist's rendering shows what the mixed-use Eastern Tower development in Chinatown will look like when completed. It recently received final zoning approval from the city.

of the \$8,000 federal tax credit and we will match that with an additional \$8,000 incentive," Wong said.

First-time buyers would receive the \$8,000 tax credit in the form of a tax refund. A first-time buyer is defined as anyone

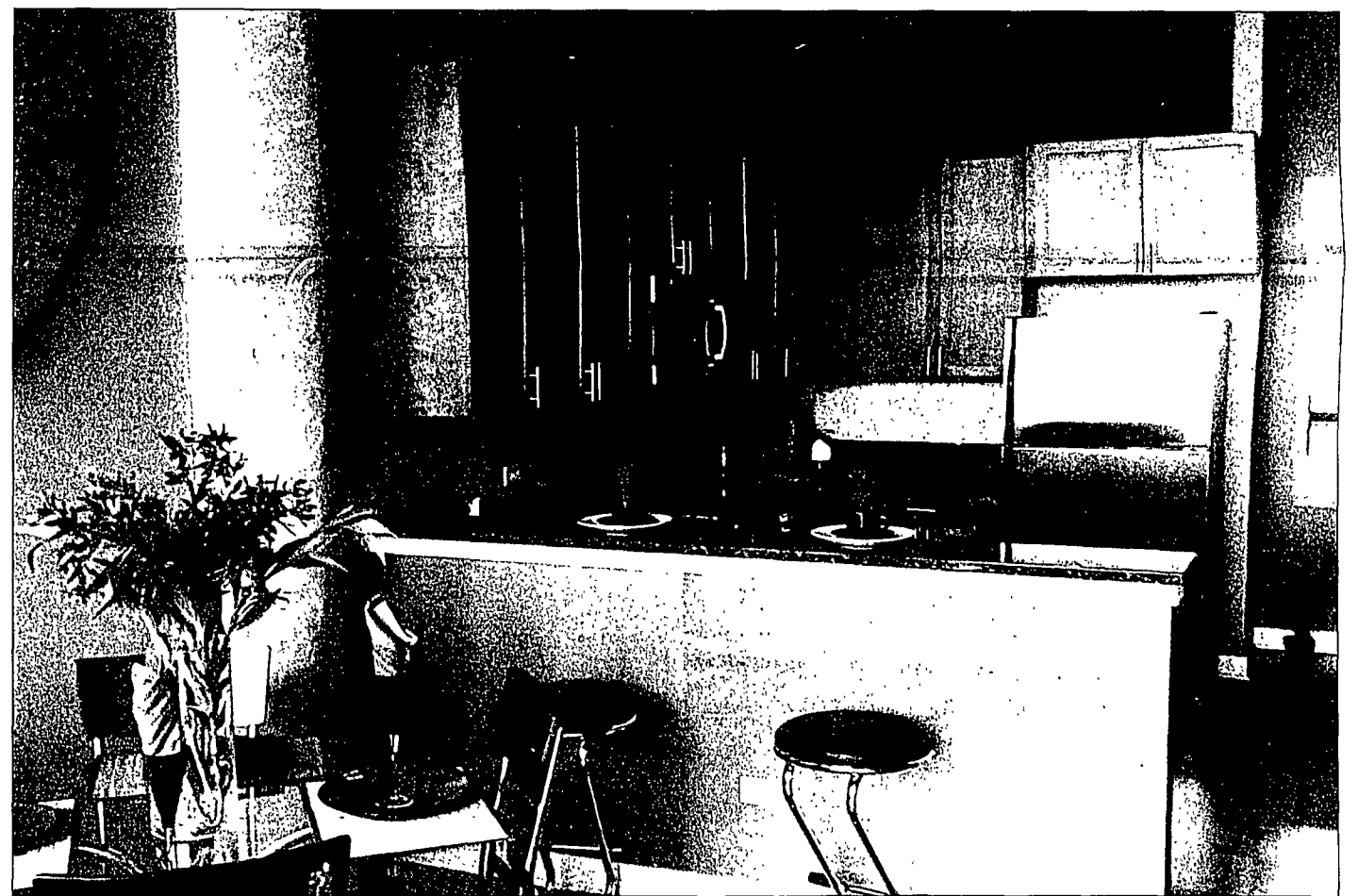
who has not owned a home in three years. Income limits for the tax credit range up to \$125,000 for singles and as high as \$225,000 for couples.

"Canal Crossing is nearing completion and is 90 percent sold," Wong said. Remaining

units range in price from the low-\$200,000 range to the low-\$300,000-bracket. A parking space is included in the price.

Ten to 15 percent of the buyers at Canal Crossing are from Hong Kong and mainland China, Wong said.

Wabash Development recently completed a two-story, 12,000-square-foot retail center one block south of Canal Crossing and the development is fully leased. For more information on the Wabash Properties' developments, call 312-360-1818.



Three new models showcase the design possibilities at Chess Lofts, 320 E. 21st St. in the South Loop.

New models showcase possibilities at Chess Lofts

Three new, decorated condominium models are open for viewing at Chess Lofts, a 110-unit loft development at 320 E. 21st St. in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood.

"Our featured homes — a limited collection of special closed-out priced one-bedroom and two-bedroom residences — now are available for a limited time at Chess Lofts," said Britta Rivera, director of sales for Weichert, Realtors — Frankel & Giles.

"Three new decorated models were unveiled during the phase-two grand opening event held on April 10th to showcase these incredible lofts and are now available for viewing," Rivera said. "More than 65 percent of Chess Lofts has been sold, and we currently have 12 stunning residences, with huge savings, which are ready for immediate occupancy."

Original pricing at Chess Lofts

for these residences ranged from \$219,900 to \$449,900. The final closed-out now features new discount pricing starting at \$104,900 for one-bedroom, one-bath units and \$249,900 for two-bedroom, two-bath layouts, she said.

"Along with these very affordable closed-out prices, first-time buyers who sign a sales contract by April 30th and close by June 30th can receive up to \$8,000 for a federal tax credit," Rivera said.

First-time buyers would receive the \$8,000 tax credit in the form of a tax refund. A first-time buyer is defined as anyone who has not owned a home in three years. Income limits for the tax credit range up to \$125,000 for singles and as high as \$225,000 for couples.

"As an added incentive, the developer of Chess Lofts is offering to pay up to \$8,000 for closing costs," Rivera said.

Model Unit 01 — a two-bedroom, two-bath corner residence — features 1,168 square feet of living area. The loft showcases north and west city views from a balcony that opens off the 19-by-13-foot living/dining room.

The adjoining U-shaped kitchen is equipped with designer stainless-steel appliances, including 21-cubic-foot frost-free refrigerator with icemaker, self-cleaning gas range, multicycle energy-efficient dishwasher, microwave oven, disposer and double-bowl drop-in stainless-steel sink. Granite counter tops and backsplash, 42-inch designer maple cabinets and Grohe chrome faucets are standard.

The model features a master bedroom suite to the right of the living room. The master bedroom (13 by 10.5 feet) is connected to the master bath by a dressing area with both walk-in and double closets. The bath

is equipped with a 5-foot soaking tub with marble tile and granite countertops.

The second bedroom and second full bath is off the entry foyer. The bath is equipped with a ceramic-tiled shower. The foyer also features a guest closet and a laundry center equipped with washer and dryer hookups.

"All Chess Lofts residences display generous 12-foot to 18-foot ceilings throughout living areas and expansive views of Lake Michigan, Soldier Field and the Chicago skyline through generous oversized windows," Rivera said.

All residences feature engineered hardwood floors in the foyer, living and dining room, kitchen, hallways and closet.

Chess Lofts' residences occupy the second through eighth floors, and parking is on the first two levels of the

building. Garage parking is available with select homes for \$35,000.

The vintage concrete-column loft building offers adaptive-reuse lofts with a grand mezzanine, a green rooftop deck with seating and barbecue area, and recessed balconies on two sides of the building. Chess Lofts also features a fully equipped state-of-the-art fitness center, a bicycle storage room and a rooftop dog run.

Come for a visit
The Chess Lofts sales center and models at 320 E. 21st St. are open noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Monday or by appointment. For more information, call 312-225-1300.

building. Garage parking is available with select homes for \$35,000.

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50 E. Chestnut offers penthouse living on each floor

The lure of luxury, privacy and a great Gold Coast location continues to attract affluent empty-nester buyers to 50 E. Chestnut, a 39-story boutique condominium high-rise only steps west of Michigan Avenue.

"Each condominium at 50 East Chestnut really is a penthouse that occupies an entire floor," noted developer Charles Huzenis of Jameson Development and Rush/Chestnut, LLC. "The building, at the corner of Rush and Chestnut, is so private it is like owning a single-family home in the sky."

With sales approaching the 70 percent plateau, only a dozen of the 34 unique residences currently are available for purchase.

"Buyers may choose from a wonderful selection of three-bedroom, 3.5-bath full-floor residences," Huzenis said.

The condominiums range in size from 3,845 to 3,904 square feet and are priced between \$2,871,900 and \$3,359,900. Parking is available for \$65,000 per space.

"Many luxury condominium buyers at 50 East Chestnut are starting an exciting, new urban life as downtown empty-nesters," said Ellen Nemirow, director of client services for Jameson Development. "Their children are grown and off to college. They are selling large North Shore and west suburban homes and moving to the Gold Coast, but they are not making much of a sacrifice in space."

Huzenis said buyers attracted to 50 E. Chestnut enjoy living near the lake and savor the excitement of living in the city.

"These are people who seek all of the amenities that Michigan Avenue and the Rush Street area have to offer," he said.

Each full-floor condominium residence offers a private elevator foyer. And each trapezoidal-shaped condominium has four light-filled corners interconnected by two terraces.

"Breathtaking, light-filled

Find out more

The model is open 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in Residence 2101 of the 50 E.

Chestnut building. For more information, call Jameson Realty Group at 312-944-5050 or visit www.50EastChestnut.com.

views through expansive windows are available in almost every room in these elegantly finished living spaces that are geared to gracious entertaining," Huzenis said.

Each condominium has windows with 270-degree views, three bedrooms, large living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens and family/media rooms.

The condominiums also offer a host of amenities including private garden terrace with dog run, top-floor fitness center with incredible views, 24-hour doorman and a self-park garage.

A professionally designed and furnished model by Gary Lee Partners shows buyers the versatility of the floor plans. The customized floor plan in the model envisions how the standard plan for floors eight through 35 could be individualized, Huzenis said.

The almost "gallery white" living spaces give way to a seductively dark master bedroom. Neutral-toned rugs and furniture float on richly hued wood floors, and natural stone and glass provide a counterpoint to the dark cabinets in sumptuous bathrooms.

The 21st-floor model design is impressive in its warmth and comfort. The designer eliminated some of the traditional walls, strategically placing millwork partitions that provide the ability to create intimate spaces by closing them or keeping them open to provide a



Full-floor condominiums at 50 E. Chestnut range in size from 3,845 to 3,904 square feet and are priced between \$2,871,900 and \$3,359,900. Floor-to-ceiling windows provide dramatic views of the city from every room.

dramatic vista along almost the entire length of the home.

"One of the appeals of 50 East Chestnut is buyers can customize everything and still move in within six months," Nemirow said.

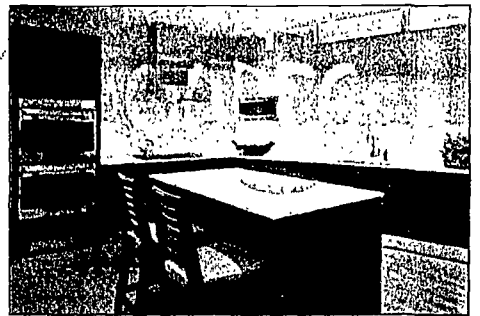
The developers currently are building out two custom-designed "spec" residences, one on the 22nd floor and another on the eighth floor. The residences are tentatively scheduled for completion in May and June.

"With so few residences, this is a very intimate build-

ing where residents will enjoy plenty of privacy unlike many of the new larger high-rises currently on the market downtown," Nemirow said.

In all of the residences, the 24.5-by-14.5-foot family room has access to a 6.75-by-20.75-foot terrace that is shared by the corner master bedroom (17.5 by 16.5 feet). The kitchen also connects to a terrace on the east side (6 by 18.5 feet), which has a gas hook-up and electrical receptacle.

All residences at 50 East Chestnut include technology



Kitchens at 50 E. Chestnut connect to a terrace on the east side that has a gas hook-up and electrical receptacle.

wiring, tray ceilings with cove lighting, 3-inch white oak select rift sawn and quartered wood flooring.

