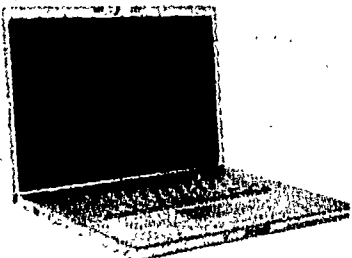




NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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24/7

Daily News from your Local Source

SUBURBODDITIES

Wacky crooks and their crimes

BLOGS

Entertaining Ideas looks at pop culture

Inside!
Today's New Homes



SKATING GREEN

Clare Hiller, of Niles, with her children Mark, 5, and Amanda, 7, get ready to skate during St. Patrick's Day ice skating at IceLand Skate and Swim Complex in Niles. (Herb Shenkin/For Pioneer Press)

THIS WEEK

DIVERSIONS



SPY VS. SPY

Julia Roberts and Clive Owen star in "Duplicity" - featured this week in Film Clips.

SEE PAGE B2

FOOD



EATING RIGHT

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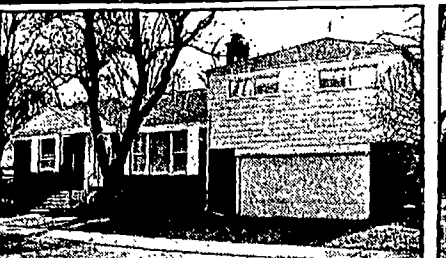
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Morton Grove...Absolutely the finest in quality & craftsmanship! Magnificent 2 story foyer w/oak staircase. Oak floors, luxury Granite Island Kitchen w/42" cabinets, SS appls & sep breakfast area. Spacious family rm w/FP & French doors to patio. Master br suite has bath w/vanity, whirlpool tub & sep glass shower stall. Full bsmt, 2 car att gar. Golf Dist. 671 \$790's



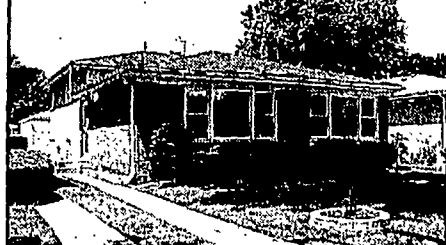
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Morton Grove...New Listing! Fabulous quality custom 4 br-2 bath Split-level. Oak floors, & built-in book cases on 1st floor. Living rm/dining rm w/WBFP. Family rm, eat-in kitchen, huge basement with overhead sewer & sump pump. 2 zone heating + central air. 2 1/2 car attached gar. Large 83'x125' landscaped lot! Located near shopping, schools, Metra, bus & library!.....\$327,500



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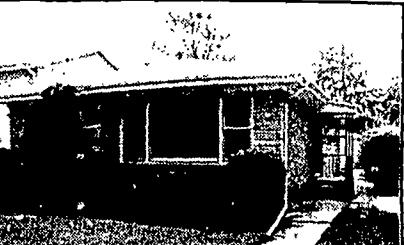
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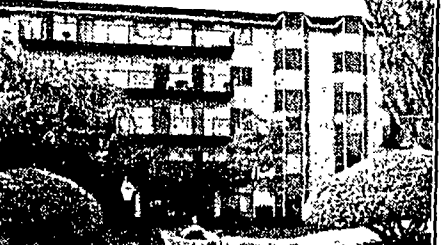
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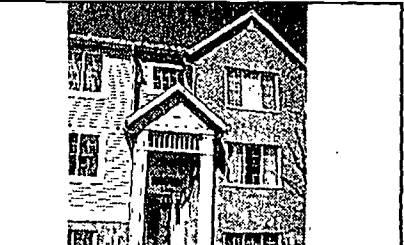
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5506 LINCOLN - \$139,000 - Edens Pkwy! 4 room Condo-Freshly painted-Separate dining rm-Pool-Mini!
5935 LINCOLN - \$224,900 - 2 br-2 bath Condo-Newer 102-cfm kit-Mas br w/bath & WC-in-unit laun-Gar
8540 WALKERGAN - \$169,900 - Spacious 5th floor Penthouse Condo-2 brs & 2 baths-New shops & trans!
8540 WALKERGAN - \$190's - Light & bright 2 br-2 bath Condo-Beautifully updated-thru-out 1 car garage
7240 ARCADIA - \$240's - 6 rm Ranch with main floor family rm-Oak floors-Kitchen with dinette-Large yard
7007 BECKWITH - \$250 - Solid Ranch on large lot-Eat-in kit-New windows & roof-Garage-Golf District 67
8211 CENTRAL - \$290's - Affordable 3 br brick Ranch-Hardwood flrs-Family rm-Sep dining rm-2 car gar
6816 DAVIS - \$290's - Priced to sell 3 br Ranch near Prairie View Park-Hardwood flrs-Full bsmt w/rec rm-Gar
8205 MENARD - \$290's - Solid built 7 rm Ranch-60'x124' lot-LR w/FP-Hardwood flrs-Full fin bsmt w/rec rm
8025 PARKSIDE - \$290's - Charming vintage Bungalow-Hardwood flrs-Cove moldings-Formal din rm-Bsmt
8817 NATIONAL - \$309,000 - Mint 7 rm brick Ranch-Oak

floors-Euro-style kit-Fin bsmt-60'x129' lot-Gar
8504 MORTON - \$317,500 - Charming 3 br-2 bath Ranch-LR w/FP-Formal DR w/French doors to patio-Gar
8300 MANGO - \$319,000 - Quality built brick Ranch on huge corner lot-Finished attic-2 car garage-Location
9120 MCWICKER - \$330's - Adjacent to Forest Preserve with horse trails, walking paths! 3 br Ranch-Bsmt
9103 MANSFIELD - \$344,000 - Remodeled 3 br-2 bath Split-level-Kitchen w/breakfast bar-Family rm w/FP
5901 CAROL - \$360's-Charming brick Bungalow-Hardwood flrs-Main floor family rm-Fin bsmt 2 car garage
6145 LINCOLN - \$360's - Rare 3 br-2 1/2 bath Townhouse near Metra - Vaulted ceilings-Hw flrs-Fam rm-2 c att gar
7911 LUNA - \$390's - Fantastic 90'x125' Lot-7 rm brick Ranch-Living rm w/FP-Oak flrs-Dining rm-2 car att gar
6037 CRAIN - \$414,000 - Beautiful 12 rm 2 story-5 brs, 2nd floor laundry-Main flr fam rm-Maple & Corian kit-Gar
9508 OZARK - \$420's - Mint 3 br-2 1/2 bath Tin-level-Cathedral ceiling-Main flr family rm-Corain kit-Mas br w/bath
5641 THEOBALD - \$490's - exquisite 8 rm Split-level-Hardwood flrs-Family rm w/bat-as-Master br wsliding area
9371 OSCOLA - \$540's - Updated 3 story Contemporary home-5 brs & 3 baths-Family rm w/FP-Fin bsmt-2 car gar
8828 MAJOR - \$533,000 - Value in the Land-99'x124' lot-"East Morton Grove" Location-7 rm Ranch w/updates

SKOKIE
5214 GALITZ - \$119,000 - Rare "Fountain Terrace" Condo-Large living rm/dining rm-Master br w/walk-in closet
8001 LOCKWOOD - \$140's - "Loreal Park" 2 br-2 bath Condo-Liv rm opens to patio-Sep din rm-MBS w/walk-in
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5155 MADISON - \$330's - Spectacular 2 br-2 bath corner unit built in 1995-Maple kitchen-in-unit laundry-1 car gar
4552 DEMPSTER - \$340's - 7 rm Devonshire Ranch-located across from Evanston Country Club-Hardwood flrs-Gar
4420 DAVIS - \$350's-Custom 3 br-3 bath Ranch in "Devonshire Manor"-Hardwood flrs-Master br w/bath-2 c att gar
9423 LAVERGNE - \$360's - Stunning 8 rm brick Bi-level-High end kitchen & bath-Near Old Orchard-Garage

DESPAINES
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725 MADELYN - \$390's - Spectacular 3 br-2 bath Split-level with sub-bsmt-Lower level family rm-2 car att garage
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241 GLENDALE - \$280's - Huge 39'x147'x145'x111 lot Cul-de-sac Location-Area of high-end construction

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News

Maine Township candidates face crime issues

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

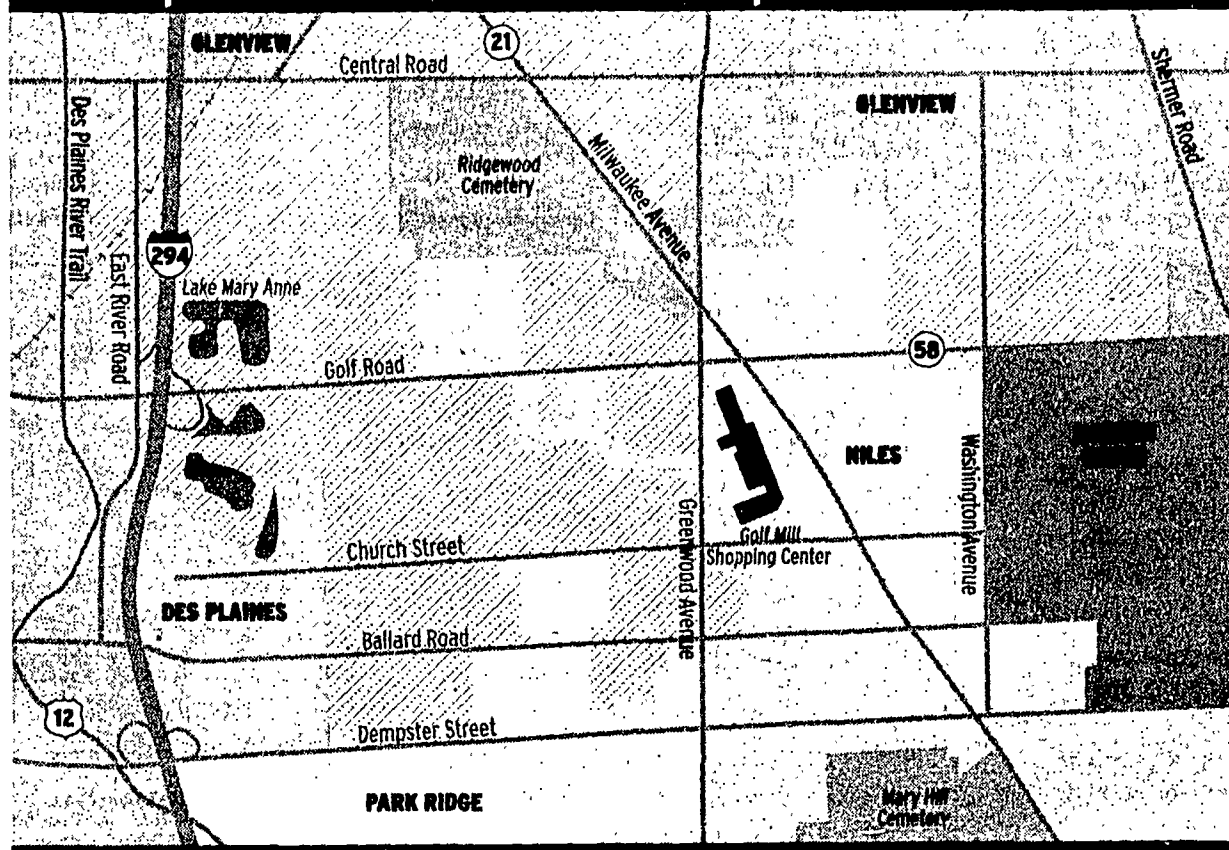
For Cook County Sheriff's Police, the coming of spring ushers in the arrival of something less appealing: a potential increase in gang activity.

At a March 4 meeting of unincorporated Maine Township's Neighborhood Watch, deputy Cmdr. Anthony Brzezniak told residents that as the weather warms, officers will be making their presence known in the area and will conduct outdoor roll calls, particularly at Robin Drive and Dempster Street, an area known for gang activity.

"We'll be sending a message that nothing's going to be tolerated," Brzezniak said.

Gang activity has long been an issue for the unincorporated area, with two feuding Hispanic gangs claiming territory in densely populated pockets of the township. Drug dealing, graffiti, burglaries, property damage and, sometimes, violence have been attributed to these two gangs, and the sheriff's department has established a gang unit within Maine Township to deal with them.

Unincorporated areas of Maine Township



Pioneer Press/LRK

Brzezniak told residents that damage to 25 vehicles parked within the Golf Terrace apartment complex during the early hours of Feb. 7 was gang motivated. He said windows on the vehicles were smashed out, and investigators believe it was retaliation against the gang

that has claimed Golf Terrace as its territory. The same two gangs left dueling graffiti sprayed across the wall of a Robin Drive townhouse, said code enforcement officer Robert Prorak. The graffiti was removed shortly after a call to Cook County's graffiti removal department.

Not being part of a village or city makes the more than 30,000 residents of unincorporated Maine Township dependent upon on the Cook County Sheriff's Department for police services, a department funded by taxpayers from across the county. The sheriff's police, however, are responsible

for a number of unincorporated areas spread across a large section of northern Cook County and may not always have a continuous, 24-hour presence in Maine Township. As a result, the Maine Township Board has, for several years, set aside funding to "hire back" an officer to patrol just the

unincorporated area on Friday and Saturday nights.

Candidates running for supervisor of Maine Township agree the area could use more officers, but say funds are not available for more "hire backs."

"You always want more officers on the street, but it becomes a matter of how do we pay them," said Trustee Peter Ryan, who is challenging incumbent Supervisor Carol Teschky. Teschky said tax caps and budget constraints prevent the township from paying additional officer salaries.

Ryan called the area's police coverage "just above the line of adequate," while Teschky agreed officers are "all spread pretty thin."

Brzezniak admitted the county is "operating with a bare minimum number of officers," although new recruits are undergoing training.