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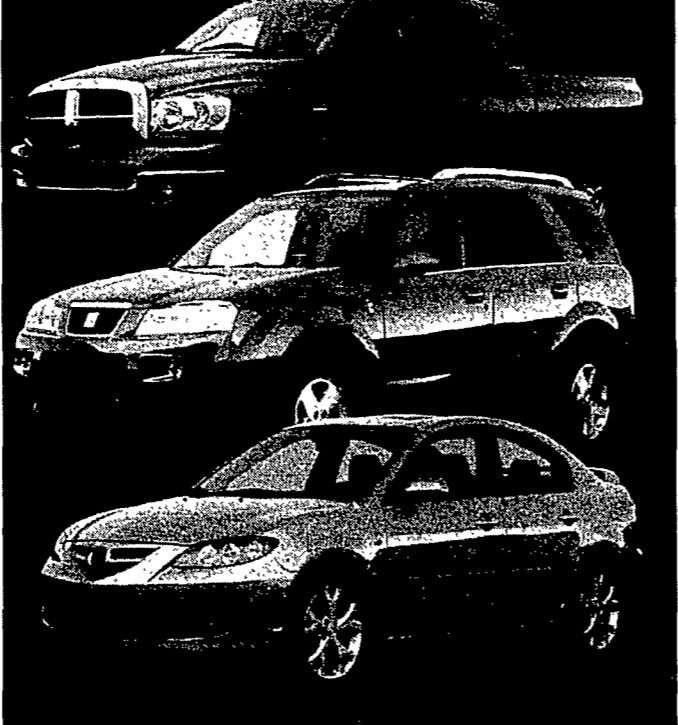
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'06 Chevy Impala

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'03 Chevy Malibu

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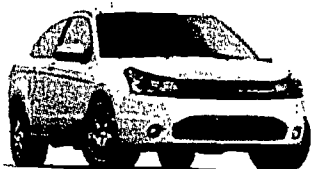
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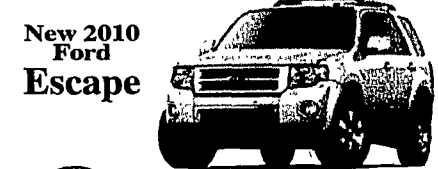
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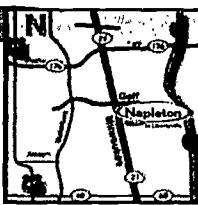
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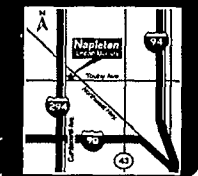
\$1,973 due at lease signing. Includes \$999 down payment, first month's payment and \$595 acquisition fee. No security deposit required. Excludes tax, title, license and doc fee.



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24 month closed end lease with qualified credit thru FMCC. Security deposit waived with approved credit. Lessee may be responsible for excess wear, tear and/or mileage over 10k miles per year. Offer expires 4/30/2010. All factory rebates and incentives applied. Excludes tax, title, license and doc fee. See dealer for details.



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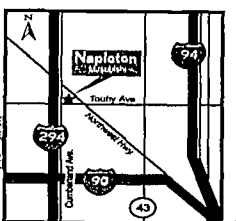
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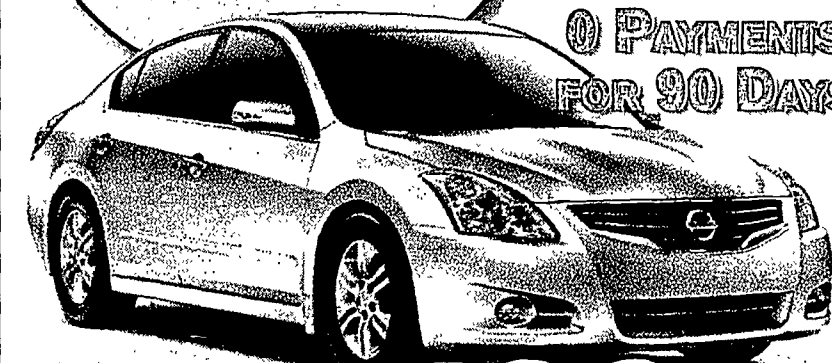
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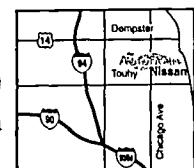
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2009 Nissan Altima 2.5S 16K Mi, P/W, P/DL, Cruise, Tilt, Stk#NP1306	\$16,995	2000 BMW 328i 174K Mi, Loaded Vehicle, Well Maintained, Stk#NP1236A	\$5,995
2009 Nissan X-Terra S 4x4 19K Mi, P/W, P/DL, Cruise, Tilt, Stk#NP1363	\$21,995	2003 Jaguar X-Type 103K Mi, Super Clean Vehicle, Loaded, Stk#NP1414	\$6,995
2009 Nissan Murano LE AWD 25K Mi, Lthr, Heated Seats, Loaded, Stk#NP1362	\$30,995	1997 Ford Expedition XLT 163K Mi, P/W, P/Locks, 7 Pgr, Stk#NP1277A	\$6,995
2009 Nissan 370Z Touring 17K Mi, Lthr, 6-Spd, Loaded, Stk#NP1353	\$32,995	2004 Ford Escape 74K Mi, Showroom Clean and Ready, Stk#NP1337A	\$8,995

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0% APR for 66 mos. ^ **1.9% APR** for 66 mos. ^

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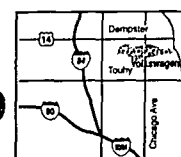
0% APR avail. on 2010 Passat Sdn. and Routan for 66 mos. w/approved credit thru VCI. Offer expires 4/30/10.

1.9% APR available on 2010 Jetta, Tiguan & GTI with approved credit thru VCI. Offer expires 4/30/10.



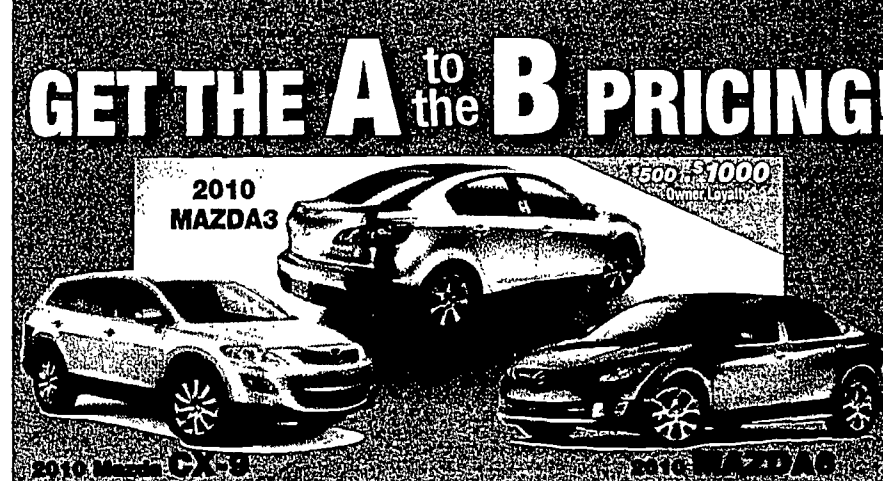
2006 Volkswagen New Beetle Stk#P13542	\$11,997	2007 Volkswagen GTI Low Miles, Stk#P13701	\$17,977
2006 Volkswagen Passat Low Miles, Stk#EV8555A	\$14,777	2009 Volkswagen Routan Only 2300 Mi, Stk#P13627	\$19,777
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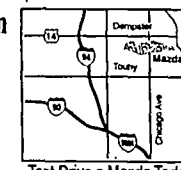
^0% APR for 66 mos = \$15.15 per \$1,000 financed, 1.9% APR for 66 mos = \$15.97 per \$1,000 financed. *Pre-Certified Pricing. Add tax, title, license and doc fee. Offers expire 4/30/10.

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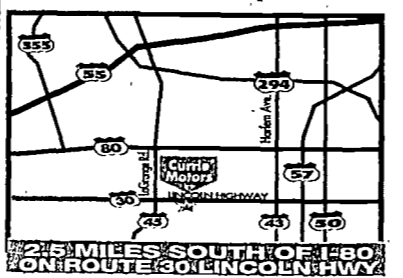
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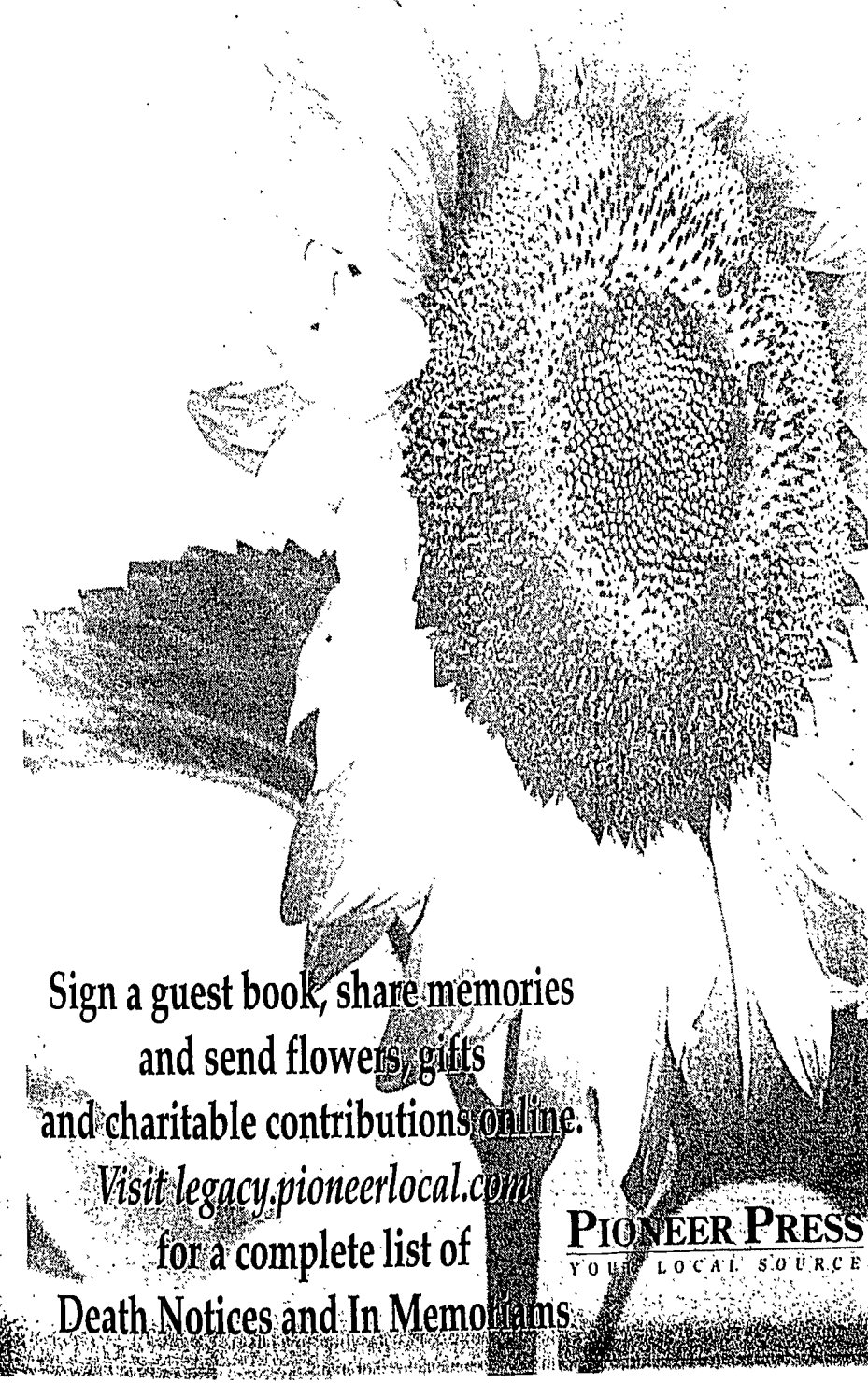
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REMEMBERING

Remembrances



Washkuhn, Dorothy J.
Dorothy J. Washkuhn, Peoria resident, formerly of Morton Grove, IL passed away Monday April 5, 2010 at 5:02 p.m. at Peoria's Heartland Healthcare Center surrounded by her family. She was born July 25, 1919 in Brighton, Michigan to William A. and Lorene (Wilson) Pless. Dorothy was a graduate of Brighton High School and Cleary College. Her father served as

Director of General Motors Proving Ground in Detroit. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Waldemar R. Washkuhn and only child, Wilson C. Washkuhn; also a sister, Marjion Lavey, and one brother, William Pless. Surviving are two beloved grandsons: John W. Washkuhn of Hoboken NJ, Reeve W. (Erin L.) Washkuhn of Aurora, IL, and daughter-in-law, Linda B. Washkuhn of Peoria Heights. Also surviving are three sisters: Josephine Powell, Shirley (John) Jarvis, and Linda Generaux, all of Brighton, MI. Dorothy was a member of Morton Grove Community Church; she enjoyed activities of her church and time spent with family, friends and co-workers. Funeral services and burial were held Saturday, April 10, 2010 at Acacia Park Cemetery and Mausoleum in Chicago, IL. Davison-Fulton Woodland Chapel in Peoria is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to Susan G. Komen Peoria Race for the Cure, Heartland Healthcare Center in Peoria, or Passages Hospice, LLC. Online tributes and condolences may be viewed at www.Davison-Fulton.com
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GLENVIEW ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE! Glenview North Church, 74 Park Dr... 9 AM to 2 PM, Off Glenview Road...

WINNETKA 1492 Scott Avenue, Saturday, April 17, 9-12... Greenbay to Scott Avenue, west on Scott several blocks...

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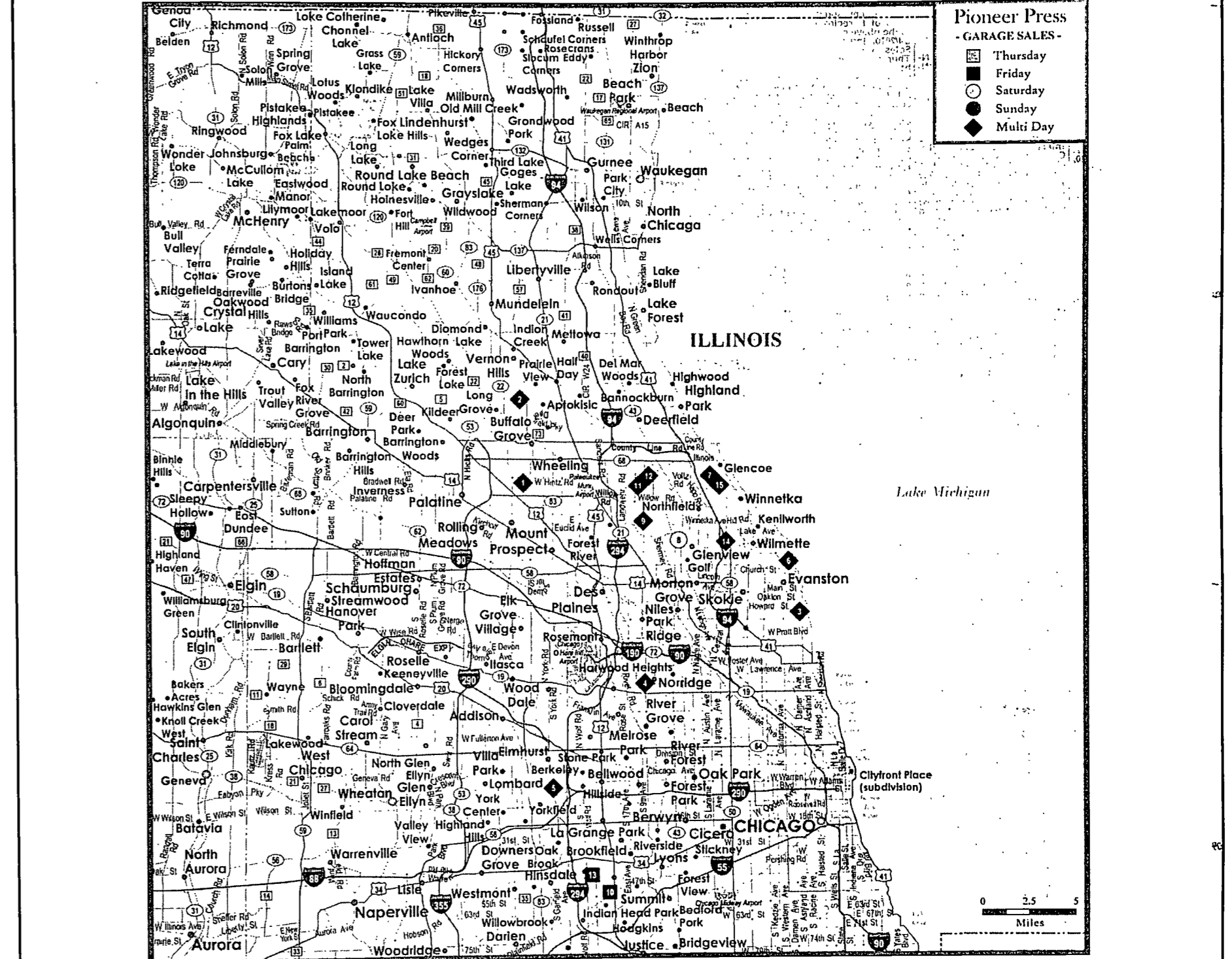


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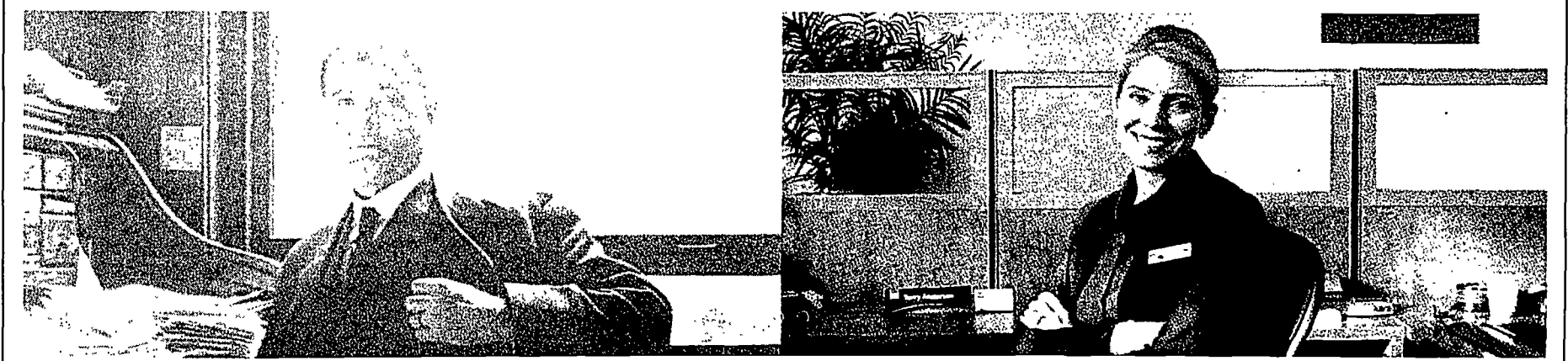
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DISTRICT 207

School board recognizes 'Best' students for April

Two seniors selected as Maine Township High School District as "207's Best" for April were recognized during a recent Board of Education meeting. The two, cited for academic excellence, are Molly Elizabeth Sompolski of Maine East and Abigail Wydra of Maine West.

Sompolski is currently enrolled in AP biology, AP chemistry, Italian 4 accelerated, AP economics, AP calculus and AP English literature and composition. Along with handling that course load, she serves as Spanish Club president and participates in senior lead-

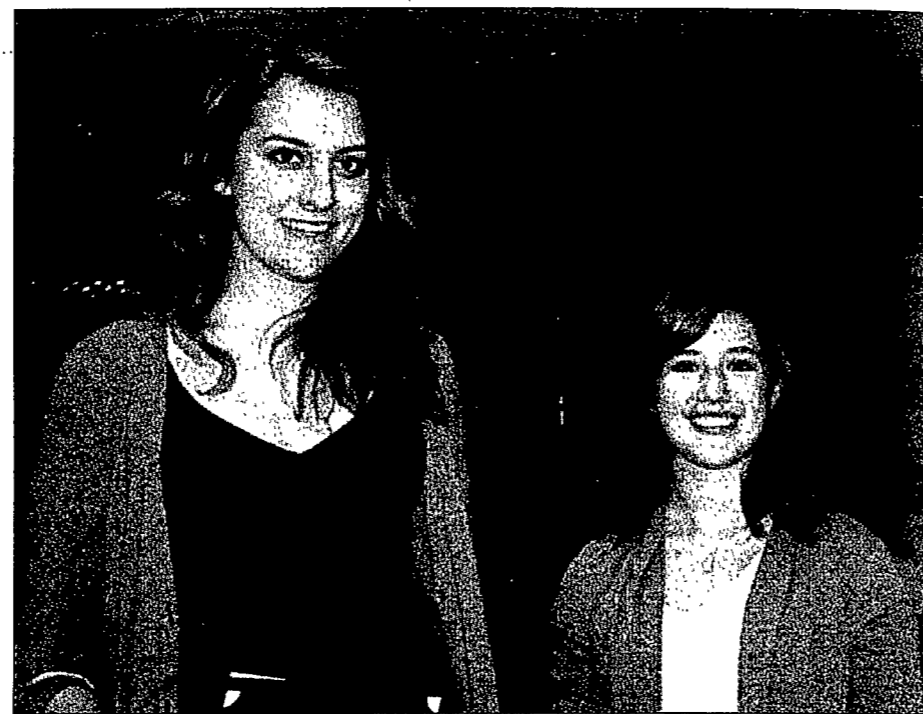
ers, cross country, the Maine Historical Society, Amnesty International and Class Council. In an introductory letter, East Principal Steven Isoye quoted several teachers' glowing reviews of her intelligence and work ethic.

AP biology teacher Julie Basile gave what would be high praise for any adolescent, saying that "Molly is always on top of her game, even at 7:30 a.m." Sompolski plans to major in chemistry at the University of Illinois.

Wydra ranks third in her class. Her course lineup includes Spanish 4 accelerat-

ed, Government and Democracy accelerated, AP calculus, AP English literature and composition, AP chemistry and Newspaper Practicum.

A National Merit finalist, she serves as copy editor for the Westerner newspaper. In her letter, West Principal Dr. Audrey Haugan quoted math teacher John Hauenstein as saying of Wydra that she is "pro-active in her approach to learning and is often seen helping other students that don't make connections as quickly as she does." Science teacher Derrick Swis-tak describe her as "one of



Abigail Wydra, of Maine West, and Molly Elizabeth Sompolski, of Maine East.

the top 25 students academically I have ever encountered." Wydra plans to major in history at the Uni-

versity of Virginia or Northwestern and eventually to study law.

Maine South's honoree for

April, Katie Rose O'Brien, was unable to attend and will be recognized during the Board's May meeting.

SCHOOLS DIGEST

DISTRICT 207

Artwork created by Maine Township High School District 207 students will be on display through April 17 as part of the annual Central Suburban League Art Show. The show is featured at the Art Center, 1957 N. Sheridan Road in Highland Park. The gallery is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The show is open to the public, free of charge.

In addition to the three District 207 schools, the Central Suburban League consists of Deerfield, Evanston, Glenbrook North, Glenbrook South, Highland Park, New Trier, Niles North, Niles West and Waukegan high schools.

NORTHBRIDGE PREP

Northridge Prep in Niles has released its third-quarter honor roll. The following local students achieved honors.

High school students achieving dean's list status:

- 12th Grade: Bartosz Bak (Niles), Tim Madigan (Libertyville), Daniel McDermott (Chicago), Bartlomiej Radzik

(Norridge), and Brian Taylor (Park Ridge).

- 11th Grade: George Adams (Glenview), Matt Badyna (Mundelein), Lawrence Bilello (Mundelein), John Birmingham (Winnetka), Mark Gigante (Elmwood Park), John Sander (Park Ridge), Ben Sturgeon (Cary) and David Zdunek (Chicago).
- 10th Grade: Nicholas Callaghan (Lake Zurich), William Cheely (Chicago), Brian Leahy (Chicago), Peter Madigan (Libertyville), Michael Stangel (Chicago), Daniel Tarchala (Elmwood Park).
- 9th Grade: Patrick Callaghan (Lake Zurich), Christopher Dunaway (Forest Park), Isaac Holterman (River Forest), John Radlinski (Chicago), Noah Repel (Chicago), Vincent Rinaolo (Lake Forest), Michael Romano (Glencoe), William Sander (Park Ridge).

The following **middle school students** achieved **dean's list status:**

- 8th Grade: Tom Carden (Chicago), Daniel Currie (Glenview), Alexander Lopez (Chicago) and Mitchell Wernet (Park Ridge).

- 7th Grade: Michael Vidovic (Park Ridge).
- 6th Grade: Paul DiFranco (Park Ridge), Michael Habisohn (Park Ridge), Jack Wernet (Park Ridge) and John Zaris (Park Ridge).

First Honors were awarded to the following **high school students:**

- 12th Grade: Michael Cheely (Chicago), John Hauff (Glenview), Peter Knapp (Park Ridge), Philip Krupowicz (Buffalo Grove).
- 11th Grade: Nicholas Galoway (Lake Zurich), Tim Mersch (Chicago), Michael Oswald (Chicago), Jun Young Park (Northbrook).
- 10th Grade: Colin Canfield (Chicago), Joseph Conroy (Grayslake), Marko Culjak (Skokie), Andrew Knapp (Park Ridge), Andrew Kuczynski (Park Ridge), Sanghyun Song (Glenview).
- 9th Grade: Tim Birmingham (Winnetka), Augusto Estrada (Chicago), Daniel Jolls (Wilmette), Gregory Knapp (Park Ridge) and Connor Tobin (Lincolnwood).

The following **middle school students** achieved **First Honor status:**

- 8th Grade: Pedro Acosta (Niles), Robert Bat-tin (Kildeer), John Falco (Niles).
- 7th Grade: Jacob Jaekel (Mundelein), Jacob Krupowicz (Buffalo Grove), Eunho Seo (Northbrook) and Brennan Tobin (Lincolnwood).

NOTRE DAME

Attend Notre Dame College Prep's annual "Boxing Fight Night" April 16 at the gymnasium, 7655 W. Dempster St. in Niles. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the first bout will begin at 7:15 p.m. General admission to bleacher seating is \$6 while premium main-floor seating is \$15. Students, matched by weight, age, previous experience and skill, will engage in three-round boxing exhibition bouts, with each round lasting 1 minute. Chances in a "split-the-pot" raffle will be sold throughout the evening with the drawing before the final bout. Call (847) 779-8664 or visit www.nddons.org.

RESURRECTION

The following local Resur-

rection College Prep High School students have been named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2009-2010 school year. The Resurrection grading system is based on a grade point average in which an A in a college prep class equals 5 points. Students with a GPA of 4.51 or higher are recognized with first honors; those students with a 4.00-4.50 GPA are recognized with second honors.

First Honors

Park Ridge - Francesca Bianchini, Kathleen Clark, Colleen Coppin, Kristen Krawczyk, Jennifer Pavel, Colleen Santella.

Norridge/Harwood Heights - Jessica Firlej, Nicole Fontanetta, Megan Gaseor, Melissa Gaseor, Hailee Higgins, Kelly Lechowski, Jamie Mussen, Sara Romano, Sarah Short, Andrea Westinicky.

Niles - Danielle Babich, Therese Casey, Kristina Getty, Sarah Gross, Jennifer Johann, Annmarie Mahoney, Mary Topp.

Chicago 60630 - Megan Ahern, Olivia Braun, Rebecca Burns, Angela Christides, Renee Ciccola, Lisa Crocco,

Digest, PAGE 27

OAKTON BRIEFS

The Alliance for Lifelong Learning at Oakton Community College offers spring courses at Glenbrook South High School, 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview.

Sushi Workshops (HEC F12-01) allows participants to uncover how to make sushi using rice, fish, seaweed, soy, shrimp, and ginger. Single session meets 7-9 p.m. April 19. Course fee is \$35.

Midlife Transitions: A Holistic Approach to Perimenopause (HEA C25-01) explores how hormonal changes can affect body, mind, and spirit. Learn how to modify your lifestyle to better cope. Single session meets 7-9 p.m. April 20. Course fee is \$29.

Go Green with Personal Care Products (HEC B40-02) demonstrates how to replace everyday personal care products, including shampoo, soap, toothpaste, and deodorant, with natural botanicals. Course is taught by a certified aroma therapist. A materials fee

of \$10 is due at the session. Single session meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. April 20. Course fee is \$37.

For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3.