Both Ryan and Teschky said they are pleased with the work sheriff's police have done in regards to curbing gang activity and eradicating graffiti in a swift manner.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Hanusiak outraged over campaign sign thefts

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Niles mayoral candidate Krzysztof "Chris" Hanusiak said he was "boiling mad" after hearing reports from supporters that some of his campaign signs have been stolen from their lawns.

"It's not the wind because we paid extra money to have signs that aren't weather affected," he wrote

in a public statement released over the weekend. "It is done in the middle of the night and it is deliberate and planned. This is not done by kids walking home from school."

Such tactics are not unheard of in local politics, and the Niles' mayoral race has shaped up to be especially contentious.

"My parents left Europe to avoid the Communist tactics of repression and

intimidation," wrote the Polish-born Hanusiak. "They didn't come here to have the same thing happen to their children."

Hanusiak has encouraged his supporters to contact the authorities if any of their signs are tampered with or stolen.

As a political newcomer, Hanusiak has been one of Niles' three most visible mayoral candidates and has emerged as a possible

anti-establishment choice to oppose acting Mayor Robert Callero and Trustee Kim Biederman. "I know there are some residents who don't want me as mayor," Hanusiak wrote. "That's their choice. If you want to battle politically, do it in the open, not in the middle of the night. Everybody loses and a bad example is set for the young people who we want to be good citizens."

Hanusiak said his campaign was conducting an investigation of the matter and hoped other mayoral candidates would condemn the thefts.

"I do not have verified, specific names that I can give out, and I will not comment on the investigation we ourselves are doing," he wrote. "I do not know who these cowards and thieves are doing these criminal things. I

have conducted my campaign in a dignified manner, and I could never stoop to such sleazy methods.

"These pathetic cowards should be ashamed of themselves. I am finding it harder and harder to say, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do,' because they know exactly what they are doing."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Candidate gives reason for absence

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Niles mayoral candidate Carol Harczak issued a statement March 12 saying she was unable to attend the mayoral debate that night because she needed more time to mourn the death of her husband, Richard, who died Feb. 21.

"On that day, I lost my best friend and the love of my life," she wrote.

Harczak, who has been neither seen nor heard on the campaign trail since the end of December, said her absence was the result of her husband's poor health.

Richard Harczak, a former Niles trustee, owned and operated a local real

estate business with his wife.

"He was able to die peacefully in my arms," Harczak wrote.

Harczak said she would remain in the race and planned to attend a mayoral debate scheduled to have been held at the Niles Public Library.

Some media commentators have speculated

Harczak is a "ghost candidate" put forth by acting Mayor Robert Callero to siphon female votes away from Trustee Kim Biederman.

Callero and Harczak have denied that allegation.

"My husband loved this village and was thrilled that I was running," she wrote.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



SKILLS TEST Sixth-graders Meaghan Goodman (left) and Maxine Kasznia participate in the long-jump during the annual Olympics of Greek City-States at Emerson Middle School in Niles last Thursday. (Photo by Ruthie Hauge/Staff Photographer)

INDEX	LETTERS	
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING	B18	O'DONOVAN
CROSSWORDS	B16	PEEK AT THE WEEK
DEATH NOTICES	B17	POLICE BLOTTER
DIVERSIONS	B1	ROLL CALL
FILM CLIPS	B2	SCHOOLS
FIXER	16	SHOWTIMES
FORUM	10	SPORTS

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Differences bared in Niles mayor debate

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Three Niles candidates stepped into the ring Thursday night at the first mayoral debate the town has had in recent memory.

The candidates who chose to participate in the debate being co-hosted by the Niles Herald-Spectator and the League of Women Voters of Glenview were Trustee Kim Biederman, acting Mayor Robert Callero and Krzysztof "Chris" Hanusiak.

Two other candidates, Luigi Nitti and Carol Harczak, declined to appear.

All three candidates were given two minutes to make opening and closing statements, and each was given 90 seconds to respond to questions asked by a league moderator, submitted by audience members and Herald-Spectator staff.

The strategies were clear from the outset. Callero, campaigning from a position of strength as the incumbent, touted accomplishments from his past six months in office. He portrayed his opponents as all talk, and said he has shown himself to be a man of action.

Conspicuously missing from the debate, however, were any questions about former mayor Nick Blase, who pleaded guilty to mail fraud and filing a false tax return last year in a deal with prosecutors, who had also charged him with steering village business to an insurance agency owned by a friend. Herald-Spectator managing editor Marc Alberts said a question asking the candidates about their assessment of the Blase administration was approved by the screening committee of which he was a member, but not read by the debate moderator, a member of the LWV.

Biederman, seeking to discredit Callero, came

out critical and attacked the acting mayor for his stance on taxes and what she said was a lack of leadership.

Hanusiak, seeking to discredit his more politically established opponents, pointed out that they have been in village government for years and have yet to make the changes they promise in their campaigns.

Taxes and spending

One of the most contentious issues of the evening was Niles' 10 percent sales tax.

Biederman has said she would work to lower the sales tax by 0.25 percent, but Callero called her ambitions unrealistic.

"The 10 percent sales tax is a necessity," Callero said, adding that cutting a quarter-percent equals about \$3 million in revenue. "Without it, she'll have to cut services."

Callero also argued that the sales tax does not unduly hurt residents because much of the revenue comes from shoppers who live outside Niles.

Hanusiak took issue with the sales tax and said it hurts business owners.

"The 10 percent sales tax is killing businesses with large-ticket items," he said, adding he will work to lower it, if elected.

Biederman said she would not do anything jeopardize city services, but said the sales tax could be lowered responsibly if the village cut some expenses. Callero noted she did not mention what she would cut.

Callero said of all three candidates, he had the most expertise in cutting wasteful spending because he is an accountant and is director of the village's Finance Committee.

"She (Biederman) has not brought up one iota of wasteful spending," he said. "I watch that budget closely. This is my forte; this what I'm here for. I

know how to cut budgets."

Callero pointed to a recent budget cut the village implemented, in which maintenance services were trimmed to save \$30,000. "I am a no-nonsense businessman and that is exactly what Niles needs now in these tough economic times," Callero said.

Flooding

Flood mitigation has been a hot campaign issue since last September's floods, when village officials were criticized by residents said their properties have flooded repeatedly for several years.

Hanusiak took aim at both Biederman and Callero.

"These people have been here for a long time," he said. "This (flooding) has been going on for a long time. It should have been resolved a long time ago."

Callero countered that the September flood was the very first thing he had to deal with after he was appointed acting mayor.

"We have not been aware of how bad this (the flooding) was," he said. "I will not sleep until we get this corrected."

In November Callero established a stormwater survey committee to get to the bottom of the flooding issue and determine where at-risk areas are.

He has also said he would seek federal stimulus funds to mitigate the village's drainage problems.

Biederman said September's flooding was an important factor in her decision to run. She criticized Callero for not acting swiftly enough.

"This is one of the reasons I decided to run," she said. "It has been far too long. We need to move forward and fast."

Long-term plan

Hanusiak has made his desire for a long-term urban plan for Niles one of



Mayoral candidates Chris Hanusiak (top), Robert Callero (middle) and Kim Biederman (bottom) speak during a debate last Thursday at Niles Oasis Clubhouse. The debate was sponsored by Pioneer Press and the League of Women Voters of Glenview.

his main campaign issues. Callero created a committee to study the issue earlier this year, but Hanusiak has criticized that as coming too late, but just in time for the campaign.

"We do not have a ur-

ban plan," he said. "Everything here is on short-term."

Callero characterized himself as a "doer" and said Hanusiak is a "talker."

"What you would do to help the people, I did," he

said. "I started a long-range urban planning committee. We are not going to change from low taxes and great services. I am doing it. I've done it

Suburban jobless rates continue to climb

By LYNNE STIEFEL
lstiefel@pioneerlocal.com

Unlike the people seeking her advice, career counselor Roberta Glick is booked solid for the next five weeks.

"They're all scared to death," Glick, who works for the Jewish Vocational Service's Career Planning Center in Northbrook, said of her jobless clients. "Even people with jobs are scared of losing their jobs."

The unemployment rate for suburbs served by Pioneer Press with more than 25,000 residents rose in January from a month earlier, according to state statistics released Friday.

Of the 16 suburbs, only Mundelein and Maywood showed rates higher than the state's 7.9 percent. But all were about 1 percent to 2 percent higher than a year earlier.

Many residents of

Chicago's north and west suburbs are more likely to work for professional, financial, educational, health and service related industries, sectors that haven't been as hard hit as construction, trade, transportation and manufacturing. So they wouldn't be as badly affected by the recession as other areas of Illinois, a state employment specialist speculated.

Though the suburban jobless numbers are similar to those in the economic slowdown that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Glick said the unemployment picture this time is different.

"Look at the stores that are closing. We didn't have the stores closing then," she said. "This is really across the board" of the workforce spectrum.

Because Jewish Vocational Service is a not-for-

profit agency, Glick has been offering half-hour counseling sessions by appointment free of charge at the Deerfield, Glenview, Wilmette and Northbrook

public libraries. She's talked with construction workers, mortgage brokers, bankers, administrative assistants and retail workers. She's

also seen mothers seeking to return to the workforce earlier than they want because their spouses are out of work.

Glick believes the suddenly unemployed should expect to be out of work for six months to a year. "It's not realistic to lose a job and find another one in a month," she said.

She tells them they need to get out and connect with people, since the majority of jobs are found by networking. But, she advises, they shouldn't just ask friends for specific job referrals.

"Say, 'These are my skills and I'm making a transition. Can you give me advice and suggestions?'" That's a more helpful route," Glick said.

"Plan ahead of time what you want to say, what you want to get from a conversation so you can ask the appropriate questions. People love to tell

other people what to do." Surepayroll, a Glenview-based online payroll firm, has its own take on the employment picture, based on a monthly survey it conducts with its 25,000 small business clients across the country.

Data from its February survey indicated an increase in hiring on average last month, although the firms were in many cases hiring contractors rather than full-time employees.

Salaries, however, declined, according to the survey. "So while some people are counting on consumers to absorb the pain of bailouts, these days, on average, consumers have less money in their pockets as a result of salary declines," stated Surepayroll CEO Michael Alter.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Area unemployment statistics

According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, unemployment was up between 0.5 percent and 1.2 percent in January from the previous month among residents of these Chicago-area suburbs, all with a population of at least 25,000. The unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

	Jan. 2009	Jan. 2008	Monthly change	Yearly change
Buffalo Grove	5.8	5.2	3.8	0.6
Elmhurst	5.2	4.3	3.6	0.9
Elmwood Park	7.0	5.9	5.2	1.1
Evanston	5.3	4.6	4.1	0.7
Glenview	5.0	4.2	3.4	0.8
Gurnee	6.9	6.4	5.2	0.5
Highland Park	5.0	4.6	3.8	0.4
Maywood	12.6	11.3	9.1	1.3
Morton Grove	5.9	5.1	4.0	0.8
Mundelein	9.9	8.7	7.5	1.2
Niles	6.3	5.3	4.5	1.0
Northbrook	4.4	3.8	3.5	0.6
Oak Park	5.6	4.8	3.5	0.8
Park Ridge	5.4	4.8	3.7	0.6
Skokie	5.9	5.0	4.1	0.9
Wilmette	4.2	3.5	3.0	0.7

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security
Pioneer Press/LRK

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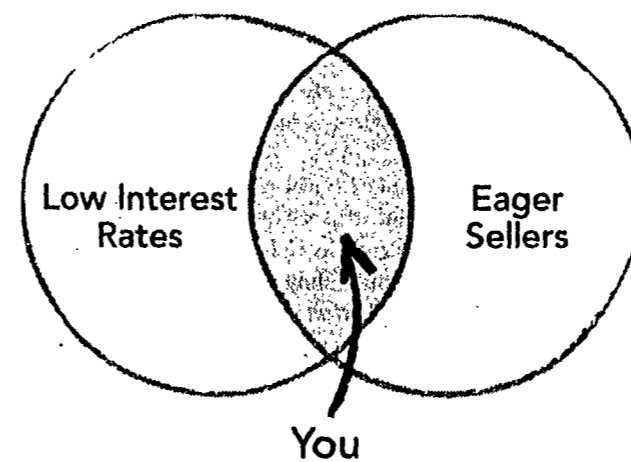
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<p>Skokie \$390,000 Immediate possession! Lovely brick ranch, 3BR/1.1BA beautiful h/dwds, 2Car. ID#83108056 Della Joyce 847-491-1855</p>	<p>Park Ridge \$390,000 Vintage 3br victorian in desirable area of Park Ridge. Renovate or build. ID#84408097 Ray Speare 773-775-1855</p>	<p>Des Plaines \$350,000 3br Split Level in cul-de-sac loc. Hdwd fls. Prof Ind-ccp grounds. 2 car gar. ID#94409156 Jill O'Malley 847-823-1855</p>	<p>Morton Grove \$334,900 Well maintained 3bd/2ba all brick ranch home w/fin bsmt ID#93109017 William Blohm 847-491-1855</p>	<p>Skokie \$299,900 Sparkling, cozy, sun-filled center entry brick ranch. 2 lge BR, rec rm, att gar ID#93109004 Julie Naumliak 847-491-1855</p>
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<p>Wood Dale \$215,700 2br 2ba unit overlooking forest preserve. Updated kit, new carpeting, 2 balc. ID#94409112 Donna Bolas 847-823-1855</p>	<p>Evanston \$199,000 Updated 1 bedroom in Vintage building with garage. Steps to beach & park. ID#93209031 Jeri Gordon 847-446-1855</p>	<p>Lincolnwood \$197,900 Sunny & spacious brick end unit on lg corner view of pk. Heated gar. ID#94409191 Nicole Flores 773-775-1855</p>	<p>Buffalo Grove \$189,900 2nd fl corner unit. 2br 2a, W/B frpl in LR, 2 balc w/view of pk. Heated gar. ID#94409050 Mary Andriotis 847-823-1855</p>	<p>Wood Dale \$179,900 2BR 2BA condo w/mstr ste ceramic kit w/bkfst rm formal DR 2 balcs w/gr view ID#94409132 Donna Bolas 847-823-1855</p>
<p>Skokie \$179,000 Huge 2BR 2BA in dwntwn Skokie. Quiet quality bldg, lge terrace, fresh paint ID#83108101 Julie Naumliak 847-491-1855</p>	<p>Skokie \$156,000 Beautifully updt 4 unit twntml Lrg Hdwd floors in liv & br ID#84408252 Sargon Haley 773-775-1855</p>	<p>Hanover Park \$152,000 Beautifully updt 2BD/1.1BA end unit twntml Lrg loft/Kit Island/fncd yrd ID#93109029 Eve Pribel 847-491-1855</p>	<p>Skokie \$149,900 Very large very well maintained bright 2 bdrm in great location. Lge rooms. ID#94409007 Rebecca Cleal 773-775-1855</p>	<p>Mount Prospect \$127,000 Exceptional loc near Randhurst & Metra. 2br 1.5 baths. Balc faces courtyard. ID#94409152 Adam Matur 773-775-1855</p>

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Debate

Continued from PAGE 5

for six months. These people talk about what they are going to do." Biederman sought to downplay Callero's actions, which include creating the urban planning committee, the stormwater committee, the ethics committee and seeking stimulus funds for roadwork on Oakton Street and Touhy Avenue.