The Emeritus Program at Oakton Community College, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skolde, offers the following special courses starting in April.

Tai Chi (PED E30-73) demonstrates the ancient Chinese exercise that has been shown to reduce stress and improve circulation. Tai Chi is best practiced in loose clothing and stocking feet. Six-week course meets 1:15-2:15 p.m. Mondays starting April 19. Course fee is \$72.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down (HUM E74-72) allows movie buffs to share opinions about recent films. Four-week course meets 1-3 p.m. Fridays starting April 23. Course fee is \$70.

For more information,

call (847) 635-1414 or (847) 982-9888, press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes, course fees, seminars, and events, visit www.oakton.edu/emmeritus.

Explore the fascinating city of Beijing on a travel/study tour offered by Oakton Community College. This tour departs in May.

Visit the Summer Palace, the country's largest and best-preserved royal garden. Walk along a portion of the 3,700-mile Great Wall. At the Beijing Zoo, view giant pandas and thousands of other creatures from around the world. Experience the city's narrow hutong alleyways on a rickshaw tour. The trip also includes a lesson in the art of making dumplings.

For complete itineraries and information about upcoming 2010 tours, call Bea Cornelissen at (847) 635-1812, or visit www.oakton.edu/news/first/travel.htm.

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Let them eat steak

Executive Chef Rick Tramonto slices steak that will be used in his Grilled Steak Caesar Salad. (Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer)



Executive Chef Rick Tramonto serves up Grilled Steak Caesar Salad, one of the recipes featured in his new cookbook, *Steak with Friends*. (Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer)

Rick Tramonto's newest take on the popular cut

By **VERONICA HINKE**
Contributor

Chef Rick Tramonto's latest cookbook might be titled *Steak with Friends*. But red meat isn't the only food that pops from the 300 colorful pages of his seventh cookbook project.

This 150-recipe collection pays equal attention to "friends" of steak. "We joke all of the time, when we're putting meals together at home: 'What would be a friend of this food, or that food?'" said the Vernon Hills resident.

And baked potatoes and fries aren't the only sidekicks a steak can have. Case-in-point: Grilled

Steak Caesar Salad, a great way to work leftover steak into a healthy, interesting meal the next night. "It doesn't necessarily always need to be about, 'let's go out and buy a steak to make a salad,'" Tramonto said.

Versatile salads easily accommodate seasonal ingredients. "Asparagus would be fantastic in it, especially if you grill it," Tramonto said. Blanch asparagus in a big kettle of salted water on the stove for a minute or two, then toss them in a little bit of salt, pepper and olive oil before laying them on the grill for a couple of minutes on each side. "Just to get some smoke and grill flavor to it," Tramonto pointed out. Let the

asparagus rest after removing them from the grill. Then chop them up and throw them into the salad.

Steak with Friends also includes Tramonto's service pointers for steak lovers. Sidebars such as "How to buy and treat a mussel," or "Why I use kosher salt" guide home cooks. He explains how to custom grill a steak, and easy ways to tell when a steak is done. For experienced cooks, like Tramonto, doneness can be judged by feel.

Now that his cookbook is complete, *Steak with Friends: At Home, with Rick Tramonto* (Andrews McMeel, 2010) will hit bookstores April 27.

vinegar, onion, cilantro, parsley, garlic, jalapeños, salt, fennel seeds, black pepper and cayenne. Process until smooth. Reserve 3 tablespoons for later use. Put steaks in large, shallow glass or ceramic dish or pan, cover with marinade, and turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 8 hours. Prepare medium-hot grill or heat a broiler.

Meanwhile, make dressing: In bowl of food processor fitted with metal blade, mix together Parmesan, eggs, anchovies, garlic, lemon juice, vinegar,

mustard and Worcestershire. Process for 30 seconds. With food processor running, slowly drizzle olive oil through feed tube until sauce is emulsified. Use right away or transfer to lidded glass jar and refrigerate until ready to use.

To grill steaks: Remove steaks from marinade. Let excess drip off into pan. Discard marinade. Grill steaks, turning once, for 10 to 15 minutes for medium rare, or to the degree of doneness you prefer. The cooking time will depend on thickness of steak. Let steaks rest on cutting board

for 10 minutes before slicing. For salad: Fill deep skillet or saucpan halfway with water. Bring to simmer over medium-high heat. Cook haricots verts or asparagus for about 2 minutes, or just until blanched and bright green. Drain. Plunge into bowl of ice and water. Drain again. In mixing bowl, toss haricots verts or asparagus, croutons, romaine, tomatoes, and anchovies with dressing, coating lettuce evenly. Slice steaks against grain and on diagonal for tenderness. Garnish with basil leaves and add black pepper, to taste.

Digest

Continued from PAGE 24

LeFevour, Theresa LoBianco, Alyssa Marquez, Michelle McGlenn, Siobhan McManus, Claire Moriarty, Pamela Nehrke, Lauren Neja, Michelle Neumann, Catherine O'Connor, Ellen Olker, Jennifer O'Shea, Alyse Piggott, Margaret Powers, Briana Rabiola, Jenna Rice, Natalie Rojas, Susan Russin, Stephanie Scavone, Carolyn Schoenbeck, Bailey Scianna, Danielle Sisco, Kelly Sweeney, Alexis Szyszka, Amanda Tam, Samantha Toomey, Alyssa Triptow, Eileen Ward, Amanda Willner, Abigail Witzczak, Angela Wright.

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Second Honors

Park Ridge - Katherine Angelini, Kristine Florentino, Hannah Lawson.

Norridge/Harwood Heights - Sara Due, Theresa Ghiloni, Jennie Holland, Kira Mosthof, Regina Peters, Alexandra Sisk, Daniella Toia, Carolina Woloszyn.

Niles - Sofia Lyskanowski, Gina Orlandi, Stephanie Pepoin, Diana Ziemba.

Chicago 60630 - Amanda Angelopoulos, Danielle Berger, Erica Braun, Shanice Caravette, Alyson Cervantes, Sarah Cunningham, Kathier Dang, Bridget Doherty, Laura Pain, Alicia Gamboa, Elizabeth Gillespie, Veronica Gomez, Teresa Kasprzyk, Stephanie Kozuch, Kacie Kusinski, Fiona Lally, Colleen McNaughton, Meghan Moran, Mandi Porcelli, Veronica Ramos, Angelina Russo, Jessica Schmidl, Brandie Spielvogel, Jennifer Spychala.

Chicago 60631 - Michelle Abbate, Nicolette Apostolos, AnnMarie Biancalana, Kelley Bowles, Margaret Breen, Natalie Burke, Emaly Burns, Jacklyn Canova, Courtney Cravens, Kerry Creighton, Theresa DeLuca, Taylor Denk, Stacey England, Kaitlyn Even, Kristin Even, Danielle Gaede, Cecille Garcia, Mariya Huseyko, Carmella Imburgia, Teresa Kawula, Amanda Kulanda, Jennifer Martin, Krista Marubio, Kelly McCleary, Maeve McGovern, Kaitlin Murphy, Robin Norwood, Abigail O'Donnell, Jaclyn Olszewski, Jessica Pawelski, Jennifer Pawelski, Madeleine Schmit, Emily Schultz, Allison Schultz, Nicole Simi, Anna Stauffer, Jamie Steier, Maizie Sterling, Stephanie Szyska, Sara Taylor, Karli Topping, Lauren Veller, Lindsey Veller, Sarah Wenzl, Jessica Wiktoerek, Jaclynn Ziobrowski.

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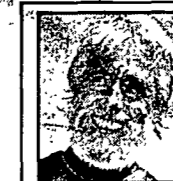
Chicago 60646 - Cayla Conforti, Margaret Cusack, Sarah Donohoe, Caitlin Henehan, Danielle Kolarzewski, Marissa Kot, Amber Makowski, Ania Martens, Marisa Martens, Alison McAndrew, Eileen McKenna, Kaylyn Norton, Melissa Pennino, Tatiana Salazar, Nicolette Tinerella, Alexandra Tkachuk, Megan Vasiliadis, Magdalena Zasadzinska.

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ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

Seventeen St. Paul of the Cross School students participated in the Illinois Junior Academy of Science at the Museum of Science and Industry in March. Sixteen of these students received a Gold Award and one received a silver award. Nine were selected to exhibit in a downstate competition in May.

The 17 students who participated included eighth-graders **Curt Belke, Zachary Blake, Hannah Ferstel, Nicholas Manos, Madeline McPhillips, Mary (Gracie) Ploen, and Melanie Ropski**; and seventh-graders, **Claire Burke, John Cichon, Holly Horkavi, John Klages, Jessica Petersen, Theresa Rathslag, Caitlin Riley, Brian Talbot, Lauren Whalen and Michael Zonsius.**



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Borden 2% & Dean's Skim Milk \$2.29 Ea. Gal	Chopani Greek Yogurt 99¢ Ea. 6 Oz.	Dutch Farms Bagels 99¢ Ea. Pack	Dean's Half & Half 99¢ Ea. Pint
GROCERIES			
Swanson Chicken Broth \$9.99 Ea. 14 Oz.	Dei Fratelli Tomato Sauce \$1.00 3 for Ea. 8 Oz.	Castella Grape Leaves \$3.89 Ea. 2 Lb.	Messina Extra Virgin Olive Oil \$4.99 Ea. 1 Lt.
Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise \$7.00 2 for Ea. 30 Oz.	Golden Rice (Long Grain) \$6.99 Ea. 10 Lb.	Assorted Wasa Bread \$2.39 Ea.	Carmon Chardonnay or Pinot Noir \$5.99 Ea. 750 ML.

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NORWOOD SENIORS NETWORK

Volunteers needed for meal delivery program

Norwood Seniors Network, a not-for-profit community outreach program, is in dire need of volunteers to help deliver meals to area seniors.

Each week, the Seniors Network, with offices at 6009 N. Nina Ave. in the Norwood Park neighborhood, provides low-cost freshly prepared meals to older adults who want to remain independent in their own homes. Neighborhoods and communities served by the Network include Edgebrook, Edison Park, Gladstone Park, Jefferson Park, Norwood Park, Portage Park, Sauganash and the suburbs of Harwood Heights, Niles, Norridge, and

Park Ridge.

Meal delivery volunteers bring hot nutritious meals and a lighter supper meal to more than 50 seniors, Mondays through Fridays, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., following carefully mapped routes. Most routes consist of eight-to-nine houses and can be completed within about one and one-half hours. The network needs volunteers who can help for one or more days a week or as seldom as one day-a-month.

"It's a very rewarding experience," said Jim Del Medico, a community representative for 41st Ward Alderman Brian Doherty. Del Medico has been delivering

meals twice-a-week for more than five years for the Seniors Network. "Many of these elderly are homebound and welcome the brief visit and a few light-hearted words of conversation," he said. "You know you've made their day when they open the door and welcome you with a beaming smile. Sometimes, it's those little situations that really make daily living worthwhile."

Persons interested in volunteering must have their own vehicle. For information, call Bryan Manasse, Norwood Life Care Foundation, at (773) 577-5387.



Norwood Seniors Network volunteer Jim DelMedico delivers a meal to the late Margaret Kelly, who lived in the Gladstone Park neighborhood in Chicago. (Contributed photo)

TROOP NO. 175

Scout reaches heights of 'Eagle'

Boy Scout Troop No. 175 Scoutmaster John Mazur, along with Committee Chairman David Okun, announced that another scout of the troop in Niles, Robert Martin, has achieved the highest rank in Scouting — Eagle Scout.

Martin has successfully completed his Eagle Scout project, which provided

many types of athletic equipment and uniforms to a school in Africa.

He will be honored at the special Eagle Court of Honor, scheduled to take place in the near future, where he will receive his Eagle patch, neckerchief and slide to commemorate his great accomplishment.



Pictured, from left, are First Class Scout Ryan Martin (brother), Dennis Martin (father, past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus), Eagle Scout Robert Martin and Cathie Martin (mother). Missing from photo is his sister, Christine Martin. (Contributed photo)

Calendar

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bloodgivelife.org or contact Kay Robinson-Smelie at (847) 800-6063 or the church main office at (847) 323-6597 Ext. 2.

A local dialysis clinic, Fresenius Medical Care Niles, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave., has started a new night-time program for dialysis patients. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.

Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 West Talcott Ave., Chicago, will offer the following health programs. Advance registration is required, unless noted otherwise, by calling 1-877-737-4636. Free on-site parking is available. **Family Fitness Camp**, Mondays and Wednesdays, through April 28, is from 5-6 p.m. This fun program is for parents and kids (ages 8 to 14) to focus on exercise and education. Mondays are in the swimming pool and Wednesdays are on land. Bring a swim suit and water shoes to the pool classes. Fee: \$5 per class.

Ongoing programs - Moms In Motion: Prenatal and postpartum moms

are invited to participate in this land/water exercise program offered Mondays and Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Club Res Fitness Center. Fee: \$5/class. Call 773-990-5600 for more information. **Yoga**: All levels are welcome. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9-10:30 a.m. at Resurrection Medical Center. Fee: \$8/class or \$75 for a 10 class punch card. Call the Health Management Department at 773-792-5022 for details.

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

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 homepage 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. **"Games Night" to Strike Out ALS** will be hosted by Wendy Adams. The fundraising event is held in honor of Adams' sister, Renee McClure, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2004. The evening will be held from 6:30-10 p.m. April 29 at the Hyatt Deerfield, 1750 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield. Admission is \$25 per player and includes snacks, desserts and more. Cash bar available. All proceeds will benefit the Les Turner ALS Foundation. **The Knights of Columbus Council 4338** is conducting a Wheelchairs for the Needy campaign. The public is invited to help others by providing donations for a wheelchair. For as little as \$75, the needy can gain their mobility with a new wheelchair. Donations may be sent to: Wheelchairs for Needy, c/o KC Council 4338, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles IL 60714. **The Knights of Columbus** are still distributing Tootsie Roll candy and banks with all profits given to mentally handicapped children. Tootsie Roll bars are available at 50 bars per package for \$6. The candy banks are \$2 each. Contact Ken Lee, (847) 967-6234. Send monetary donations to: KC Council 4338, c/o Ken Lee, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles IL 60714.

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House-Abel Engagement

James and Patricia House, of Park Ridge, IL, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Theresa, of Park Ridge, IL, to Christian Abel, of Valparaiso, IN, the son of Davis Abel and Marsia Gienapp, of Valparaiso, IN. The couple plan to marry on June 26, 2010 at First United Methodist Church.

Theresa is a graduate of Maine South, UIC and DePaul University and is currently a Second Grade Teacher in Skokie.

Christian is a graduate of Elmhurst College and is currently an Insurance Adjuster with Farmer's Insurance.

Twin Girls



Brooke Lynne Rogers

5 lbs 5 oz
18 1/2 inches

Cheyenne Miranda Rogers

5 lbs 9 oz
18 inches

February 5, 2010
Hinsdale Hospital

Born to proud parents Dave and Tracey Rogers of Melrose Park, IL. Siblings include Christine Lausier, David Rogers, Nick Rogers and Alyssa Abraham.

Maternal grandparents are Linda Jones of Northlake, IL and Roger and Tina Jones of Becher City, IL. Paternal grandparents are Mary Rogers of Berwyn, IL and David and Theresa Rogers of Ripley, TN.

Maternal great-grandparents are Merl and Nellie Jones of Decatur, IL. Paternal great-grandmother is Pearl Rogers of Ripley, TN.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wegert of Winnetka, Illinois announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Paige Wegert, to Daniel Joseph Hutchins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hutchins of Wilmette, Illinois. Elizabeth and Daniel are both 2001 graduates of New Trier High School.

Elizabeth, the bride-to-be, is a financial and litigation consultant in Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelors degree in Economics and is currently pursuing her Masters in Business Administration at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dan, the future groom, is an architect in Los Angeles. He graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelors degree in Economics and completed his Masters in Architecture at Southern California Institute of Architecture.

The couple plans to wed in September at the Kenilworth Union Church followed by a celebration in Chicago.



Manning-Porte Wedding

Danielle Lucille Manning, of Tinley Park, IL and Jeremy Franklin Porte, of Wilmette, IL, were married on March 13, 2010 at Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, by Reverend Judith Watt.

Danielle is the daughter of James and Bonnie Manning of Tinley Park, IL. She received a BA from the University of Iowa and a Masters of Education from DePaul University; and is currently employed as an Elementary School Teacher. Jeremy is the son of Ronald and Judy Porte of Wilmette, IL. He received a BA from the University of Southern California and is currently the Director of Operations at Show Department, Inc., Chicago, IL.

Matron of Honor was Mrs. Meghan Schact. Maid of Honor was Kim Hynes. Best Man was Adam Porte, brother of the groom. Bridesmaids included Valerie Nelson, Brenna Wriston and Sonya Masse. Ushers included Colin Manning, brother of the bride, Josh Goldblatt, Craig Mitchell, and Joe Czerw.

A reception was held at 6:30 PM at Garfield Park Conservatory. The couple honeymooned in Aruba and will reside in Chicago.



Bee Bryniczka 90th Birthday

Wishing a very special lady a very Happy Birthday. Love from all the B's: Gregory, Sherry, Andy, Carol, Danny, Lori, Adam, Eva, Nina, Vince, Trisha, Julie, Amy, Kevin, Nicki, Natalie and baby Anna.



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The Doings

Calendar

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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 Three U.S. Marines who fought in the pivotal, last battle of World War II will participate in a discussion and film program at 2 p.m. April 18 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Charles Matz, Ken Radnitzer, and Dick Vana will recall their thoughts on the eve of the war's largest amphibious invasion on April 1, 1945. Library patrons will then have the opportunity to view the 45-minute film, "Oknawa: the Last Battle." The documentary chronicles the heroic sacrifices made by America's armed forces during the bloody 82-day campaign to set the stage for ending the war. After the screening, refreshments will be served, and the Marines will be joined by U.S. Navy veterans to answer questions. All of the veterans are participants in the Veterans History Project at the Niles Public Library. Their transcripts can be read and heard over www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required and closes at 2 p.m. April 13.

The U.S. Census Bureau will be available to help persons who request assistance in completing their 2010 Census questionnaire through April 21 at the following times: 1-5 p.m. Sundays; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays; 5-8 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Census Bureau representatives will be available to answer questions in Russian, Polish, Korean and Spanish. Contact Diana Almanza at the U.S. Department of Commerce Chicago Regional Census Center, (312) 545-2511 or Diana.almanza@census.gov.

Youth programs, registration required - Wednesdays, through April 21: **Reading Challenge: Battle of the Books** competition for Grades 6-8 comes back for the seventh year with a new list of 30 books. Students form teams and will come back to compete in a contest complete with bells and buzzers, with the winning team winning a ride in a limo from school to the restaurant of their choice. **Craft in a Sack** April 15 and May 15. Check out at least one book, bring check-out receipt to the Youth Services Desk and pick up a "craft-in-a-sack" to work on at home (while supplies last). **CSI: Young Kids Mystery**, 1:30-1:30 p.m. April 17 for kindergartners through second-graders. Be part of your own mystery, using theater, stories, games and puzzles. **CSI: Mystery**, 3-4 p.m. April 17, for third-through sixth-graders. Help professionals from MysteryShop create and solve a mystery, using theater, games and mind-bending puzzles. **Di de Jos Ninos Celebration** will be held at 2 p.m. April 25 for ages 3 and older with an adult. Join storyteller Kay Weeden for a bilingual storytime. **Reader's Theater** for fourth-

through April 21 at the following times: 1-5 p.m. Sundays; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays; 5-8 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Census Bureau representatives will be available to answer questions in Russian, Polish, Korean and Spanish. Contact Diana Almanza at the U.S. Department of Commerce Chicago Regional Census Center, (312) 545-2511 or Diana.almanza@census.gov.

Youth programs on a drop-in basis - **Knights of Niles Chess Club** for kindergartners-eighth graders meets 3:45-4:45 p.m. April 16 and 30, May 7 and 21. Learn and improve chess skills, followed by open play; all levels of experience welcome. **Poetry Scavenger Hunt** through April 30: Favorite poems will be posted in the Youth Services Department and the Young Adult section. Find 20 of them and win a prize. No registration required. **Poe-Tree**: Through April 30: Ask for a piece of special leaf paper and library entryway trees will be decorated with your original poetry. **A Family Movie**, "Ponyo," will be shown at 2 p.m. April 24, free.

Teen Programs - Annual Poetry Contest: Enter by April 18. American Idol Elimination Contest. Follow along as the final six American Idol contestants sing their way into America's hearts. Vote for the performer you think will be eliminated each week and get a chance to win weekly prizes. Visit the audiovisual desk after April 1 for ballots and more details.

Movies - A documentary of "Edith Piaf: A Passionate Life" will be shown at 2 p.m. April 16.

Computer classes - Introduction to Power Point 2003 will be given from 1-2:45 p.m. April 22. **An Open Lab** will be held from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 27 (no registration required for this). Re-

search 101 and Internet Searching will be from 1-2:45 p.m. April 29. **Adult Programs** - The MoneySmart coffee hour program at 10:30 a.m. April 21 will focus on "Going Broke in Retirement? How to Increase Your Cash Flow."

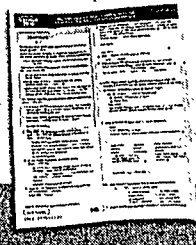
Maine Township Residents requiring assistance of any kind with the 2010 U.S. Census should visit Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. A Questionnaire Assistance Center has been set up and a bi-lingual OAC representative is available from 1-4 p.m. Mondays through Friday. The center will operate until April 19 and will aid English and Spanish speakers. Census forms will be available, upon request, at Town Hall in six languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Korean, Vietnamese and Russian. Language Assistance Guides will also be available in 59 languages at all OAC locations. All Language Assistance Guides will also be available to download or print at www.2010census.gov. **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.

Parenting
Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene will present "A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety" at 7 p.m. April 22 at Emerson Middle School, 8101 N. Cumberland Ave. in Niles. Tornabene will educate parents about cyber bullying, cyber predators, Facebook, inappropriate texting, junior identity theft, and how to protect children and their computers from Web-based threats. This program is sponsored by Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 as part of Healthy Living Month. **Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** is offering a new class designed for expectant dads. Boot Camp for Expectant Dads is taught by a certified master coach who equips expectant dads with confidence to interact with their infant, support the new mom and build fatherhood skills. The next class will be offered from 9 a.m.-noon April 24 at Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Fee is \$40. To register, call HealthAdvisor, 1-800-323-8622 or visit www.advocatehealth.com. The reference code is 8829. **Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** is offering a three-hour workshop aimed at new grandparents. The class provides an opportunity to discuss current childbirth and parenting practices, including childcare and feeding philosophies. The grandparenting class will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. April 29 at Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. The class requires advance registration and a \$20 fee to cover reference materials. To sign up, call 1-800-323-8622 or visit www.advocatehealth.com. Reference code is 8801. **Advocate Lutheran General Hospital** is offering a six-hour Baby Care and Development Class designed for couples, grandparents, childcare givers and adoptive parents who are expecting their first child. Topics include physical care, safety, sleep, common concerns, immunizations and development from birth through 12 months of age. The next session will be offered from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. April 18 at Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Fee is \$40 per couple or \$30 per couple if taken in conjunction with the Weekend Childbirth Series or Labor, Birth and Postpartum Class. Call HealthAdvisor at 1-800-323-8622 or visit www.advocatehealth.com. The code for this class is 8811.

Parks
Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities, call 847-696-0761 or visit www.mnasr.org. The reference code is 8829.

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A reception was held at 6:30 PM at Garfield Park Conservatory. The couple honeymooned in Aruba and will reside in Chicago.

Calendar

Continued from PAGE 31

ple with special needs by volunteering. Call (847) 966-5522.

Niles
Registration has begun for Niles Park District Tee Ball for girls and boys, ages 4 to 5. Tee Ball is an introduction to baseball fundamentals and team play. Team shirts and Major League replica hats are provided. One week of indoor clinics begin April 17 at Grennan Heights, 8255 Oketo Ave. Season pay runs from April 24-July 14. Registration fees are: residents, \$71; nonresidents, \$88. Call (847) 967-1529. Registration is being taken at the

Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St.

Pioneer Park is a great place for fund-raisers for schools, churches, synagogues, clubs and organizations. The Niles Park District can customize an evening of fun for an organization at Pioneer Park Mini-Golf & Batting Cages, 7135 N. Harlem Ave. Contact Julene Valle at (847) 647-677, Ext. 8.

Niles Park District Pioneer Park is open for the 2010 season. This facility has an 18 hole mini-golf course and 7 batting cages. Visit the concession stand for a cool drink and something to eat. Parties and fundraisers are also available. Spring hours are: 5-10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call (847) 583-2746. Pioneer Park is located at 7135 N. Harlem Ave.

Niles Park District New 3's Preschool is offered for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2009, missing the deadline for the regular 3-year preschool. Classes are held Tuesdays/Thursdays or Wednesdays/Fridays, from 12:30-2 p.m. 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
Registrations being taken for: **Youth Baseball:** League ball is available for youth ages 7-15. Practices begin week of May 3. There is also Hot Shots Baseball T-Ball Skills Clinic for 3-7 year-olds beginning May 8.

Hot Shots Sports: Hot Shots Sports and the Golf Maine Park District have joined together to bring various sports classes and clinics, offering

baseball, basketball and soccer classes. Stop by the Feldman or Dee-Park Recreation Centers for more information.

Community Garage Sale: Reserve a spot for the Park District Community Garage sale to be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 15 at Dee Park, Dee and Emerson Roads, Des Plaines.

Summer Camp for kindergarten through sixth-graders - Sports and games, arts and crafts, playground activities, field trips, spray park, swimming and more. Four two-week sessions are offered beginning June 14, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., before and after camp child care is also available. Register early to reserve a space.

Preschool ... where learning is fun - Early registration is important to en-

sure space for the fall 2010 semester. A five-day morning program and a four-day afternoon program are offered for children turning 4-years-old by Sept. 1, 2010.

Adult & Youth Ballet: Classes available for all skill levels from novice to an experienced dancer. Classes are held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Call (847) 297-3000, ext. 34.

Cricket - Dee Park now has a cricket pitch that will be ready for use this spring; call the park district for rental fees or availability.

Adult Softball Leagues: Register now for summer softball; games begin the end of April at Dee Park. Leagues include Men's 16-inch and Co-ed 16-inch and 14-inch.

sure space for the fall 2010 semester. A five-day morning program and a four-day afternoon program are offered for children turning 4-years-old by Sept. 1, 2010.

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Young Dons nab spotlight in comeback win

Soph pitcher, junior hitters step up

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

BASEBALL - Several of Notre Dame's youngsters played key roles in a dramatic, comeback win at Loyola on Friday.

The 9-6 victory, in nine innings, was ND's sixth against just two losses. It also capped off a strong spring break when the Dons went 2-1, including a win over defending state champ New Trier.

Sophomore lefty Charlie Jerger picked up the win Friday behind four innings of stellar relief. Entering the sixth with his team trailing 6-2, he worked out of a jam, then allowed just two hits the rest of the way. Jerger struck out eight, including all three batters he faced in the eighth.

"I came in with nobody out and a runner on, and my job was to get ground balls," Jerger said. "I got out of that inning, we tied it up and my mind-set was to go out there and throw strikes and win a ballgame."

ND head coach Bob Kostuch said: "Having a sophomore who can throw like that is exciting to see. He came in and slammed the door. His stuff was nasty and he can bring it a little bit."