"That's just doing your job," she said. "Anyone of us could have done that. I'm very glad we got the stimulus money for the roads. But it's unfortunate it took this long."

Ethics, transparency

Transparency and ethics were also hot topics.

Callero pointed to strides the village made after he created an ethics committee several months ago, along with a subcom-

mittee that will comprise citizens and be advised by attorneys.

Biederman criticized Callero for not being open enough when making the decisions to create various new committees and has asked the attorney general's office to look into possible violations of the state's open meetings act.

Hanusiak again berated his opponents for not taking action on ethics reforms years ago. He also criticized Callero for pay-

ing attorney Mike Siegel to help create the ethics subcommittee, saying it was a waste of money.

All three candidates were open to streaming Village Board meetings on the Web and posting detailed board meeting information online. Now, only the meeting agenda is available online before the meeting; more detailed material is made available to trustees and the media.

Green efforts

Going "green" has been a popular campaign issue in Niles.

Each candidate has voiced a commitment to renewable energy and environmentally friendly practices. But Callero, a member of the village's environmental committee, criticized Biederman and Hanusiak for never attending a meeting.

"The committee started in 2007," he said. "I have never seen these candidates at a meeting. They talk about being green. I am totally behind it."

Biederman ignored Callero's attack and simply praised the committee for its actions and said it was one of her priorities to leave the world a better place for her children.

Hanusiak acknowledged that he has not gone to any environmental committee meetings, but

said that doesn't mean he has no good suggestions. He has been critical of the village's environmental efforts, saying they are mostly cosmetic and not far-reaching.

"We have one of the largest manufacturers of solar panels right here in Niles ..." he said. "Why are we not using them?"

OTB

Lucky Magee's off-track-betting facility was approved by the Village Board in 2005 and has been a steady stream of revenue for the village. But it has become a politically charged issue in the campaign because Biederman voted against it, and Callero in favor.

"I did not feel at the time that it was worth the perception of what an OTB is," Biederman said. "I felt the residents should have made this choice (in a referendum). I did vote 'no' on it and I would vote the same way."

Callero contended that Biederman showed poor judgment voting against something that brought so much revenue into the village.

"I voted for the OTB and I would vote for it again," Callero said. "This OTB has brought in \$500,000 in taxes, which cuts your real estate tax. We have had very few

problems at the OTB." Hanusiak said he was in favor of the OTB because of the revenue it generates.

In closing statements, Callero cast himself as a no-nonsense businessman who has the financial acumen needed to get things done, as well as the time needed to be mayor.

"The biggest problem facing all of us is keeping all these services with a balanced budget," he said. "It takes a great deal of time to be mayor. Since I am retired, I'm willing to give the 20 to 30 hours a week it takes."

Biederman said she is qualified because she has been an advocate for residents on tax and ethics issues.

"I have been a voice on your behalf," she said. "Leadership comes from the top. We need to provide a culture (of openness) for residents. I would say, moving forward, this is going to be one of my priorities."

Hanusiak said the village needs more long-term goals and told voters he is the person to deliver that vision.

"It seems like we're standing still," he said. "I'm a planner; I'm a doer. I believe my skill set is leadership. You want a person who will implement."

The election is April 7.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed among the official reports of the Niles Police Department. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt, only a court of law can make that determination.

DUI

■ Todd Kraemer, 30, of 5856 N. Forest Glen Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol March 15 on the 7100 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$3,000 bond and is due in court April 18.

■ Michael Tiemchayapum, 23, of 9432 Lowell Avenue, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol March 15 on near the intersection of

Dempster Street and Potter Road. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court April 16.

THEFT

■ Nisveta Buljina, 53, of 8158 N. Susan Court, Niles, was charged with retail theft March 11 after she allegedly stole \$153 of merchandise from a store on the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. She was released on \$10,000 bond and is due in court March 20.

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Opinion

WE SAY

Incumbents our choice in Niles School District 71

Niles School District 71 is one of the most fiscally solvent school districts in the area, and that is no secret to residents. The favorable retail mix in the district certainly helps keep the levy on residents comparably low, even while spending per student remains one of the highest in the area.

But the overall education at District 71's sole school, Culver School, is

also exemplary, highlighted by a Blue Ribbon award in 2007 in physical education and the use of supplemental evaluation tools to buttress required state testing.

The top brass of the school board, President Pat Byrne, Vice President Matt Holbrook and Secretary Mary Krueger, as well as two-term member Karen Johnson, are all

running for re-election. We support them all with the expectation they will continue the fine stewardship of the district they have demonstrated already. Challenger Michelle Homme, a dispatcher for Niles, is supportive of the district but doesn't make the case to replace the others.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

YOU SAY

Teschky, incumbent deserve re-election

On April 7 voters will have an opportunity to cast their ballots for candidates who will represent them at the grassroots level — people who seek election to local boards; such as the Maine Township Board. In 1989 I was elected supervisor of Maine Township and Carol Teschky joined me as a trustee.

Teschky remained on the Maine Township Board and now is its supervisor. Having spent 20 years as a trustee or supervisor, Teschky understands the responsibilities of the job. Her board has achieved something remarkable in today's economy: In the past seven years the township tax rate has decreased from 7.59 percent to 6.5 percent. Keeping township taxes low has always been a goal and your Town Board has been living within the state tax cap limits every year since 2001.

Surely voters in Maine Township will want to re-

elect a township supervisor and board that has been the taxpayers' friend.

Also, the Maine Township Food Pantry has benefited from a new paper recycling program, and Avenues to Independence has been helped by a new electronics recycling program introduced by the Township Board. These initiatives, along with improved service to veterans, seniors and those with disabilities, show that the incumbent Township elected officials are right to continue the job.

I urge you to vote April 7 in the non-partisan contests for city, park, grade and high school and Oakton Community College boards, plus the Maine Township incumbents.

Joan B. Hall
Former Maine Township Supervisor
Park Ridge

Teschky is best choice for Maine Township

It's wonderful and too rare to find a person of integrity in public office these days. Carol Teschky, running for Maine Town-

ship supervisor, is that person.

In this national economic crisis, we need to retain public servants with proven track records. Teschky has served as Maine Township trustee for 20 years, the last two as supervisor. She has a reputation for honesty and competence, two essential qualities.

Teschky's strong fiscal discipline has enabled Maine Township to balance its budget so that goals can be achieved without resorting to higher taxes and more borrowing.

On top of Carol Teschky's achievements, I appreciate her compassion. A big part of her job involves administering services for people who have been hit by life's difficulties. She has done this with a true quality of caring.

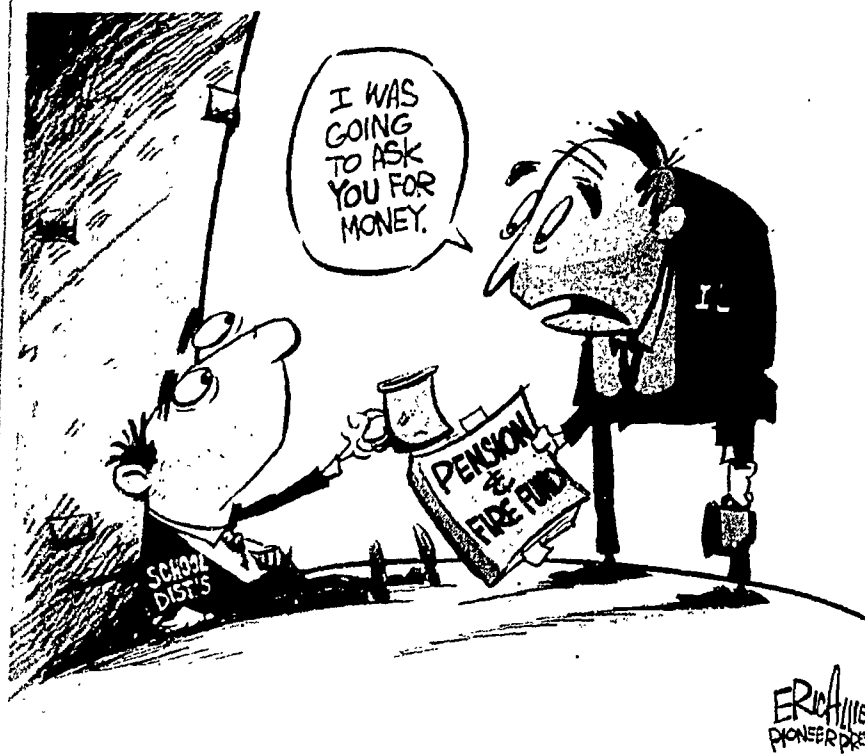
Teschky is a breath of fresh air. She deserves voters' support in the election on April 7.

Joy Hajduk-DeGraff
Morton Grove

You say, PAGE 11

www.pioneerlocal.com

1000 WORDS



Citizen journalist, report for duty



CHERYL O'DONOVAN

VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Another newspaper, The Rocky Mountain News, folded. Surviving papers continue to tighten their belts. "Citizen journalists" are being enlisted. Regular folks act as reporters. One article promoting the concept observed: "Mainstream media reporters and producers are not the exclusive center of knowledge on a subject — the audience knows more collectively than the reporter alone."

Isn't that true generally? The collective knowledge of a thousand people will surpass one individual's. Unless it's Jeopardy's Alex Trebek.

OK, I admit. I'm wary. Why? Because research confirms more Americans watch TV than read. An-

other study indicates that darting around Web sites is altering our attention spans. Texting is in, writing is out.

Plagiarism remains an issue. In a nationwide survey, 64 percent of high school kids admitted to cheating.

Given these stats, how can citizen journalism help ensure accuracy, ethics and good reporting?

Editor: "Tiffany, we can't include LOL and BFF in your exposé on the meat packer dispute."
Tiffany: "It's my story! I'm going to blog about you stomping on my dream."

Editor shakes head, turns to other citizen journalist. "Larsky, you called your subject a 'big fat louse.' That isn't objective."
Larsky: "But Santa wouldn't let me go toy shop clubbing with the elves."

Critics contend the media is already flawed. News is editorialized. TV hosts and pundits exchange insults. Opinion is positioned as the truth.

Don't get me wrong. An involved citizenry has been the grassroots of important social change. Newspapers need credible sources. Intelligent readers can contribute. But can the experienced journalist be replaced?

Wonder if we all took up "citizen" professions? "Step aside from that carburetor," I gruffly announce.

"What? You're Van Mom."

"I'm also a citizen mechanic."

"Oh yeah? What qualifies you?"

"I read a leaflet in the Jiffy Lube waiting room," Thomas Jefferson said, "Whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter."

People pay for online poker, but won't pay for a newspaper subscription online or in print?

I don't get it.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

You say

Continued from PAGE 10

Township incumbents have served us well

Another election is approaching on Tuesday, April 7. As a former election judge, I know that the voter turnout will likely be very low because it is for local positions on school boards, township boards, library boards, village governments, etc. For some reason, the electorate doesn't recognize the importance of these elected positions even though they have a direct effect on all of us.

As a resident of Maine Township's unincorporated area, I appreciate the commitment of Supervisor Carol A. Teschky and the Maine Township incumbents to the community. They offer services and provide programs for every resident in Maine Township. As a former township board member, I witnessed their ded-

ication to using the most cost-effective methods to operate Maine Township and keep taxes down while offering even more services and aid programs.

I urge everyone to vote for Carol A. Teschky and the Maine Township incumbents on April 7. Use your vote to continue good local government.

Audrey Nankervis
Unincorporated Maine Township

Support Republicans in Maine Township

I urge all Maine Township voters to choose competence and experience and cast their votes on April 7 for the Republican slate headed by incumbent Supervisor Carol Teschky, and two-term Trustee Laura Morask.

The Cook County Democratic Party has already given us Rod Blagojevich, Todd Stroger and Roland Burris with their brand of governance featuring nepotism, cronyism, bloated payrolls, pay-

to-play politics and unqualified appointees. Let's not let those entrenched Cook County Democratic Party practices infect our township government.

Laura Morask and her Republican colleagues have governed with a dedication and competence, keeping Maine Township among the best, most efficiently run in Illinois for many years. In particular, Morask, with her experience as a county gang crimes prosecutor, provides a unique perspective on combating gang activity in our area.

With city races dominating the local headlines, don't overlook the importance of your vote in the township election. Be sure to cast your vote for the proven Republican slate.

Willard "Bill" Bell
Former Maine Township trustee
Former Park Ridge 3rd Ward alderman
Former District 64 School Board member

OPINION |

Republican leaders are best for township

In the recent weeks, I have been keeping up with the local Maine Township race. I found out some interesting facts, which are very disturbing to me as a taxpayer in Maine Township. I find it ironic that Sen. Dan Kotowski and Committeeman Laura Murphy are trying to force upon the residents of Maine Township Democratic control.

If we look at the record of the Democratic controlled state of Illinois and the Democratic controlled Cook County, you will find that both governmental bodies are bankrupt with billions of dollars in debt, and have constantly put new tax burdens on the residents of Maine Township. Under the incumbent Republican slate, you will find a balanced budget, no debt with money in reserve, and a tax rate that actually went down from

your 2008 tax bill.

The Republican Party is the type of government we want, to keep in Maine Township, not the Democratic party of overspending, debt, and one of the largest tax increases in history.

The county is millions of dollars in debt and put the largest tax increase in history on Cook County residents, and still wanted more tax increases for next year's budget. As residents and

taxpayers in Maine Township, we cannot allow Kotowski and Murphy to bring this kind of disastrous government, which they hand-picked, to Maine Township.

I urge both of them to devote all their energy to straighten out the state of Illinois, and Cook County and leave a fiscally sound township government alone.

John Anderson
Des Plaines

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District 219

The Niles North Chess Team demonstrated its dominance at the Illinois High School Association State Chess Meet, at the Peoria Civic Center Feb. 12-14. The team won third place after going 6-1 in competition and closing out perennial rival Evanston to finish in the top three. The only team to beat the Vikings was the eventual State Champion, University High of Urbana (Uni High), who became the only team to finish without a loss at the tournament. The competition, which involved nine grueling hours of chess a day, went well for the Vikings except for the loss to Uni High, which came in the tough fourth round. Head Coach **Harry Kyriazes** was pleased that his team was able to refocus overnight and come back to dominate the final three rounds. Niles North finished third with 342.0 points, not far

behind Uni High (351.5) and only two tie-break points behind Whitney Young, who earned second place.

Niles North's Chess Team also racked up several individual awards. Freshman **Eric Rosen** brought home a second-place medal at Board 2, where he played flawlessly to earn a perfect score of 7-0, and sophomore **Saagar Gupta** went 5-1-1 to earn ninth at Board 4. Saagar also earned the prestigious Larry Stilwell award, given annually to the Outstanding Sophomore in the state. Only a select few sophomores are nominated, and the award is decided by a vote of those chess coaches representing all schools participating in the State Tournament. Saagar's award marks the third time in four years that the award has gone to a Niles North chess player, and the fifth time in the 10

SCHOOL DIGEST

years that **Harry Kyriazes** has been coaching the team.

The Niles North Chess Team was represented by senior **Ilan Meerovich**; juniors **Justin Braddy**, **Glen Ko** and **Fedya Titov**; sophomores **Michael Chinitz**, **Che-Shien Chu**, **Saagar Gupta**, **Chad Hirsch**, **Evan Spiegel** and **Tom Valente**; and freshmen **Adil Dzeliolovic**, **Ben Marks** and **Eric Rosen**.

Niles North's head coach is **Harry Kyriazes**; the assistants are **Heather Ingraham**, **John Kretsos** and **Michael Bol**.

Niles North Principal **Robert Freeman** welcomed students and their parents at the Principal's Award Recognition Breakfast held Feb. 11. Students were selected for the honor based on the following criteria: extraordinary achievement, outstanding effort,

commendable attitude and motivation, demonstration of ability to overcome obstacles, and continuous exemplary performance. A faculty member from the department that nominated the honoree summarized the student's achievements. The remarkable support of the students' families was also lauded.

Students who received the Principal's Award were: **Karla Calalang**, **Jaclyn Sarmas**, **Zaac Azor**, **Mohammad Farooqi**, **Matthew Hanson**, **Ashur Joseph**, **Sam Powell**, **John Shaba**, **Chanalee Hochareon**, **Mihir Shah**, **Ashour Badine**, **Edward Bote**, **Lakshmi Maniteja Duggishetti**, **Saagar Gupta**, **Allinawaz Ismaili**, **Glen Ko**, **Liyaquat Lashkariya**, **James Mac**, **Shanon Mathai**, **Evan Spiegel**, **Alvin Thomas**, **Kirsten Pasia**, **Joseph Boersma**, **George Mikhael**, **Dure Shahwar Ali**, **Jana Schneider**, **Samuel Cuya**, **Jonathan Cabrera**,

Faranak Ghorbanpour, **Hristina Mincheva** and **Einxel Reyes**.

Niles West High School **Biology Teacher Tom Jodelka** received an \$800 Target Field Trip Grant for the 2008-09 school year. Jodelka will take 53 biology students this spring to the Bunker Hill Forest Preserve along the North Branch of the Chicago. Co-teachers **Shaun Kennedy** and **Erick Kaiser** will also accompany the classes as they gain an appreciation of Illinois ecosystems, engage in the scientific process through an authentic field-based experience, and create connections amongst various subjects including biology, chemistry, mathematics and language arts.

the Board of Education will narrow the field of candidates and conduct second interviews with finalists this week. The board plans to name a superintendent by early April. The new superintendent will assume his or her duties on July 1. As it moves forward with this selection process, the board of Education continues to draw on input offered by the community via an online survey conducted throughout most of January.

Gemini

Gemini Junior High has released its second-quarter honor roll.

High Honors

Eighth-graders: Masera Ahmed, Ashley Antony, Leena Antony, Afra Ashraf, Nazish Baig, Gina Marie Barbera, Jasmina Basic, Kathy Borowiec, Michelle Choi, Praise Daniel, Jordan Delev, Avni Gandhi, Kate Gebultowicz, Michelle Gonzalez, Thalia Hernandez, Johnny Ho, Jeslyn Joseph, Zainab Khan, Christine Lam, Naphat Lertratanakul, Brandon Leung, Thomas Malitz, Gisel Martinez, Eman Masood, Eliza Mazgaj, Elmedina Murati, Bridget Murphy.

District 207

District 207 Board begins Superintendent interviews. The search for a superintendent to succeed Dr. Joel Morris is well under way in Maine Township High School District 207, where the Board of Education this week is conducting its first round of interviews with candidates presented by an educational search firm.

The search firm, School Exec Connect, has conducted numerous superintendent searches in high-profile suburban districts. School Exec consultants Linda Hanson and Thomas Madden report that 42 people have applied for the District 207 job, a majority of whom have experience as either a superintendent or assistant superintendent. The field of applicants includes a large number of both male and female candidates.

While the majority of candidates currently work in Illinois, School Exec Connect's national search has netted applications from candidates in nine other states as well.

After completing this initial round of interviews,

Seventh-graders: Gaurav Agnihotri, Anne John Anu, Aishwariya Chockalingam, Daniel Choi, Rohan Grover, Lucy Ivkovic, Baisy Joseph, Juliane Joseph, Tom Joseph,

Digest, PAGE 14

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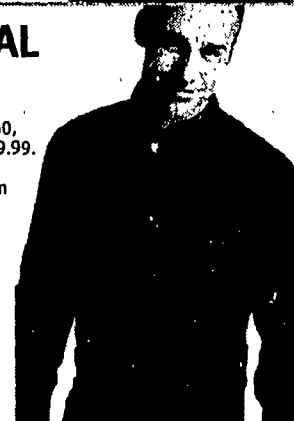
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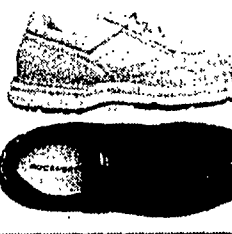
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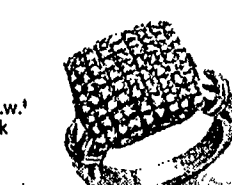
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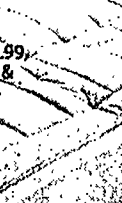
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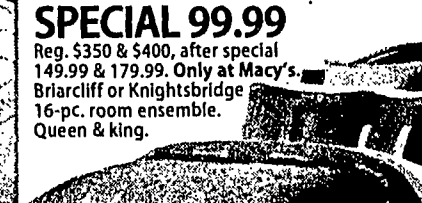
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Digest

Continued from PAGE 12

Varghese Karuthalackal, Sandra Kietlinska, David Krzemien, Syed Matin, Stephanie Nikho, Amila Omerovic, Batmanlai Ontogtokh, Amisha Patel, Megh Patel, Pooja Patel, Maria Protic, Marko Protic, Samuel Ratner, Swetha Sajan, Aasumi Shah, Aneta Szyba, Charmie Ann Tejada, Isabelle Trier, Maria Vachachira, Monica Wlodkowski, Patrick Zajac.

Honors

Eighth-graders: Sofia Agalliu, Fatima Agic, Jazmin Alarcon, Ayah Al-lam, Ramen Amma, Laiba Bajwa, William Brady, Brenda Chavero, Femy Chirayath, Rami Dajani, Kaila De la Vega, John Depa, Kayla Diaz, Robin Eapen, Kevin Francis, Simone Francis, Theo Gammell, Lakulish Gandhi, Jackelyn Garcia, Kevin Gau, Christina Giannakopoulos, Sylwia Glowik, Neveen Habeeb,

Aleksandar Hadzhiev, Sade Howell, Ivory Johnson, Anne Kaczkowski, Betty Krasnik.

Dolly Patel, Keyurkumar Patel, Rohan Patel, Rachael Ptaszek, Palisha Ranjit, Christian Reyes, Subham Saha, Gerelt od Saranchimeg, Breanna Schnirer, Sherilann Sebastian, Aayush Shah, Krishna Shah, Danny Shamoun, Barbara Skrzypek, Janaki Soni, Kostantina Spanos, Aarti Tahiliani, Divya Taylor, Hiral Taylor, Nicholas Taylor, Akashah Wan, Jamaludin Wan, Elena Ward, Patrycja Wardynski, Krzysztof Wzolek, Saba Zikaria.

Seventh-graders: Atwin Abraham, Marycarmen Aguilar, Bushra Ali, Pauline Areno, Miriam Aziz, Precious Babi, Elle Badilla, Michelle Baginski, Aayush Bahendwar, Marzena Bizon, Ewa Bogdan, Julian Brummitt, Bulgamaa Chinbat, Deanna Chioros, Marija Djeric, Michelle Foley, Jusseily

Gonzalez, Alexandra Grochowski, Asfa Hasan, Shafaq Hasan, Melanie Hively, Erica Hofmann, Syed Hussain.

Matylda Iskra, Kiana Khoshaba, Su Ji Lee, Asra Mahmood, Albert Martinez, Maria Anna Paramerou, Veneri Priya Patel, Shruti Patel, Nicole Patterson, Kevin Petranu, Richard Pokorski, Emily Rafalik, Noel Rathod, Umer Rogaria, Ashna Saji, George Sizos, Antonios Skondras, Tomasz Suchacki, Casey Sutherland, Zofia Sutor, Allan Tady, Shirley Tao, Ganesh Uppalapu, Nayeli Vazquez, Amanda Whelan, Adam Wisniewski, Althea Yap.

St. John Brebeuf

The 62-member Jr. St. Vincent de Paul group at St. John Brebeuf School collected more than \$1,000 for the Christmas project to buy 40 robes for the women at Grace House. The women also received hand-made Christmas cards along with the gifts.

With remaining funds that were collected from the John Brebeuf School family, the St. Vincent de Paul members also sent a donation to help the Mother Teresa's soup kitchen, as well as purchased socks, hats and gloves for a group of homeless men and women.

The Jr. St. Vincent de Paul members are first-through eighth-graders.

Things in the technology department at St. John Brebeuf School are progressing along well. Through a generous donation, St. John Brebeuf School recently received 80 Dell flat panel monitors. Because of this generosity, all teacher and student computers have had their CRT monitors replaced with flat panels. Not only is the quality of the picture infinitely better, but they are space savers.

In computer class, the sixth-graders have been working on a Powerpoint

presentation about their ethnic background. Titled "Learning about Your Ethnicity," this project ties in perfectly with this school year's theme, "A Kaleidoscope of Children and Cultures." The students have been using their family members as one of their main resources for information and many are finding out information they never knew about their family's history and heritage.

The sixth-graders are including such information as whether they're first, second, or third generation. They are also finding out if their family has any ethnic traditions, if there is any kind of clothing that is particular to their heritage (and its specific name), they're finding out the type of music that is listened to or celebrated in their heritage and if there are any special ethnic dances that go along with the music. In addition, the students are learning what their native country's flag looks like and

what the colors and symbols on it mean. If there is an ethnic food that someone in their family is famous for, they're including that information in their presentation, as well. They are also detailing whether or not they've ever been to the country their family originates from and if they haven't, they're including reasons why they would or would not want to visit it someday. In the event a student is a mix of many different heritages, they chose the heritage that dominates their background or the one they'd like to learn more about.

In addition to the Powerpoint presentation, the students will be given the opportunity to bring in any ethnic items they'd like to share with the class as part of their final presentation, which they'll show to the class using the laptop and projector. This project has been a lot of fun for the students and they're learning so much about their family's heritage.

Students, their families and members of the community recently participated in the Mega Event Fun Fair at the Parish Minister Center.

There were games for children of all ages. The older children played "Bungee Basketball," "Giant Screen Guitar Hero" and "Gladiator Joust!" while younger children enjoyed "Bowler Roller," "Mini Golf Hole" and many other games. Children also headed to the concession area and enjoyed hot dogs, popcorn and dilly bars, while others chose to pick up prizes.

Organizers also came up with a hula-hoop contest, where girls and boys, as well as the moms and dads, participated.

Funds raised at this event will be used to update equipment at school.

The St. John Brebeuf School Student Council recently organized a beach party dance for the seventh- and eighth-graders. The entire school dressed as if they were headed to the beach. The movie "Beethoven's Big Break" was screened in the Parish Ministry Center.

Upcoming events will include a talent show and an Easter Egg Hunt. The talent show featuring SJB "stars" is scheduled for March 23.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be an exciting day for the kindergarten-through fourth-graders as they search for eggs filled with candy and homework passes.