ND's rally in the bottom of the seventh inning was ignited by junior pinch-hitters Fred Dickson, Cody Neidenbach, Jim Leyhane and Alex Babuschi. Babuschi came through with a bases-loaded walk.

"We had the juniors come out in the seventh inning and really step up," said senior Sammy Bungum. "That kind of pumped us up, and then the top of the order came up and showed what we could do."

Bungum's bases-clearing double was the big blow of the inning. In the ninth, his double knocked in the eventual game-winning run.

"That's what we expect from Sammy, that's how we live," Kostuch said. "If Sammy hits, then we win. If he doesn't, we're probably not going to win. He's our main guy — 'Sam the Man.' He's a special kid."

Notre Dame padded its lead in the ninth on a passed ball and a sacrifice fly by junior Jack Wietlisbach.

The victory took some of the sting out of a loss April



Notre Dame's Matt Moser prepares to throw to first after getting the forceout of Loyola base runner John Rafferty. The Dons knocked off the Ramblers Friday 9-6. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

7 to Barrington, which scored four in the bottom of the sixth inning to pull out a 9-5 win.

Neidenbach went 2-for-3 with two RBI, while junior Justin Sanetra drove in a

run, as well.

Wietlisbach (3 RBI) and Bungum (4 RBI) each homered in a 15-9 win over New Trier on April 5.

Notre Dame led 10-2 heading into New Trier half of

the fifth. After the Trevians exploded for five runs, ND countered with a six-run sixth, which included an RBI double by Sanetra and an RBI bunt single by junior Jeff Von Moser. Senior

starter Phil Kerber earned the victory.

The Dons were scheduled play Maine East on Monday and will welcome Marist for an ESCC doubleheader at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Dons forced to shuffle lineup for Rosen Invite

ACT testing leaves Dons shorthanded

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS TENNIS - After Notre Dame unexpectedly won the 2009 Ken Rosen Invite at Niles West, the Dons were unable to repeat the feat in 2010.

But considering the team brought just four players to the meet, ND's showing was

once again impressive.

With several players taking the ACT, Notre Dame finished sixth in the eight-team field.

Despite not being regular partners, seniors Geno Recchia and John Mazukelli won at No. 2 doubles. Seniors Jack Smith and Tom Crowley — normally the team's third doubles team — finished third at No. 1 doubles.

"Considering half our guys were gone, it was a great day for us," said ND head coach Steve Jankowski. "We got two medals. We

won last year, and we could have won again if we had all our guys here. The kids knew they needed to step up. They were a little discouraged and knew we were not going to have any singles players. But they worked hard and didn't want to waste their Saturday getting up early."

Recchia and Mazukelli defeated teams from Antioch, Niles West and Schaumburg to earn first place.

"A gold medal — we never expected that at all," Recchia said. "If anything, we were maybe thinking a

bronze. It was a great finish." The duo survived a third-set tiebreaker in its semifinal match, then cruised to a 6-2, 6-1 win in the final.

"We were really good at the net (in the final)," Mazukelli said. "We took advantage, they tended to stay back a lot. We had tons of overhead hits and that scored us a lot of points. Our ball control was good. We hit a lot of key spots. That led us to victory."

Normally, Recchia plays with Tom Crowley and Jack Smith, and Mazukelli plays

at No. 2 with junior Rick Tuvilla. Jankowski said he would think about keeping Recchia/Mazukelli together, but more likely will maintain the original partnerships for the sake of continuity.

Recchia and Smith have played together for two years. Crowley and Jack Smith finished third in the conference at No. 3 doubles last season, but remain a bit of an odd pair.

For one thing, they believe Jankowski brings bad luck to the team if they play during their matches. So the coach

is forced to watch from behind a distant wall. Also, Crowley and Smith seem to mirror each other, emotionally.

"The problem is that sometimes they get down in the dumps, and they are both the same," Jankowski said. "One won't pick the other up (emotionally). They are either both great or they both go in the tank."

Crowley and Smith defeated a team from Niles North, lost to a duo from Lakes, and then overcame Northside Prep in the dual-place match.

Wolves' bats howl in back-to-back wins

Senior catcher Jensen leads hit parade

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

BASEBALL - At least the Wolves kept their bats dry. When poor weather conditions washed out two of four scheduled games, Niles West bats showed signs of coming alive in their remaining dates. West ran its record to 7-2 with wins over Lake Forest and St. Joseph by scoring in double digits both games.

"We swung the bats well in the last two ballgames and started looking the way Niles West has swung the bats in the past," said Wolves head coach Garry Gustafson.

West defeated Lake Forest 10-3 on Friday behind a four-run sixth inning. The big blow was a two-run double by senior Dylan Lovering, who finished 2-for-4



Niles North base runner Billy Dixon tries to break up a double play last week during the Vikings' 15-0 win over Von Steuben. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

with two RBI and two runs. Senior catcher Eric Jensen was 3-for-4 with two RBI.

On the mound, senior starter Dan Kluss earned the victory, upping his record to 2-0. He went five

innings, allowing three runs (2 earned) and fanned 10 batters.

West blanked St. Joseph 14-0 on Saturday, as Jensen was 3-for-4 with four RBI and two runs, and freshman

shortstop Kyle Colletta batted 4-for-4 with three knocked in. Kluss (3-for-4, 2B, RBI) and sophomore third baseman Jason Meger (2 RBI) also fueled the attack.

Junior pitcher Nick Wheeler scattered five hits over five innings and struck out four, evening his record at 1-1.

The Wolves will host Maine East at 4:45 p.m. today, and play two games on Saturday, against Rochelle and Rockford Guilford. Evanston comes to Niles West at 4:45 p.m. Tuesday.

At Niles North

The Vikings defeated Von Steuben 15-5 on Saturday, improving to 6-4-2.

Junior Bo Bradarich (4 RBI), senior Tim Reichert (3 RBI) and junior Billy Dixon (2 RBI) were the hitting stars for North.

Junior pitcher Luke Manette pitched the first 3 2/3 innings to earn the win after allowing two runs and striking out seven.

A day earlier, Dixon pitched a gem and got all the run support he needed when senior Brett Sklena drew a walk with bases loaded during a 1-0 win over Schurz.

Dixon went the distance, giving up just one hit, striking out 11 and walking three.

"Offensively, Dixon — the last week to 10 days — and Reichert have been the two hottest hitters," North head coach Ed Toledo said. "(Dixon's) pitching has picked up and he just has to continue to have quality starts like he did (against Schurz)."

Niles North tied Rolling Meadows 3-3 on April 13. Senior pitcher Tyler Chalem (7 innings, 7 hits, 3 runs, 2 earned runs, 4 strikeouts, 4 walks) had a solid outing on the hill for North. Sophomore Clark Fox, junior Adam Warda and Chalem drove in North's runs.

The Vikings visit Glenbrook South at 4:45 p.m. today, and host the Niles North Varsity Invite beginning 10 a.m. Saturday. North will play three, five-inning games against Elk Grove, Vernon Hills and Northside Prep.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Zverkovskiy battles North frosh phenom

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

BOYS TENNIS - Niles West senior No. 1 Vova Zverkovskiy came up short in his first meeting Saturday with Niles North standout freshman David Bacalla.

But Zverkovskiy, a 2009 state qualifier, was not expecting a long wait for the rematch.

Bacalla defeated Zverkovskiy 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) in the No. 1 singles semifinals during the Ken Rosen Invite at Niles West. Bacalla went on to win the title, while Zverkovskiy wrapped up third place.

Round 2 of Bacalla vs. Zverkovskiy was set for Wednesday, when Niles West hosted Niles North in a dual meet.

Zverkovskiy said he was looking ahead to another shot at the Niles West rematch.

"I need to be more consistent, for sure," Zverkovskiy said on Saturday. "I was missing a lot of forehands. I just need to be patient. I think it's good that we'll have a rematch."

Zverkovskiy does not believe his stamina will be a problem. After struggling with endurance last season, the senior committed to improve his fitness in the offseason. He spent several weeks training with the Niles West indoor track team in the winter. He worked out with the sprinters and even competed in long jump, though he admitted being prone to foot fouls.

"(Being part of the track team) helped me a lot. I don't feel tired (now)," Zverkovskiy said. "I still have to get a little quicker and stronger."

Now in better shape, Zverkovskiy has been looking ahead to the end of the season.

and beyond. "My goal is to make all-state, which means winning three matches in the first round (at the State Meet)," he said.

Hoping to play at the next level, Zverkovskiy said he has talked with the coaching staff at Eastern Illinois University. The coaches were planning to watch him at an upcoming match.

Competing in the Rosen Invite, Niles West finished fourth in the eight-team meet.

Another Wolves highlight was the second-place finish of freshman Robert Marohn at second singles. Marohn, who had been playing doubles, was filling in for usual No. 2 Daniel Langer, who was out of town at an academic competition.

Marohn dropped just one game in each of his first two matches, defeating players from Northside Prep and Antioch. He

was beaten by Niles North's Eric Rosen 6-3, 6-3 in the No. 2 singles final.

"(In the final), Robert encountered a consistent singles player in Eric Rosen," said Niles West head coach Brad Wilson. "If Robert plays more singles, he will learn how to play against a player like that. (On Saturday) the wind affected (Marohn). He is somebody who steps in and likes to hit it. But if you're somebody (like Rosen) who is used to getting the ball back, the wind is easier to adjust to. You just get it back and let the wind do what it will."

At first doubles, the West duo of junior Edmund Phan and senior Wei-Pand Jan finished seventh. Juniors Jason Kaatz and Bradley Shulman were fourth at second doubles.

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Niles West's Vova Zverkovskiy attacks a return Saturday during the Niles West Rosen Invite. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

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SPORTS ROUNDPUP

BOYS GYMNASTICS

Niles North scored 120.2 points to place seventh among 17 teams during Friday's Mundelein Invite. A shorthanded Niles West crew scored 114.7 and finished 11th at Mundelein. Brendan Melnick placed eighth on parallel bars (8.8), while George Deamont's 36.9 in all-around was a season high. The Vikings also defeated Evanston 124.4 to 116.9 on April 6.

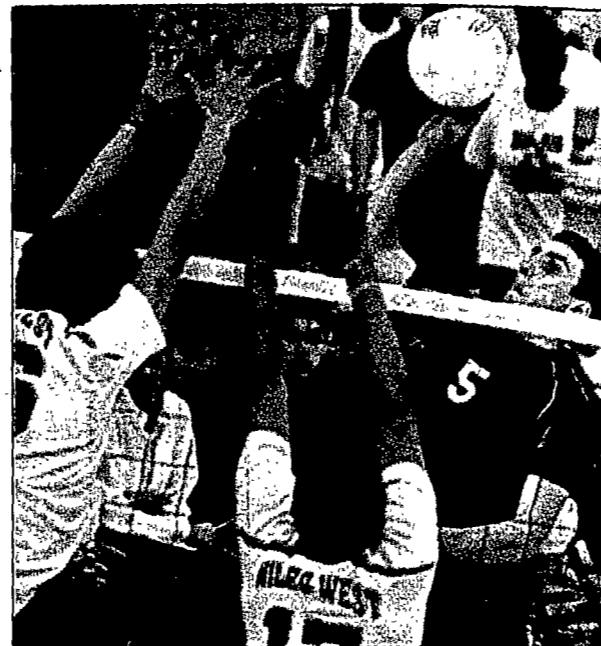
BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Niles West defeated Niles North 21-25, 25-17, 25-17 on April 6. John Kim led the Wolves with 14 kills, while Paul Nasui had nine. Patrick Cristi scooped 14 digs. Mikko Jimenez had 12. Patrick O'Connor recorded 26 assists and Yonas Tekeste posted six blocks. Niles North's Andre Shaw shared team-highs with eight kills. Jed Nulud had five kills and three aces. Niles West fell to Maine East 27-25, 25-

21 on April 8 and 25-1 on nd 25-15, 25-19 to Loyola on Friday. Niles North also lost to New Trier 25-18, 25-18 on April 8.

GEMINI JR. HIGH BASKETBALL

The Gemini Jr. High's 31st annual Charity Basketball game is 6 p.m. Friday at Gemini Jr. High, 8955 North Greenwood Ave. in Niles. The benefit began after Gemini student Sharon Helbraun died of leukemia in 1978. Proceeds go to Children's Memorial Hospital, where she was treated. Last year, another Gemini student, seventh-grader Kelly Rusotto, passed away from cancer as well. Gemini has raised well over \$100,000 over the past 30 years, including \$7,876 last year. The game features the Gemini staff vs. the combined elementary staff. There will be refreshments, entertainment, and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. *Comment: pioneerlocal.com*



Niles North's Sam Sherman (5) spikes the ball last week against Niles West's blockers. (Suzanne Tennant/Staff Photographer)

THIS WEEK MAINE EAST

Today
Badminton at New Trier (Winnetka campus), 4:30 p.m.
Baseball at Niles West, 4:45 p.m.
Girls soccer hosts Highland Park, 4:45 p.m.
Softball hosts Maine West, 4:30 p.m.
Boys tennis hosts Niles West, 4:30 p.m.
Volleyball at Notre Dame, 6 p.m.
Baseball at New Trier (Winnetka campus), 5 p.m.
Girls water polo at New Trier (Winnetka campus), 5 p.m.

Friday
Badminton at Lake Forest, 5 p.m.
Girls soccer at Wheeling, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Badminton at Elk Grove Invite, 9 a.m.
Softball hosts Rolling Meadows, 10 a.m.
Boys water polo at Elk Grove Invite, 8:30 a.m.
Boys track hosts relays, w/St. Patrick St. Martin De Porres, Ridgewood, Prospect, Northridge Prep., Metea Valley, Kelvyn Park, Hales Franciscan, Christian Liberty Acad., 10 a.m.
Girls track hosts relays, w/Deerfield, Elk Grove, Lakes, Prospect, Resurrection, Ridgewood, Round Lake, St. Martin De Porres, St. Scholastica, 10 a.m.