The Student Council is doing a great job with the recycling program. Members faithfully recycle each week in an effort to go green.

The students of SJB have been learning new things in the library. These busy months have included fun and educa-

tional activities for all grade levels. In addition to checking out books, some of the activities they have enjoyed include: Kindergarten and first grade choosing an object from the Wild About Reading Story Bag, prompting a story time related to the object drawn that day.

The third-graders have enjoyed participating in Library Spelling Bees and writing Arthur stories to celebrate Marc Brown's birthday.

The seventh- and eighth-graders created candy corn Halloween Haiku poems which decorated the school hallway.

The fifth- through eighth grade students have enjoyed doing book hunts and playing READO, a library game that teaches the Dewey Decimal Classification System.

In February, the St. John Brebeuf fourth-graders researched the presidents of the United States. Each student created a poster for their president and prepared an oral presentation for the class. They creatively shared all the information they learned. Some students even dressed like their president, or thought of unique ways to highlight their president's life.

St. John Brebeuf Honor Roll released its most recent honor roll.

Room 29 Sixth grade first honors: **Evan Beierwaltes, Cara Caputo, Nicholas Carsello, Darrell Dias, Natalie Fries, Katherine Gittings, Eva Hagman, Jessica Klug, Kelsie Murphy, Alyssa Pilac, Eric Ponzetti, Angela Printzls, Eric Rodriguez, Ania Rostkowski, Anetak Siemi-anowicz, Tiffany Stack, Mike Wheeler.** Second honors: **Katie Doherty, Ray Joseph, Courtney Klingner, Anthony Morys, Klarie Ojenus, Sherin Skariah.**

Room 30 Sixth grade first honors: **Kristen, Brehmer, Angelica Casado,**

Jimmy Connolly, Matt Infusino, Sophie Koziol, Heather Mall, Hannah Remo, Patrick Sachaj, Mark Silwka, Jan Solano, Gabriela Vander Vant, Gus Vroustouris. Second honors: **Mandy Aragon, Jessie Bacon, Haley Beierwaltes, Anthony Clemente, Lauren Hofmen, Sen Joseph, Mark Neuhengen, Tommy Polcyn, Janessa Sacluti, Magda Szala.**

Room 31 Seventh grade first honors: **Melissa Anderson, Christopher Bargione, Chrissy Bucior, Megan Early, Danielle Gomez, Alexandra Guzek, Tia Jusl, Robyn McNaughton, Angela Poothurall, Christina Printzls, Dori Protofanousis, Sarah Ryan, Luisa Velez, Jennifer Voss.** Second honors: **Amanda Durava, Patrick McDonough, Daniel Rogalski, Olivia Schoenfeldt, Tom Sora, Frank Swing.**

Room 32 Seventh grade first honors: **Cristina Aguilar, Melody Beltran, Andrew Clchon, Basia Folga, Jacob Kulaga, Catherine Mazur, Martyna Nowik, Rodney Pintang, Alex Plezia, Jan Suarez, Steven Tarver, Mimi Speri, Angela Tomas, Chelsea Tuvilla.** Second honors: **Gina Catalo, Emily Lalich, Lulu Montoya, Annie Reynolds.**

Room 34 Eighth grade first honors: **Nick Bargione, Nicole Chavez, Kristy Getty, Cassie Hansen, Emily Lapinski, Sofia Lyskanowski, Ryan Martin, Shannon McGinnis, Andrew Nitz, Jessica O'Grady, Megan Zachacki.** Second honors: **Victor Banek, Katie Brehmer, Jimmy Casey, Tim Duffey, Daniela Gobbo, Krystyna Kotlinski, Zach Koziol, Daniel Pietrzyk.**

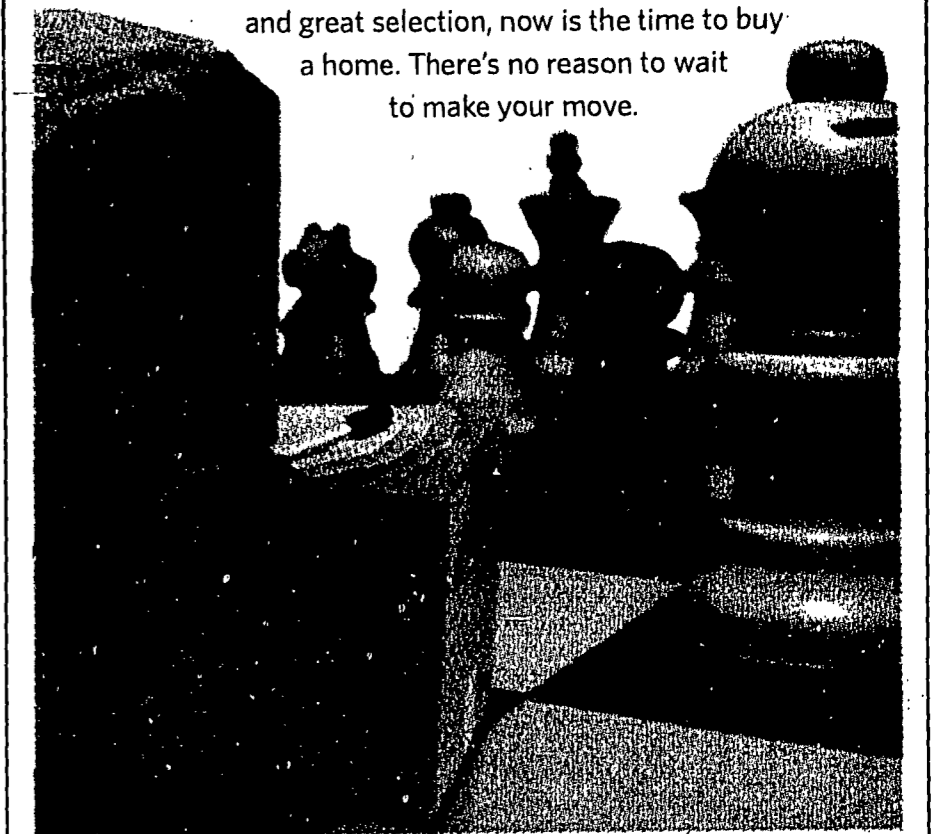
Room 35 Eighth grade first honors: **Gabrielle Carsello, Arun George, Ralph Joseph, Rachel Macam, Teena Mathai, Haritoman Nikolaou, Tara Quinlan, Anthony Romano, Sophia Sidlowski, Anna Tomas.** Second honors: **Carl Carrabotta, Kimberly**

Digest, PAGE 18

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12-year confusion gets complicated



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN
THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Fixer: I've been trying to get ComEd to change my monthly bills into my name. My husband passed away 12 years ago, and the bills are still addressed to him.

When I spoke with a customer representative, I was asked for my Social Security number in order to change the service into my name.

When I gave the number, she said that's the number they have listed for my deceased husband. I told her that it's my Social Security number.

She asked if I ever

had service in my name, and I told her no. For the last 40 years the service has always been in my husband's name. However, I have used my personal checks for the last 12 years to pay these bills. She said that didn't matter.

She told me there is a Social Security form that I need to obtain and mail to ComEd. So I contacted Social Security. I was told that no such form existed and they were not clear on what ComEd wanted.

They suggested I go to the Social Security office and get a letter attesting to my Social Security number to give to ComEd, but this presents a hardship for me since I'll have to take a day off work to go there. Why can't I just mail a photocopy of a picture ID and a copy of my Social Security card?

I will need to have this service in my name because I'm thinking about selling my home and moving, and I'll need to set up electrical service at my new residence. Anything you can do to help straighten this out would be most appreciated.

Barbara Blackmore

Dear Barbara: This is one of those things that looks maddeningly simple but for some reason winds up in consumer limbo. We were happy to get things back on track.

We took your letter to Peter Pedraza of ComEd's communications department. He didn't have a thorough answer on what went wrong, but he did tell us that a trip to the Social Security office was not necessary.

ComEd has switched the service to your name and they've also called you to apologize.

Dear Fixer: A word about wedding photographers, from someone who used to be one.

It's a shame that people are caught up in various schemes, but there are ways to avoid them. For one, don't be intimidated by The Package. Photographers want to make as much money as you want to spend. Always ask for a custom package. It's much less expensive if you simply tell them what you want.

I've done weddings where I knew the couple couldn't afford huge portraits, fancy frames or posed shots. In more than one instance, I offered the couple the film right out of the camera at the end of the reception. It was less expensive for me, and they could take their film and have it processed anywhere they wanted.

Any wedding photographer worth his salt isn't going to let you walk away from a sale

because you don't spend enough. A cheap deal now can mean an expensive sale down the road, if there's good word of mouth.

If they say they only shoot in digital, tell them you will purchase the flashcard that was in the camera.

The photographer's only worry is that you'll see all the shots that would have ended up on the cutting room floor — but that shows how much confidence the cameraman has in his own work.

For video, ask for the tape, unedited, at the end of the shoot. Rather than waiting six months, the couple can see the whole thing (I had someone who wanted to watch their wedding on the honeymoon). You can take it to someone else and have it dubbed to a DVD, and even edit it yourself on your home computer.

Everyone deserves

something they can look back on. The bottom line is it's YOUR wedding — YOU are the director and producer.
Mike Lanners

Dear Mike: This is wonderful advice. On behalf of brides and grooms throughout the area, thank you.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com, where you'll find a simple form to fill out. If you don't have a computer, you can mail a brief description of your problem, along with your name, address and telephone number, to: The Fixer, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Don't send original documents. Because of the large volume of submissions, The Fixer can't make personal replies. Letters are edited for length and clarity.
Thanks to contributor Liza Roche.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

A Pioneer Press Publication

A Pioneer Press Publication

Thursday, March 19, 2009 | B1

Diversions

MANAGING EDITOR: Jennifer Thomas
jthomas@pioneerlocal.com | (847) 486-7358



A quartet of activities for the coming week.



Chicago Grandstand Big Band

1. Chicago Grandstand Big Band will present a concert of American jazz from 4-6 p.m. March 22 at Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant, Chicago. \$6-\$10. (773) 631-9131.

2. "Murder On The Orient Express," March 21-April 5 at the Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood Ave., Skokie. Performances at 7 p.m. Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. \$8-\$10. (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400.

3. Ars Viva and cellist Gary Stucka present "Soaring Strings," works by Grieg, Mendelssohn and Shostakovich, at 4:30 p.m. March 22 and 7:30 p.m. March 23 at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. \$16-\$64. (847) 673-6300 or www.ar-sviva.org.

4. Family entertainer Jim Gill performs at 10 a.m. March 21 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. \$4-\$5 at the door. (847) 635-1900.

'Arsenic and Old Lace' a killer comedy

'ARSENIC & OLD LACE'
by James Downing Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 1:30 p.m. Sundays, March 21-April 5 at John Waldron Arts Center, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. \$15-\$20. (773) 792-3030 or www.edisonparkumc.com.

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Mysterious things are happening in the house inhabited by Mortimer Brewster's two elderly aunts. That shouldn't surprise Mortimer because all his relatives are peculiar in Joseph Kesselring's comedy classic, "Arsenic & Old Lace," at James Downing Theatre in Edison Park, March 21-April 5.

"We had originally wanted to do 'Harvey,'" explained Executive Director Floyd A. May. When they discovered the rights were unavailable, one of the actors suggested this show. "I was very familiar with 'Arsenic' because I directed it a couple of times," the former high school theater teacher said.

May believes audiences relate to the story because people do get in trouble when "they live in their own little world."

Isolation

That isolated view of life is certainly true of



"Arsenic & Old Lace" is the story of Mortimer Brewster and his eccentric family members, including two aunts and a brother who thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt.

Aunt Abby and Aunt Martha, whose elderly gentlemen callers have the unfortunate habit of vanishing. May said that those sisters "have not been affected by time." Neither has the character May plays — Mortimer's delusional brother, who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt.

Managing Producer Joshua Dlouhy is excited to be making his directorial debut with "Arsenic & Old Lace," even though he has never seen a stage production of the show or the film version. Once he read the script, though, Dlouhy was hooked. "There are a lot of fun situations, a lot of double meanings and miscommunication," he said.

Although he is directing for the first time, Dlouhy served on tech crews at his Ohio high school and has done tech work, stage management and assistant directing for a number of area theaters, including James Downing.

Although Dlouhy is focusing on guiding the cast, he is a bit awed by one technical aspect of the show. "This is going to be the biggest set we have ever done for this theater," Dlouhy noted. "They even have some stairs for May's Teddy Roosevelt to scamper up as he yells, 'Charge!'"



James Downing Theatre is staging "Arsenic & Old Lace" through April 5 in Edison Park.

Mundelein actor Sue Mrotek plays Aunt Abby. Mrotek's performing background includes creating and performing "A Skit in Time," comedy sketches that she bases on overheard conversations. She previously appeared at James Downing Theatre in "The Laramie Project."

Mrotek is an enthusiastic fan of the movie version of "Arsenic & Old Lace." "When I saw it as a kid, I loved it," she said. "I thought it was the funniest movie that I had seen."

First impressions

When it comes to Aunt Abby, Mrotek said that,

until you learn about her misdeeds, "She personifies what you like with an aunt — somebody who dotes on you, somebody who's thrilled when you walk in the door, someone who loves the old time courtesy of meet and greet."

Among the things that Mrotek is enjoying about being the show is performing with her stage "sister" Liliana Mitchell. She also likes working in a smaller theater.

"I don't mind working up close and tight with an audience," Mrotek said. "You really have to concentrate, even if the focus isn't on you. You have to

hold your character." And Aunt Abby is a complex character. "In the beginning, she is a softer personality and then things begin to get out of control for her," Mrotek explained.

Mrotek plans to be a very convincing Aunt Abby, but she's not worried that it might make her friends and relatives afraid to eat or drink at her house. "I'm not a wine drinker and I'm not a cook, either," she admitted. "They always bring their own food when they come over."

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NICOLAS CAGE KNOWING

STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 20. LISTING OF THEATRE SHOWS AND TICKET INFORMATION.

STAGE 'And Then They Came For Me...' Remembering the World of Anne Frank... 'Menopause: The Musical'... 'Count Dracula'...

'Mauritius,' presented by Northlight Theatre through April 5 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts... 'Murder On The Orient Express'...

CLASSICAL Ars Viva, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts...

March 23, 7:30 p.m.: 'Soaring Strings,' with Gary Stucka, cello... 'Bach Week Festival, April 24 and 26 at the Music Institute of Chicago... Chicago Chamber Musicians (312) 225-5226...

Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston. (847) 448-8250... '120th Birthday Tribute to Laurence Davis, Keiko Asakawa-Golden, Laurence Jeanningros, Karen Kan, Soo Lee, David Schane, Tomoko Shibuya and Mark Valenti...'...

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go.

Continued from PAGE B4

www.baroque.org. Single tickets are \$30-\$75; \$25-\$30 students/seniors. March 29, 7:30 p.m.: "Celebrate! Handel, Haydn, Purcell, Mendelssohn," Jane Glover, conductor. Featuring the Music of the Baroque Chorus and Or-

chestra. Sarah Gartshore, soprano. Emily Lodine, mezzo-soprano. Ryan Belongie, alto. Harold Brock, tenor. and Douglas Anderson, baritone. The program includes Handel: Coronation Anthem No. 1. "Zadok the Priest"; Haydn: Mass in B-flat Major; Missa Sancti Bernardi von Offida; Purcell: King Oberon's birthday sequence from "The Fairy Queen," Act IV; and Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 in A Major (Italian). Northshore Concert Band performs at

3 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, unless otherwise noted. Tickets \$15; \$12 seniors; \$6 students. (847) 432-2263. www.northshoreband.org. April 19: Steve Cohen, professor of clarinet at Northwestern University, joins the NCB to perform Michael Daugherty's "Brooklyn Bridge." The all-American program also includes Frank Tichel's "Wild Nights"; Chance's "Elegy"; and Tull's "Sketches on a Tudor Psalm."

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermet, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult.

www.northwestsymphony.org. March 29: "Scotland and the Sea," with Iordanka Kissiova, violin. Mendelssohn: Fingal's Cave; Stephen Paulus: Sea Portraits; Bruch: Scottish Fantasy. The Orion Ensemble performs at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$25; \$22 for senior citizens; \$10 for students. Free for children 12 and younger. (630) 628-9591 or www.orionensemble.org.

March 29, 3 p.m.: Laura Elise Schwendinger's "High Wire Act"; Max Bruch's Pieces for Clarinet, Viola and Piano, Op. 83; and Felix Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49. Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets are \$25; \$20 for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 692-PRCO or (847) 823-9861 or visit

www.parkridgecivicochestra.org. April 26, 2:30 p.m.: The Spirit of Brahms: A German Requiem, with the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra Chorus, the Park Ridge Community Church Chancel Choir, the Music Institute of Chicago Chorale. Sarah Hibbard, soprano soloist, and Peter Van De Graaff, bass-baritone soloist. Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Information: (847) 491-5441; tickets: (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org. Most ticket prices listed in three categories: general public; senior citizens and NU faculty and staff; and student rate. March 20, 7:30 p.m.: Pianist Jeffrey Siegel presents Keyboard Conversations. "The Longevity of the Short Piece." The program features "Songs Without Words" by Felix Mendelssohn, "Lyric Pieces" by Edward Grieg, rhapsodies by Johannes Brahms and nocturnes by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. \$23/\$21/\$16. March 28, 7 p.m.: Zen arts master Shozo Salo will guide audience members through a concert of music by Japanese musical ensemble Koto Sound Team Kyara. Free. March 31, 7:30 p.m.: Spring Festival, The Darol Anger-Mike Marshall Duo and Vasen. A string collaboration will bring together violinist Darol Anger (founder of the Turtle Island String Quartet) and mandolinist Mike Marshall with the Swedish string trio Vasen: Olov Johansson, nyckelharpa, violinist Mikael Marin and guitarist Roger Tallroth. \$16/\$12/\$8. April 3, 7:30 p.m.: Flutist Eugenia Zukerman and keyboardist Anthony Newman present "Pieces for the Musical Clock." The musical clock—a clock with internal pipes and bellows—was so popular during the late 17th and 18th centuries that composers Bach, Handel, Mozart and

Haydn all wrote works for it. Zukerman and Newman, together with Biens School of Music flute students Beth DeTorris, Amanda Fuerst and Eva Ryan, will perform their own interpretations of these compositions. \$14/\$10/\$6. Regenstein Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. Most ticket prices listed in three categories: general public; senior citizens and NU faculty and staff; and student rate. March 30, 7:30 p.m.: U.S. Army Brass Quintet presents selections from all eras and genres of classical and popular music, interactive entertainment, video and works for children's concerts. Admission is free. April 4, 9 a.m.: Master Class, Eugenia Zukerman, flute. Free. S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 492-8860. www.evanstonospace.com. March 29, 4 p.m.: Dempster Street Pro Musica. \$24 in advance. April 5, 4 and 6:30 p.m.: The Musical Offering School of Music presents a classical music and opera performance, in collaboration with the Chicago Academy for the Arts, the Opera Company and the Dai Niente Players. \$12; \$8 students and seniors.

www.evansonspace.com. March 29, 4 p.m.: Dempster Street Pro Musica. \$24 in advance. April 5, 4 and 6:30 p.m.: The Musical Offering School of Music presents a classical music and opera performance, in collaboration with the Chicago Academy for the Arts, the Opera Company and the Dai Niente Players. \$12; \$8 students and seniors.

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POP/FOLK/JAZZ

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. May 4-5, 7:30 p.m.: The Dead. \$95, \$50. May 9, 6:30 p.m.: Fall Out Boy with Metro Station, Cobra Starship and All Time Low. \$41, \$31, \$26. May 15, 7:30 p.m.: Keith Urban's "Escape Together World Tour." Zac Brown Band opens. \$59.50, \$39.50 and \$20. Bill's Blues, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. (847) 424-9800. www.billsbluesbar.com. Cover charges vary. Sundays, 4 p.m.: Liljest Open Mike. Mondays, 8:30 p.m.: Mike Finnerty Pro Jazz Jam. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.: Bill's Blues Jam, hosted by

the TFB Band. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.: North Shore Steppin' (DJ). Wednesdays, 10:30 p.m.: John Nance Urban Dance Mix (DJ). March 19, 7 p.m.: Lil Fest Presents (folk/rock). March 19, 10 p.m.: Northwestern Band Night (pop). March 20, 5:30 p.m.: Prohibition Orchestra Big Band Jazz. March 20, 8:30 p.m.: LV Banks Blues Band. March 21, 8:30 p.m.: Sammy Fender Blues Band. March 21, 11:30 p.m.: TRC Events Presents (world music). March 22, 7 p.m.: Ed Holstein (folk). March 26, 7 p.m.: Lil Fest Presents (folk/rock). March 27, 5:30 p.m.: Alte Schliebeles Klezmer Band. March 27, 8:30 p.m.: Pistol Live Blues Band. March 28, 8:30 p.m.: Live reggae with TRC Entertainment. March 28, 11:30 p.m.: TRC Events Presents (world music).

Bluegrass Legends Concerts presents "Chapter #1 of the First Annual Chicago Bluegrass Festival" at 8 p.m. April 4 at the American Legion Music Hall, 1030 Central St., Evanston. Performers include Tangleweed, Whiskey Hollow Bluegrass Band, Henhouse Prowlers, Chicago Bluegrass Band and James Creek Road. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20; \$15 for youth 16 and under and senior citizens. Reserve tickets at www.chicagobluegrass.com. Blues Bar, 2 W. Busse Ave., Mount Prospect. (847) 788-9977. www.bluesbar.com. March 28, 9:30 p.m.: Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. (847) 864-1679. www.celticknotpub.com. No cover unless noted otherwise. Mondays, 8 p.m.: midnight: Bluegrass and roots music with the Mudflapps. Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.: Irish music session. March 22, 5-8 p.m.: Eric Lugosch. March 28, 10 p.m.: Naomi Ashley. April 5, 8 p.m.: Andy White. April 11, 10 p.m.: Bluegrass Advocates. Chicago Grandstand Big Band will present a concert of American jazz from 4-6 p.m. March 22 at Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6626 N. Oliphant.

Chicago. Tickets: \$10; \$6 for senior citizens; free for children under 12. (773) 631-9131. Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhumanist.org. April 11, 8 p.m.: The Sassi! Trio and Andina & Rich. Doors open 7:30 p.m.; no open mike this month to allow for longer concert. \$7 includes refreshments. Famous Freddie's, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. (847) 593-2200. www.famousfreddiesroadhouse.com. Music at 9 p.m. Fridays and 10 p.m. Saturdays, unless noted otherwise. March 20: Sure Fire Groove (blues/rock). March 27: Arra (classic rock). March 27: X-Side. March 28: Kashmir (Led Zeppelin tribute). Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. Entertainment at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in the Fifth Province Lounge, no cover—March 20: The Celtic Groundhogs. March 21: Oyed in the Wool. March 27: Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore. March 28: The Dooley Brothers. The Lira Singers will present a concert of Italian and Polish music at 3 p.m. March 22 at Our Lady, Mother of the Church Parish, 8747 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. A free-will collection will be taken to help defray concert expenses. A reception follows the performance. Call (773) 626-3369 or (773) 508-7040. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. (847) 965-4220. March 22, 2 p.m.: "Abraham Lincoln in Song," presented by folksinger Chris Vallillo. Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. April 17, 8 p.m.: The Lakeside Singers present "Celebration," a

retrospective of music from the group's first 10 years, including classical, jazz, gospel, rock, folk, R&B and other genres. "Celebration" will include traditional and folk songs from England, Germany, Finland and India as well as arrangements of "Midnight Train to Georgia," "Fields of Gold," "So Cool" and Stephen Sondheim's "Not Getting Married." Tickets: \$30; \$20 for senior citizens and students; \$10 for children under 12. For information, visit www.lakesidesingers.com. Myron and Phils, 3900 W. Devon, Lincolnwood. (847) 677-6663. Fridays through April 24: Karaoke contest. Na Mele Aloha, the Hawaiian music ensemble from Oakton Community College, will perform at noon April 1 at the Cultural Arts show at Oakton Community College, 1500 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Call Earl Essig, (847) 272-0762. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. (847) 663-6623. www.nileslibrary.org. March 21, 3 p.m.: Crickletalk! Intertribal Powwow Drum Group. Northwest Café, in the Norwood Park train station, 6088 Northwest Highway, March 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m.: Friday Night Love Songs with Chris Corsale. Free-will donations will benefit Night Ministry. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100. May 19-20 and July 7: "An Evening with Il Divo." \$55, \$85, \$125 and \$150. The Sing to Live Community Chorus presents "Sweets for Lovers" at 7:30 p.m. March 21 at the Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: \$20;

\$15 for senior citizens and students. Complimentary admission for breast cancer survivors. Call (773) 250-SING. Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com. Concert tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door, unless noted otherwise. March 20, 8 p.m.: Three Troubadours—Jeff Libman, Brad Cole and Terry MacNamara. March 21, 8 p.m. and March 22, 2 p.m.: Ava Logan's Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald & Friends. March 25, 1:30 p.m.: Music of the World. \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Seniors and Niles Township residents, \$10 in advance or at the door. March 27-28, 8 p.m.: Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. March 29, 2 p.m.: "Gershwin's Greatest Hits" with Elaine Dame. April 1, 1:30 p.m.: Music of the World. \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Seniors and Niles Township residents, \$10 in advance or at the door. April 3, 8 p.m.: Sons of the Never Wrong. April 4, 8 p.m., and April 5, 2 p.m.: "This One's For You—The Songs of Barry Manilow," starring 3Girls3. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. April 5, 7:30 p.m.: Music of the World, starring Eddy Patay. April 8, 1:30 p.m.: Tribute to Nat King Cole, starring Marcus Gentry. \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Seniors and Niles Township residents, \$10 in advance or at the door. April 15, 1:30 p.m.: Dean Martin Songbook. \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Seniors and Niles Township residents, \$10 in advance or at the door. S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 492-8860. www.evanstonospace.com. March 19, 8 p.m.: Mitch Lavin Accident (rock). \$10 in advance. March 20, 8 p.m.: Paul Cebal Tomorrow Sound with Pete Special (American roots). \$15 in advance; \$20

at the door. March 21, 8 p.m.: David Honeyboy Edwards (blues) with Aaron Moore. \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. March 26, 8 p.m.: Porter, Batiste and Stoltz of The Funky Melers (soul/R&B). \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. March 28, 8 p.m.: Josh Hoge with Curtis Peoples and Ernie Halter (pop/rock). \$10 in

advance. April 1, 8 p.m.: The Jazz Fauré Project, featuring singers Claudia Hommel and Sean Harris, pianist Bobby Schiff, Tim Davis, drums, Jerry DiMuzio, saxophone, flute and clarinet, and Jim Cox, bass. The group fuses the melodies of 19th century impressionist composer Gabriel Fauré with jazz

forms. \$10-\$25. April 2, 8 p.m.: Graham Parker. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. April 3, 8 p.m.: Shawn Mullins with David McMillin. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. April 4, 8 p.m.: The Refugees.

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Continued from PAGE B7

featuring Wendy Waldman, Deborah Holland and Cindy Bullens (folk/rock) \$12 in advance, April 9, 8 p.m. The Trews (rock), \$8 in advance.

ART GALLERIES

Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, (847) 491-4000, www.block-museum.northwestern.edu. Through April 5: "From Michelangelo to Annibale Carracci: A Century of Italian Drawings from the Prado." This exhibition of 70 drawings explores the working methods of the most important artists active in Italy from 1520-1620. **Through April 5:** "Polaroids: Mapplethorpe" exhibition, in the Aldorf Gallery. The show brings together 100 works, including self-portraits, figure studies, still-lives and portraits of friends and lovers. Some material may be inappropriate for younger or more sensitive audiences.