Monday
Baseball hosts Evanston, 4:45 p.m.
Softball hosts Northside Coll. Prep., 4:45 p.m.
Volleyball hosts Fenton, 6 p.m.
Boys water polo hosts Von Steuben, 5 p.m.
Girls water polo hosts Von Steuben, 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Badminton hosts Glenbrook North, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball at Highland Park, 4:45 p.m.
Girls soccer at Evanston, 7 p.m.
Softball hosts Glenbrook North, 4:45 p.m.

Boys water polo at Maine South, 5 p.m.
Girls water polo hosts Maine South, 5 p.m.
Wednesday
Boys tennis hosts Fenton, 4:30 p.m.
Boys track at New Trier (Winnetka campus), 4:30 p.m.
Volleyball hosts Niles North, 6 p.m.

MAINE SOUTH

Today
Baseball hosts Highland Park, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics hosts Niles North, 6:30 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Marist, 5 p.m.
Girls water polo hosts Maine West, 5 p.m.
Softball hosts St. Viator, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
Boys tennis at Conant, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Baseball at Niles North, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics hosts Fenton, 6:30 p.m.
Badminton at New Trier Invite, 8:30 a.m.
Softball hosts Elk Grove (DH), 11 a.m.
Girls track at Wheaton North, 1 p.m.
Girls water polo at Highland Park Invite, 8 a.m.
Monday
Baseball at Niles North, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics hosts Fenton, 6:30 p.m.
Boys tennis at Schaumburg, 4:30 p.m.
Boys water polo at Hinsdale Central, 5 p.m.
Badminton at Evanston, 4:30 p.m.
Girls soccer at Evanston, 7 p.m.
Softball at Glenbrook South, 4:45 p.m.
Girls water polo hosts Hinsdale Central, 5 p.m.

Tuesday
Baseball at Waukegan, 4:45 p.m.
Boys tennis hosts Niles North, 4:30 p.m.
Boys volleyball hosts Evanston, 6 p.m.
Boys water polo hosts Maine East, 5 p.m.
Girls soccer at Waukegan, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics hosts Glenbrook North, 6:30 p.m.
Girls water polo at Maine East, 5 p.m.

Wednesday
Boys tennis hosts Notre Dame, 4:30 p.m.
Girls soccer hosts Glenbrook South, 7 p.m.
Softball hosts New Trier, 4:45 p.m.

NILES NORTH

Today
Girls track at Niles West, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball at Glenbrook South, 4:45 p.m.
Softball at Glenbrook North, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Maine South, 6:30 p.m.
Friday
Girls soccer hosts Northside Prep., 4:45 p.m.
Boys volleyball hosts Northside Prep., 6 p.m.
Saturday
Boys outdoor track at Geneva, 9 a.m.
Boys volleyball at Barrington, 9 a.m.
Girls track at Geneva, 9 a.m.
Baseball hosts Invite, 10:30 a.m.
Softball at Niles West (DH), 11 a.m.
Monday
Boys tennis hosts St. Patrick, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball hosts Maine South, 4:45 p.m.
Boys volleyball at Loyola, 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Boys track hosts Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Boys tennis at Maine South, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball hosts Glenbrook North, 4:45 p.m.
Softball at Deerfield, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics at Glenbrook North, 6:30 p.m.
Girls soccer at New Trier (Northfield campus), 7 p.m.
Wednesday
Boys volleyball at Maine East, 6 p.m.

NOTRE DAME

Today
Tennis vs. Carmel at Northeast Park, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
Baseball hosts Marist (DH), 10 a.m.
Lacrosse hosts Marian Catholic, noon Track at Bartlett, 9 a.m.
Monday
Volleyball hosts Gordon Tech., 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Tennis at Benet Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Track at Marian Cath. w/ Marist, Carmel, 4:30 p.m.
Volleyball at Marist, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Tennis at Maine South, 4:30 p.m.

NILES WEST

Today
Boys tennis at Maine East, 4:30 p.m.
Girls track hosts 9th Annual Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball hosts Maine East, 4:45 p.m.
Girls soccer at Waukegan, 4:45 p.m.
Boys gymnastics hosts Glenbrook North, 6:30 p.m.

Abdul-Jabbar slams home positive message

Athletes from Niles North, West hear NBA Hall of Famer

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

When a 7-foot-2 man offers advice, it's best to listen.

Basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar addressed District 219 student-athletes April 8 about setting and achieving goals, the importance of education, the need to make positive choices and the perils of recreational and performance-enhancing drug use.

Abdul-Jabbar, in town for Athletes Against Drugs' 25th-anniversary dinner later that evening, presented his program, "Dream like Kareem!" in the Niles West Auditorium to some 550 student-athletes from Niles West and Niles North.

Though Abdul-Jabbar's illustrious playing career ended in 1989, long before the high schoolers were born, there was still a buzz when the 63-year-old Hall of Famer entered the theater, and students paid close attention.

"It was pretty good, better than I expected," Niles West senior basketball player Boris Cayemitte said. "It was really touching. I didn't really know that much about him. I know a lot about him after today."

Abdul-Jabbar opened by speaking about performance-enhancing drugs, and telling the cautionary tale of his friend and former NFLer Lyle Alzado, who died following steroid use.

Peer pressure was another theme of Abdul-Jabbar's prepared remarks, including a question-and-answer session about why peer pressure is important.



The NBA's all-time leading scorer, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar speaks with Niles West principal Kaine Osburn during a visit to the school last week. (Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer)

The three-time NCAA and six-time NBA champion differentiated between positive and negative peer pressures.

"(Peer pressure) is one of the best and worst things there can be," he said. "If you have smart friends, they'll push you in the right direction. But if you hang out with jerks, they'll be doing things you don't want to do. You need friends who understand what is positive and what's in your best interest. If you focus on that, you'll make it."

It was a message that resonated with Niles North senior football player/wrestler Mike Ayala.

"(It was interesting) when he talked about positive influences. It makes you think about the decisions you make," Ayala said.

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions during the Q&A session.

drug-free is important. Based on those essays, six students from each school were selected to pose questions to Abdul-Jabbar.

Niles West sophomore basketball/football player Liz Troyk asked the NBA's career scoring leader (38,387 points) how he had managed to block out media distractions and focus on playing basketball.

"I was really nervous (when asking the question). But it was really cool," Troyk said. "In my essay, I wrote that I choose not to use drugs because my skills and game would be decreased and I wouldn't be able to focus."

Local businessman and AAD founder Stehman Graham also spoke and stressed education: "(T)he mind is the master power that molds and makes."

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Young Vikings still learning the ropes

Inexperience a factor in early going

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

SOFTBALL - Niles North softball coach Karin Wick was hoping her team's relative youth was not going to be a major obstacle in 2010.

But after the first week of the season, the first-year skipper admitted that the Vikings need to season their gloves.

After waiting longer than most to get started, the Vikings opened the 2010 campaign on April 5 and entered this week with a 1-3 record. The team's hitting has been solid, but the fielding has been wobbly, the coach rated.

"We've been hitting well all the way through, but we're just working on handling pressure situations (defensively)," Wick said. "That's still a problem."

The coach said certain defensive scenarios can be



Niles North shortstop Keiko Sugihara prepares to tag out Lake Forest's Ashley Smith Saturday during the Vikings' 14-2 victory at Oakton Park. (Eric Davis/for STM)

hard to replicate in practice. "It's getting the stress of (having) runners on second and third," she said. "I don't want to make youth an excuse, but I guess it is our youth. We have some returning players and have

outhit every team but one. But if you look at our defense, it's not as good."

The Vikings split two games in a quad tournament on Saturday, defeating Lake Forest 14-2 and losing to Lake Zurich 10-0.

In the opener, freshmen Jackie Lochner (3-for-3, 4 RBI) and Rachel Matthies (2-for-3, 3B, 3 RBI) paced the hitting. Freshman Kristen Reichert (2-for-4, 2B, RBI), junior Rebecca Gilbert (2-for-4) and fresh-

man Brittany Reilly (2-for-3) also swung the bat well. Sophomore pitcher Jessica Loy went the distance, allowing two earned runs on two hits and striking out four.

Against Lake Zurich, jun-

ior Keiko Sugihara was tagged for five unearned runs and 10 hits — a home run and nine singles.

Junior Brittany Sanchez and Gilbert collected North's two hits.

"We faced one of the best pitchers we will face," Wick said. "We hit the ball hard, but didn't get the base hits. But I'm not too upset."

Evanston rallied from a 5-0 deficit to beat North 6-5 on Friday. Reichert rapped a pair of hits, including a double in support of Sugihara (2-for-4, 3B), who fanned seven.

"We played a good game except for one inning," Wick said. "We made some mental errors."

St. Viator defeated Niles North 5-1 on April 5.

The Vikings hit .295 during opening week, paced by Lochner (.364), Loy (.333) and Gilbert (.333).

Niles North welcomes Glenbrook North at 4:45 p.m. today to Oakton Park. The Vikings will visit Niles West for a doubleheader, beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Nakawatase gives Wolves a grand feeling

Schwenk back on rubber for shutout

By DAN SHALIN
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SOFTBALL — Niles West head coach Steve Ramseyer had seen just one over-the-fence grand slam in his 14-plus seasons in charge.

Junior right fielder Casey Nakawatase doubled that total April 8 with her first-inning blast over Niles West's left-field wall. The four-run dinger gave the Wolves a 7-0 lead. Junior catcher Molly Kleppin finished 4-for-4, and Jennifer Collins pitched a shutout to a 8-0 blanking of Wheeling in Skokie.

It was Nakawatase's first varsity homer and only time she's cleared the fence in high school. She joined former Wolves player Kelly Gremley on a select list of Niles West grand-slammers. "It was a 2-0 count and the pitch looked like it was right down the middle," said Nakawatase, the team's No. 8 hitter, who went 2-for-3 in the contest. "To be honest, I didn't swing that hard at all. But it flew.

"I was hoping it was gone. I didn't see it go. At first, I didn't even realize it was a grand slam. But when I did, it was just a great feeling." Senior shortstop Kelly Schwenk said she had some trouble pushing off her



Niles West's Casey Nakawatase gets congratulated by teammates last week after hitting a grand slam during the Wolves' 8-0 win over Wheeling. (Curtis Lehmkuhl/Staff Photographer)

er Maggie Kearns each drove in a run. Junior third baseman Joanna Lefevere went 2-for-4, while junior and striking out eight against highly regarded Elk Grove. In game one, West committed three errors and

right foot and was unable to throw certain pitches like normal. She relied on her fielders and had a nice seven-run cushion after the first inning.

"I could feel (the ankle) today, but I had to push through it and not think about it," Schwenk said. "The fielding was really good today. I can always rely on my defense, whether I'm pitching well or struggling."

"The seven runs in the first definitely helped, Casey's hit helped. It gave me more confidence going into the second inning."

surrendered two earned runs in a 7-2 defeat. The big Grenadiers blow was a three-run homer that made it 7-2.

"I don't think the score is indicative of that game. We played well in that first game. If you take those two unearned runs away and the three-run homer, it's a whole different ballgame," Ramseyer said.

Elk Grove won game two 12-0.

The Wolves host Leyden at 4:45 p.m. Friday in a game originally scheduled for March 25. Niles West heads to Niles North for a doubleheader at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Ochoa is fast establishing himself as an elite sprinter in the 4x400 relays and fourth in the 3,200 (18:28.87). The junior recently finished sixth in the 55 at the Prep

Bonding session pays off for Wolves

Team goes bowling, then wins next day

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

GIRLS SOCCER - A Niles West training session was not the kind one might expect.

When rain hit April 7, Wolves head coach Brett Clish decided his team would spend the afternoon indoors — knocking down pins at Classic Bowl in Niles.

"I've (taken the team bowling) the last few years during the second week of the season," Clish said. "But this year, the weather was nice (that week), so we took advantage of that. But we should have done the team-bonding stuff then. The girls got to relax and I separated the team so they were not playing with girls they were accustomed to being around. We wanted to do team bonding, and a lot of the girls thanked me for doing that."

Clish was hoping his team would relax and refocus for a stretch of winnable games. Good plan.

A day later, the Wolves improved to 2-5 with a 1-0 win over Maine West as Liz Troyk found the net with 7:30 remaining. The sophomore put in a Danya Snowsky cross that had deflected off the post for Troyk's first goal of the season.



Niles West's Nicole Ostro gets tangled last week with Maine West's Amanda Olierer (left) and Rachel Laznowski during the Wolves' 1-0 win. (Curtis Lehmkuhl/Staff Photographer)

The Wolves and Warriors matched each other shot-for-shot, but junior goalkeeper Arlene Bueno remained steady.

Niles West lost to Glenbrook North 1-0 on April 6, when the Spartans converted on a penalty kick with 4:30 remaining. Clish said he has been pleased with the play of

freshman Molly Kleppin, and the defensive partnership of junior Nicole Moy and sophomore Marina Sostaric.

Niles West welcomes Waukegan at 4:45 p.m. today, then entertains Amundsen at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

At Niles North
The Vikings (4-4) saw

their two-game winning streak come to an end with a 2-1 loss to Stag in Pepsi Showdown action on Saturday.

Stagg led 1-0 when Niles North senior forward Seth Penafiora equalized the score shortly after the break with her team-leading fourth goal. A late goal by Stagg earned the victory.

A day earlier, Penafiora and freshman Brittany Ebeling scored in a 2-1 comeback win over Wauconda.

"The girls played a full game instead of half a game (against Wauconda)," said North head coach Dan Edminster. "They played with intensity and were moving the ball. Wauconda was really pressuring with eight to 10 minutes left, but our girls held strong. They did what they needed to do to get the 'W.'"

In Pepsi Showdown action on April 8, North struggled in the first half before scoring three after the interval to defeat Payton Prep 3-0. Sophomore Annemarie Reid, Brittany Ebeling and junior Lily Hernandez each found the net for North.