Dittmar Memorial Gallery at Northwestern University's Norris Center, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, (847) 491-2348.

www.norris.northwestern.edu/dittmar.php. March 30-May 6: Robert Logan, "Constructivists Chicago," featuring abstract large-scale photographs of man-made structures in and around Chicago's Loop by Robert Logan, a 90-year-old Highland Park-based photographer. **March 30-May 6:** Iain Fraser, "missed places." Canadian-born architect and St. Louis-based artist Fraser will exhibit his three-dimensional steel, glass and concrete constructions. A re-

ception for Robert Logan and Iain Fraser will be held from 6-8 p.m. April 3. **Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, (847) 674-1500.** Through May 2: Skokie Art Guild 2009 members' spring exhibit. "Nature's Palette."

Evanston Art Center, 2603 Sheridan Road, (847) 475-5300, www.evanstonartcenter.org. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Through April 5: "WithOut Borders," an exhibition of works by artists of the global multi-culture who are living and working in the Chicago area.

Irish American Heritage Center Art Gallery, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. **Through March 29:** "Irish Eyes," showcasing paintings and photography by Irish-American Chicagoans. Artists include Pam Ryan, Mary McCloskey and Tom Joyce. Students of the Center's Traditional Celtic Art Class will also be included in the show.

Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Contact Shirley Engelstein, fine arts coordinator, (847) 674-3806. Through April 30: "A Tribute to Hal Foster" by Sidney Weiskirch.

Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, (847) 965-4220. March: "Visions in Photography," by Morton Grove resident John Peterson, will be on exhibit in the Baxter Room.

Dakota Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, (847) 635-2633, www.oakton.edu/museum. Through March 27: "Pastels Chicago," presented by the Chicago Pastel Painters. The juried exhibition features 100 works representing a diversity of visual styles and subjects.

Skokie Art Guild artists showing through April 30 include Hope Salzmanoff exhibiting her oil paintings

at Bank of Lincolnwood, 4433 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood; and Claire L. Hirsch exhibiting her oil paintings at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

MUSICIANS

Canzonella Youth String Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Hilel Karan, is accepting new members for its spring season. Rehearsals begin March 21-22. Training Ensemble (ages 7-11) meets 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturdays; Intermediate Ensemble (ages 10-14) meets 3-4:30 p.m. Sundays; Senior Ensemble (ages 13-18) meets 1-3 p.m. Sundays. All practices are held at the Wilmette Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette. For auditions, call Helia Schramm, (847) 328-0570.

SINGERS

Northwest Choral Society seeks bass, tenor, alto or soprano singers with previous choral experience. Auditions will be held during rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, through March 24, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 855 Lee St., Des Plaines. The chorus presents three concerts of classical and popular music each season, including a holiday concert, a winter concert and an early summer concert. To schedule an audition, call (773) 504-3426 or visit www.nwchoralsociety.org.

ARTISTS

Artist applications are now available for the 24th annual Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival, which will be held July 18-19 at Dawes Park along Evanston's lakefront. The festival is open to ethnic artists and art vendors. Application deadline is April 6. Call (847) 448-8260 for information.

Artists and craftspersons are invited to apply to participate in the 19th annual An Arts & Crafts Adventure, to be presented May 9 in Hodges Park.

Prospect and Vine streets, Park Ridge. Visit www.americansocietyofartists.org or call (847) 991-4748.

Call for artists for the Skokie Art Guild's 48th annual Art Fair, to be held July 11-12 on the Skokie Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton, Skokie. Prizes and awards. E-mail skokieartfair@aol.com or call (847) 677-8163.

MISCELLANEOUS

Morton Grove Public Library seeks entries for its annual writing contest, in honor of National Library Week. The library is sponsoring its fourth annual writing contest, with two categories: students in grades 7-12 and adults age 19 and up. The theme for 2009 is "Worlds Connect @ Your Library." Rules are: Maximum of 500 words; entries must be printed legibly or typed on 8.5 x 11 inch paper; and the author's name, address, and age category must be printed on the back of the entry. Entries must be received in the library by 9 p.m. April 6. Winners will be announced April 13. For information, call (847) 965-4220.

BENEFITS

Fundraiser Feast 2009, to benefit the Evanston Children's Choir, 5-7:30 p.m. March 20 in MacLeish Hall at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake St., Evanston. Featuring an all-you-can-eat polluck dinner with live music by the ECC Main and Junior Choirs, a silent auction and a raffle. Tickets: \$15; \$10 students and seniors; \$5 for children 12-17; free for children under 12. For tickets, contact Gary Geiger at (847) 733-0814 or gary@evanstonchildrenschoir.org. Reba McEntire and Red Steagall will perform a benefit concert at 7 p.m. March 21 at Sears Centre, located in the Prairie Stone Complex on Interstate 90

between the I-59 and Beverly Road exits, Hoffman Estates. Proceeds will help pay medical expenses for retired Maine West High School wrestling coach Richard Carlini. Tickets: \$62-\$202. Visit www.ticketmaster.com or call (800) 745-3000.

"A Magical Evening," the annual Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra benefit dinner, will be held at 5:30 p.m. April 28 at the Exmoor Country Club, 700 Vine St., Highland Park. The evening includes a silent auction, dinner, performance by the Magical Strings of Youth, and the presentation of the Ars Viva 2009 Award for Excellence to Betty Haag-Kuhnke, director of the Betty Haag Academy, \$175 per person. To make a reservation or request an invitation, call (847) 615-1811.

"Dancing the Dream II: Kazuaria," 7 p.m. April 30 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300, www.centreeast.org. April 19, 1 and 3 p.m.: Junie B. Jones, \$18.

BOOKS & POETRY

Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., (847) 965-4220. March 24, 7 p.m.: Discussion of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. **March 29, 3 p.m.:** Discussion of *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink at Starbucks, 6763 Dempster.

CHILD'S PLAY

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300, www.centreeast.org. April 19, 1 and 3 p.m.: Junie B. Jones, \$18.

"Cinderella" will be presented by Chicago Kids Company at 10:30 a.m. and noon April 14-17, 20-24, 27-30, May 7-8 and 22: 1 p.m. April 25, May 16 and July 11; and 10:30 a.m. May 12, 14, 19-21, 26-29, June 24-26, July 1-2 and 7-10 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago. Tickets: \$10. Call (773) 205-9600 or visit www.chicagokidscompany.com.

Covenant Nursery School, 1420 Maple Ave. (in the YMCA Children's Center), Evanston. March 21, 3-4:30 p.m.: "One World," a family-friendly celebration of multiculturalism featuring S.O.U.L. Creations intergenerational drum and dance troupe. \$10 suggested donation per family at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Covenant Scholarship Fund to provide tuition assistance to families in need. Call (847) 475-2990 or visit www.covenantnurseryschool.org.

Evanston Children's Theatre will stage "Thar's Gold in Them Thar Clothes" at 7 p.m. March 27: 3 and 7 p.m. March 28; and 3 p.m. March 29 at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$6 through March 6; \$8 thereafter. Call (847) 448-8250.

Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., hosts its annual Arboretum Egg Hunt on April 11. Choose from four "hunt" times: 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. Children search for eggs in the Ladd Arboretum and exchange them for small prizes. A special area is reserved for children age 1 1/2 to 4 years. Bring a basket or a bag to hold the eggs. Activities and a craft follow the egg hunt. Cost is \$4.50/person. Pre-registration is required; call (847) 448-8256.

"How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back?" will be presented at 7 p.m. April 10; 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. April 11 and 2

p.m. April 12 in Northwestern University's Ethel M. Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The musical is based on some of Aesop's fables, including "Tortoise and the Hare," "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," "Androcles and the Lion" and "The Ant and the Grasshopper." Tickets: \$20; \$18 for senior citizens; \$10 for children and full-time students. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tlc.northwestern.edu.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Suggested donation is \$5 adults; \$2.50 senior citizens, students and children. Maximum suggested admission per family is \$10. Kids Craft Mornings are offered from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration is necessary. March 28: Northwest Coast button blankets.

Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., (847) 965-4220. March 21 and April 18, 10 a.m.: "Saturday Shorts," video adaptations of award-winning classic children's picture books. Recommended for ages 3-8. **March 29, 2 p.m.:** Denis DeBonnol: Very Funny Magic! **Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-6623. www.nileslibrary.org. March 20, 10 a.m.:** Polish Storytime for ages 2 and up. **Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, (847) 635-1900. March 21, 10 a.m.:** Family entertainer Jim Gill performs. Tickets are \$4-\$5 at the door. **Sesame Street Live "When Elmo Grows Up," 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. May 7; 8:10:30 a.m., 2 and 5:30 p.m. May 9; and 1 and 4:30 p.m. May 10 at the Rose-**

go., PAGE B11

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All Music Guide

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'Murder on the Orient Express' script solved

'MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS'
7 p.m. Saturdays,
3 p.m. Sundays,
March 21-April 5 at the

Devonshire Playhouse,
4400 Greenwood Ave.,
Skokie. \$8-\$10. (847) 674-1500,
Ext. 2400.

By **J.T. MORAND**
jtmorand@pioneerlocal.com
The Orient Express is
pulling into Skokie's De-

vonshire Playhouse on a
trip back in time.
Playhouse actors and
crew are putting on
Agatha Christie's "Murder
on the Orient Express"
between March 21 and
April 5. The story follows
detective Hercule Poirot
as he attempts to solve a
murder on the Orient Ex-
press train, which is full of
suspects, traveling
through Europe in the
1930s.

Missing script

When theater-goers
come to watch the play,
they'll be seated by volun-
teers portraying train
porters and treated to
some 1930s pre-show en-
tertainment, before they
see a play that didn't have
a script.

Director Danon
Dastugue had wanted
to put on a stage version
of Christie's murder
mystery since 2005, when
she was enrolled in a di-
recting program at Roo-
sevelt University. How-
ever, she didn't have
enough male actors and
had to shelve the project.

But, when the
Devonshire Theatre
Guild gave her the go-
ahead in 2007, Dastugue

was without a script.
She had to develop
her own, which she did by
borrowing from the
screenplay for the 1974
film version and from the
novel.

"I originally thought
the screenplay was going
to be easier because of the
dialogue," she said. "But
the movie uses so many
flashbacks, it was hard to
envision staging it."

So, she used the ex-
pressive language from
the movie, but used infor-
mation from the book to
explain the plot.

It wasn't perfect, but
she and the cast continued
to tweak the script
through rehearsals.

"I give them lots of
credit for helping shape
the final product," she
said, adding writing the
script made for a lot of ex-
tra work.

"I love both fiction and
theatre, so the work tends
to bring together two
things I enjoy," she said.
"It was worth it."

But, Dastugue didn't
stop at developing the
script. She also took on
costume design.

Period pieces

"It's really fun finding
period styles for the

actors," she said. "Every-
one's been enjoying acces-
sorizing with hats, gloves,
etc."

It helped that *Murder
on the Orient Express* is
one of Dastugue's favorite
Christie novels.

"There's a wonderfully
touching end to the story,
so I think its appeal is
unique," she said. "The
characters, as in all of
Christie's novels, are rich
and animated. They really
come to life."

While the show will go
on March 28, the pre-show
train porters and singers
will get the night off for
the Devonshire Theatre
Guild Silent Auction,
which starts at 6 p.m.

Robin H. Ledford, cultural
arts facility manager for
the Skokie Park Dis-
trict, said auction items in-
clude tickets to local the-
atre and sporting events,
hotel stays and gift certifi-
cates. Boris and Alla Gore-
lick will perform violin and
piano duets of classical
pieces and Broadway
melodies.

"Murderous appetizers
will be served throughout
the event," Ledford said.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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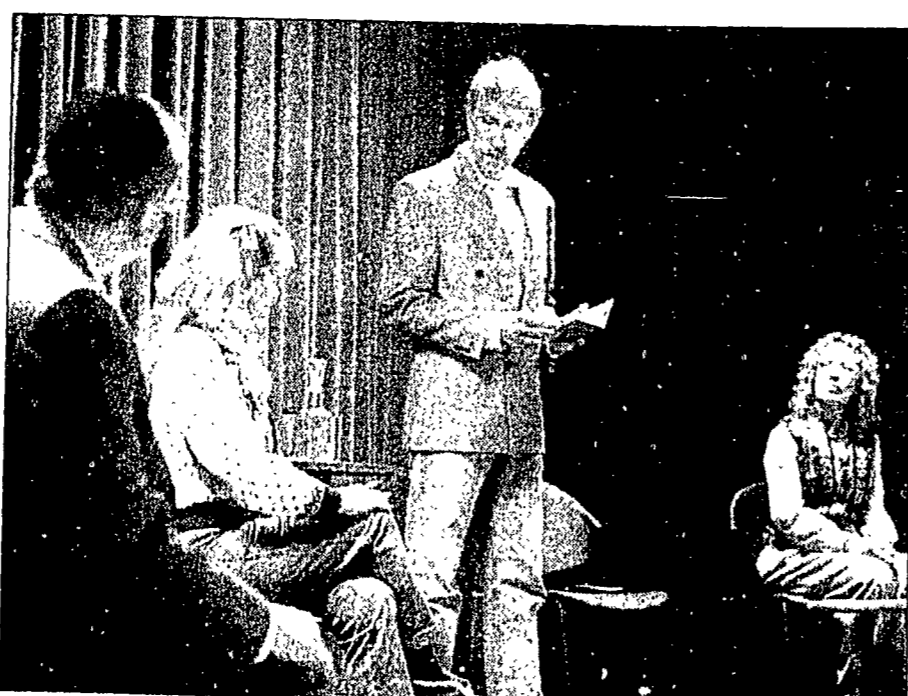
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GM McCorry (second from right) rehearses with Marlon Kleinman (far left), Dorann Sireikis (second from left) and Teri Lang (far right) for the play, "Murder on the Orient Express." McCorry is playing Agatha Christie creation Hercule Poirot. (Buzz Orr/Pioneer Press)

go.