Edminster said he has been pleased with the wing play of sophomore Camil Marquez and junior Deborah Steinberg, and with the way junior Tiffany Ebeling controls the game in the center midfield.

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Wolves track teams quick out of the gate

Ochoa opens eyes at Niles West invite

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

TRACK - Talk about quick starts. The Niles West boys and girls track teams each came away victorious Saturday from their first outdoor invites of the season.

West's boys won their 13-team Gans/Zeedyk Invite on Saturday, despite scoring just two points in the field events.

"We thought we would win

easily," Niles West head coach Chris Vivone said. "But my field guys... one was hurt, one was on a college trip, one was at the Science Olympiad. So I was worried going into the meet because I knew I wouldn't have the guys."

"But the track guys made up the points and all really did a good job."

Individual winners for Niles West were: Marc Julien in the 800 (2:04.1); Rob Barron in the 300 hurdles (41.4); George Davros in the 1600 (4:31.5); and Santiago Ochoa in the 200 (21.8).

Ochoa is fast establishing himself as an elite sprinter in the 4x400 relays and fourth in the 3,200 (18:28.87). The junior recently finished sixth in the 55 at the Prep

Top Times indoor meet in Bloomington.

"(Ochoa) is going to be a beast," Vivone said. "He'll be as good as (former NW great Chris) Wright was. If not this year, then next year. He's on his way. He's ahead of the curve where Chris was a junior."

Niles West also captured two relays. The team of Jorge Quiroz, Matt Miller, Neil Omar and Julien topped the 4x800 (8:32.9), while the unit of Gabe Nash, Lavell Jordan, Ochoa and Seve Loubriel won the 4x200 (1:30.7). West also came in second in the 4x100 and

team Riverside-Brookfield Relays.

Tied with Illiana Christian going into the last event, the Wolves pulled out the meet when the 4x400 relay team of Natalie Chavez, Jessica Sutfin, Megumi Hoshi and Kellion Gordon snapped the tape in 4:09.89.

Gordon won the 100 (meet-record 11.98), breaking the NW mark dating back to 1979.

Sutfin, competing in hurdles for the first time, captured the 300 lows (50.6) and teammate Rita Dawod look runner-up in the 100 highs (16.95). Carmin Beck finished fourth in the 3,200 (18:28.87).

In the field events, Emma Gorski came in second in the

pole vault (7-feet-6), Hoshi was third in the 3,200 (12:18), Vicki Barela placed third in the triple jump (31-6), Kim Mercado was fourth in the discus (77-9), and Sutfin placed fourth in the pole vault (7-0).

In other relays: Asha Manacheril, Chavez, Gordon and Beck crossed second in the distance medley (4:36.27); and Chavez, Gordon, Anna Ploszynski and Dawod came in third in the 4x100 (52.41).

Niles North Boys
The Vikings piled up seven first-place finishes at Saturday's Prospect Relays and came in second in the 4x100 relay in record time.

Williams, Ben Raiber, Montreal Sykes and Zheng Feng won the 4x300 hurdles and set a meet record in the shuttle relays.

Deon McDonald, Devonier Casey, Tony Kennedy and Will Kennedy teamed up for first in the 4x100; McDonald, OShayne Brown, Will Kennedy and Tony Kennedy established a meet mark in the 800 medley relay; the trio of Casey, Sykes and Raiber won the triple jump relay; Feng, Casey, Tony Kennedy and Will Kennedy topped the 4x400 relay; and Paul Houmpavlis, Dan Eagan, George Neuhaus and Marwin Varghesi won the 1100 weigh-in relay in record time.

A team featuring Duane

record time.

NORTH POLLS

BASEBALL

1. New Trier
2. Loyola
3. Notre Dame
4. Niles West
5. Maine South

SOFTBALL

1. Loyola
2. New Trier
3. Maine South
4. Glenbrook South
5. Niles West

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

BASEBALL

Jesse O'Connor, Maine South
Senior struck out four and allowed one hit, while slugging an RBI double in Friday's 11-1 victory over Fenwick.

Shawn Nichols, Glenbrook South
Senior shortstop-pitcher twirled a complete game and struck out six in the Titans' 3-1 victory over Wheeling Friday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Alex Dragicevich, Glenbrook North
The all-stater scored 15 points and was named MVP at the Chicago High School Classic Friday night at the Gentile Center.

SOFTBALL

Cara DeBenedictis, Maine East
Catcher posted a win Saturday as the Demons swept a doubleheader from Proviso East to surpass last season's victory total.

GIRLS SOCCER

Ali Cottrel, Maine South
Her goal supplied all the Hawks' offense in a 1-0 win over Deerfield Saturday in the second round of the Pepsi Showdown.

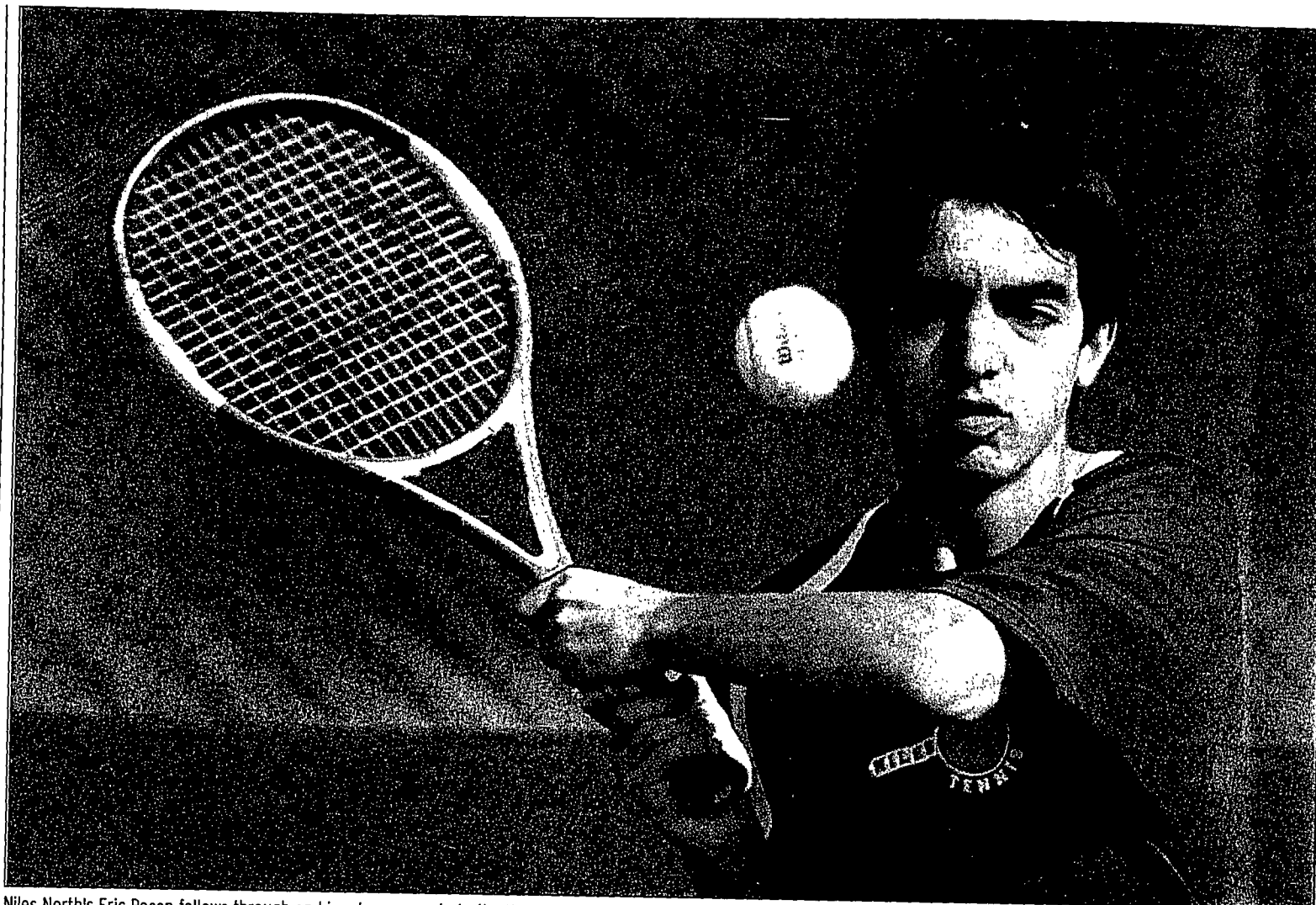
BOYS GYMNASTICS

Adam Klosowiak, Glenbrook South
Junior scored a season-high 50.9 in the all-around last week in the Titans' victory over rival GBN.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Matt Butch, Maine South
Senior middle hitter dominated as the Hawks captured the Warren tournament last weekend.

Emmett O'Keefe, Glenbrook North
Senior middle hitter hammered team-high 11 kills in GBN's win over visiting GBS Friday night.



Niles North's Eric Rosen follows through on his return en route to the No. 2 singles championship at Niles West's Rosen Invite. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

Freshman shows who's No. 1

Rookie leads North to 2nd at Rosen Invite

By DAN SHALIN
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TENNIS - Niles North's David Bacalla is an accomplished player on the junior circuit, but the freshman phenom said he's found a new passion in high school. "I love the team effort," he said. "It's a lot of fun having a team to support you. I love team tennis."

The Vikings should feel the same way about Bacalla, who is capable of carrying Niles North to new heights.

His singles championship at Saturday's Ken Rosen Invite at Niles West helped propel North to a second-place finish in the eight-team event.

North and Lakes actually posted an equal number of team points, but NN took home the runner-up trophy because it had two champions: Bacalla at first singles and sophomore Eric Rosen at second singles.

Bacalla opened the tournament with a 6-0, 6-0 win over a St. Patrick opponent before topping 2009 state qualifier Vova Zverkovskiy of Niles West 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) in the semifinal.

In the final, Bacalla recorded a 6-2, 6-3 win over Schaumburg junior Isriz

Balase, who won No. 1 singles at the 2009 Rosen Invite. It was the first time Bacalla faced Balase on the high school level.

"(Balase) is a close friend of mine and a good player," Bacalla said. "We've known each other for awhile. We like playing against each other."

Bacalla also took on Zverkovskiy for the first time and they were expected to meet again in a dual meet earlier this week.

"It was a really close match (against Zverkovskiy). He was hitting the ball really hard. I had to match up with him," Bacalla said. "It was tight in the second set, but I pulled it through. It got me

ready for the final match."

Bacalla's addition to the team has allowed Rosen to slide into the No. 2 singles spot. On Saturday, Rosen overcame opponents from Schaumburg, Lakes and Niles West en route to the title in his bracket.

"Rosen had a great victory and he's a strong No. 2 kid," Niles North head coach Rich Jaffe said. "Rosen is going to be in the mix to qualify for State."

At sectionals, players are not bracketed, so Rosen certainly will match up against other team's No. 1s. With that in mind, Jaffe said he will get Rosen, a member of the NN state championship chess team, some time at the top of the lineup.

"(Rosen) will get a lot of competition at the 2 spot. But it will be nice to get him playing against some good No. 1 guys too," Jaffe said. "We plan on playing Bacalla a little bit of doubles and playing Rosen as the No. 1."

Teams were able to change their doubles lineup during the tournament, and Niles North took advantage. The Vikings finished fifth at second doubles behind senior Austin Curry and junior Daniel Chun, then Saagar Gupta and Jeremy Moy.

Senior Tom Madigan and freshman William Braubach started at first doubles before Nguyen stepped in for Braubach.

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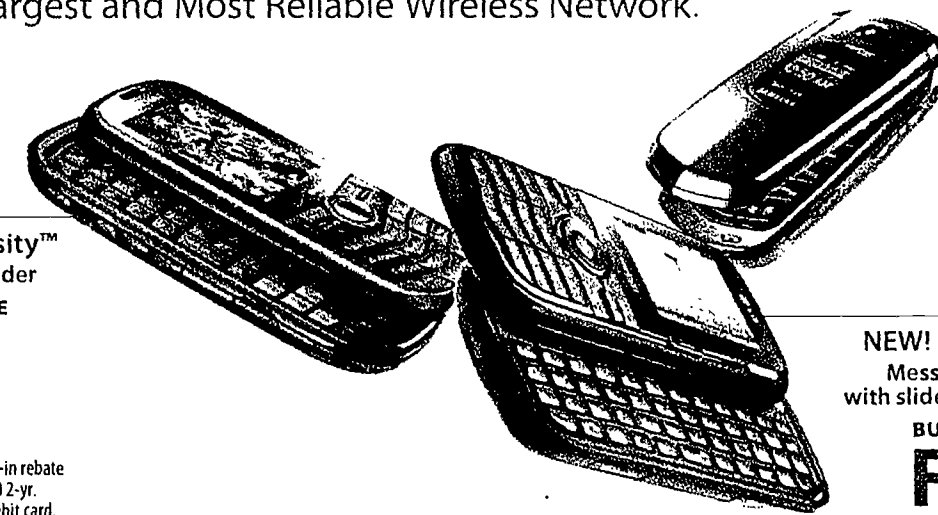
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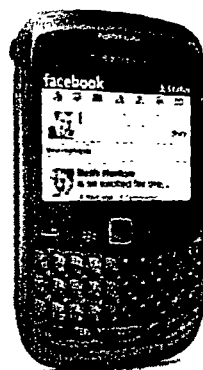
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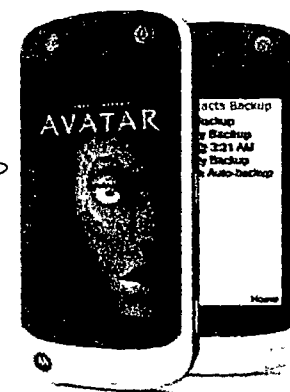


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