Continued from **PAGE B9**

mont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets: \$15, \$20 and \$30, plus \$35 Gold Circle seats. For tickets, call (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 492-8860, www.evanspion.com. April 19, 11 a.m.: Justin Roberts. \$15 in advance. "Whoops, That Came Out Wrong: The Lab Chronicles," presented by Mudlark Theater Company at 7:30 p.m. March 27-28 and 3 p.m. March 29 at McGaw Y Childcare Center, 1410 Maple, Evanston. Tickets: \$12, \$5 for children. www.mudlarktheater.org.

"The Wizard of Oz," 7 p.m. April 2-3 at Hitch School, 5625 N. McVicker, Chicago. Tickets: \$8, \$5 for children. (773) 534-1189.

COMEDY

Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300, www.centreast.org. April 21-23, 7:30 p.m.: Jack-

ie Mason, \$72.
Hotel Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. Through April 25: ComedySportz, 8 p.m. Saturdays in the Montrose Room. Tickets: \$21 at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling (800) 745-3000, \$30 at the door. For information, visit www.comedysportzchicago.com. Every other Friday, 8 p.m.: "Un-Tied," improv by Annoyance Theatre. Performances in the

Montrose Room for an open run. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212.
Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212, the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100. June 19-20, 8 p.m.: George

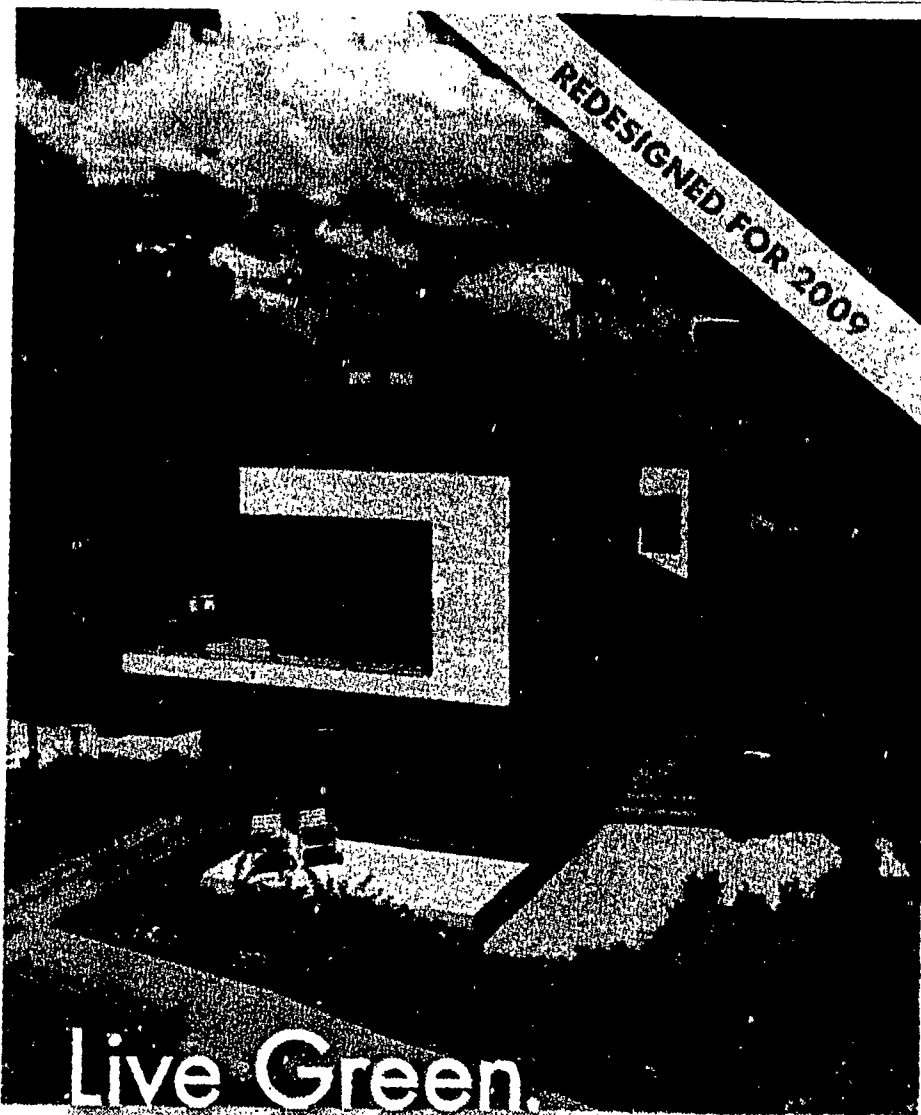
Lopez: Tall, Dark & Chicano Tour. Tickets are \$59.50 and \$67.
US Beer Company, 1801 N. Clybourn Ave., Chicago. (773) 871-7799. March 21, 8:30-10 p.m.: Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman presents a comedy performance based on her books, *Still Single* and *Still Dating*. \$5.

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<p>"TALKING BONES" by Shay Youngblood Directed by Runako Jali January 20th - March 22nd 8 p.m. Thurs. - Sat 3 & 7 p.m. Sundays</p> <p>eta SQUARE 7688 S. South Chicago Avenue 773-752-3955 www.etacreativearts.org</p> <p>This production is partially supported by ComEd</p>	<p>ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATRE JUDITH JAMISON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Masazumi Chaya ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR</p> <p>APRIL 1-5 2009</p> <p>TICKETS: 800.982.ARTS(2787) Ticketmaster.com</p> <p>AUDITORIUM THEATRE of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY auditoriumtheatre.org JUDITH JAMISON Photo © Jack Mitchell - 1976</p>	<p>SEE THE MAGIC OF LIVE THEATRE FOR YOURSELF</p> <p>The Best of Comedy!</p> <p>Ruddigore March 13-15 The University of Chicago 773-761-9075 for tickets</p>	<p>A Show as Vibrant & Colorful as the Dreamcoat Itself!</p> <p>JOSEPH AMAZING DREAMCOAT</p> <p>New Saturday Matinee 4:30pm</p> <p>847-634-0200</p>
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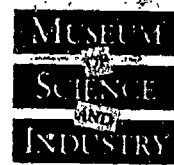


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Continued from PAGE B11

DANCE

PERFORMANCES
Centre East in the North Shore Center

for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.centreast.org. April 18, 8 p.m.: River North Chicago Dance Company. \$46.
Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (312) 559-1212; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100. March 19-22: "Riverdance," a

celebration of Irish music, song and dance. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$32-\$69.

GROUPS & LESSONS

Chicago Dance Club, (847) 622-4466. Dance to DJ music from the '50s to today from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Saturdays at American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific Ave.

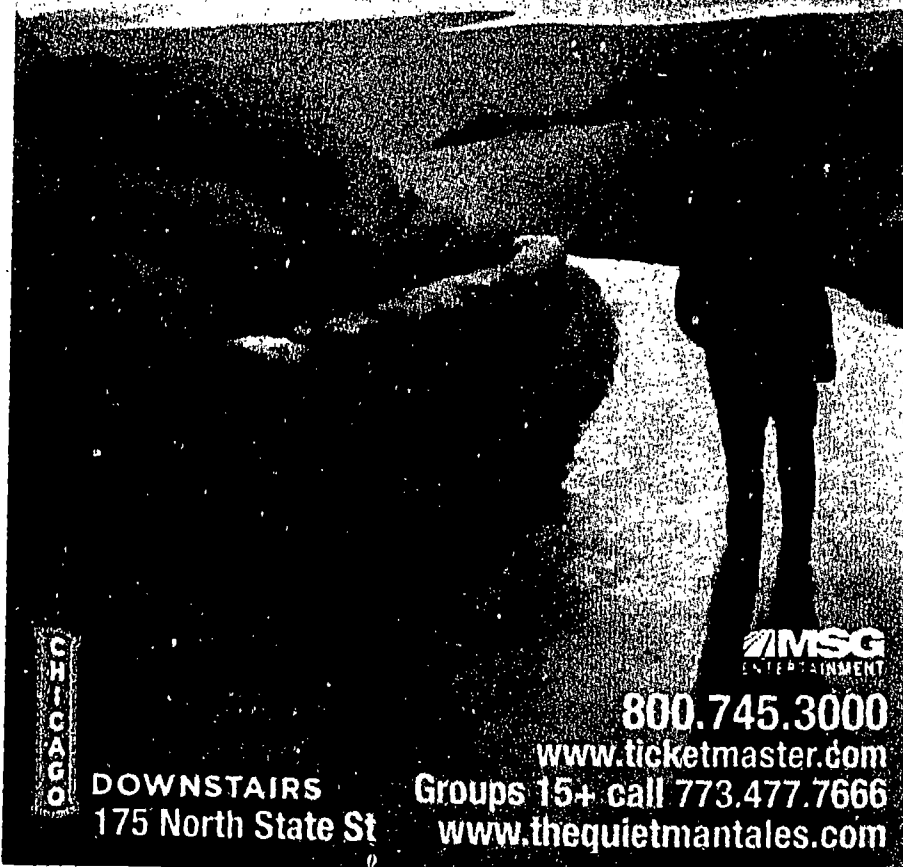
"A wonderful script...the characters are strong and interesting...the tale is well told. Delightful!"

-Maureen O'Hara

The Quiet Man Tales

by Frank Mahon and Milissa Pacelli
Based on Green Rushes by Maurice Walsh

NOW PLAYING



Franklin Park. Mostly swing dancing, some ballroom, Latin and line dancing. Open to ages 21 and older. \$5 members; \$10 nonmembers. Membership fee \$25. Upcoming dates are March 28 and April 25.
Chicago's Windy City Jitterbug Club holds dances to the music of the '50s, '60s and more. Proper attire required; no jeans or shorts allowed. Must be 21 or older. Call (773) 467-0177 or visit www.jitterbugchicago.com. March 21: Chevy Chase Country Club dinner/dance. Advance tickets required; call the hotline. Dance lessons available include Jitterbug II and Night Club 2-Step; call (630) 231-7644.
Kristine's Dance Party, 7:30-11 p.m. Thursdays at the Park Ridge VFW, 10 W. Higgins Road, Park Ridge. Open to singles and couples. Nightclub, swing, jitterbug, salsa, hustle, cha cha, fox trot and other music provided by a DJ. \$5 cover; cash bar. (773) 482-0642 or www.kristinedanceparty.com.
Leikarringen "Helmhug" dancers welcome those age 16 and older interested in Scandinavian folk dance to join them from 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the First United Methodist Church of Des Plaines, 666 Graceland Ave. No prior dance experience or partner necessary. Call (847) 823-7596 or (847) 692-6616.
Prairie Lakes Senior Center, 515 E. Thacker, Des Plaines. For information, call (847) 825-2901 or (847) 825-6637. March 20, 8-10:30 p.m.: Alice Lowy will host ballroom dancing to live music. \$25 per couple at the door. March 28, 8-10:30 p.m.: Alice Lowy will host ballroom dancing to taped music. \$15 per couple at the door.
Square Spares & Pairs Square Dance Club, a club for couples and singles, dances the second and fourth Mondays of the month all year long at the Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. Rounds start at 7:30 p.m., with squares from 8-10 p.m. For information, call (773) 775-9427 or (708) 442-8646. March 23: "Spring

Fling." April 13: "Taxes and Tears." April 27: "Sunny Days & Happy Tunes." Square dance lessons are held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Glen Park Center, Room 201, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. First lesson is free.

DINING

Schaefer's, 9965 Gross Point Road, Skokie. (847) 673-5711. March 21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.: Free wine tasting.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Polish Easter Cultural Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 28 in the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Social Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. The event includes folk art projects and Polish cuisine. \$20; \$15 for children ages 7-15. (773) 782-2600 or www.prcua.org.
Irish Earth Day Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 18 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox, Chicago. Vendors will display Earth-friendly products, conservation, recycling, sustainable agriculture and alternative energy. There will also be children's activities, live music and food for purchase. Free admission. For information, call (773) 282-7035 or visit www.irish-american.org.

Modern Language Film Festival, March 30-April 2, with free screenings at both Oakton Community College campuses, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Eleven international films will be presented with English subtitles. Selections include "The Counterfeiters" (German, 2007); "Marathon" (Korean, 2005); "Fearless" (Chinese, 2006); "The Yacoubian Building" (Arabic, 2006); "Beaufort" (Hebrew, 2007); "100 Steps" (Italian, 2000); "Always: Sunset on Third Street" (Japanese, 2005); "Hania" (Polish, 2007); "The Wedding"

FILM

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. April 14: Wayne Atkinson will present a watercolor demonstration.
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 DuSole, (847) 825-3505.
Skokie Art Guild meets at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Visitors welcome. For information, e-mail Ina-Marlowe@gmail.com. March 24, 7 p.m.: Jessica Fine, pastel from a photo.
Skokie Festival of Cultures organizing committee meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St.,

Skokie, November through February, and then every one to two weeks until the festival, to be held May 15-16. New members and cultural representatives are welcome. For information, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2715, or visit www.skokieculturefest.org.
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.

LECTURES

Chicago Public Library, Roden Branch, 6083 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago. (312) 744-1478. April 15, 7 p.m.: "Images of Honest Abe," presented by art historian Jeff Mishur. The slide lecture examines paintings, photographs, sculptures and material culture relating to Lincoln and their historical context.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Broadway Dreams Foundation's Triple Threat Extreme, acting/vocal performance/theatre dance workshops for ages 8-adult, 9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. March 29 at Gus Giordano Dance School, 614 Davis St., Evanston. Three classes for \$225 or \$95 per class. To register, e-mail Annette@mybroadwaydreams.com; for information, call (847) 910-9946.

ORGANIZATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS
Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. (773) 282-7035. www.irishamhc.com. April 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: In celebration of National Library Week, the Irish American Heritage Center Library will host the International Women's Writing Guild for a day-long women's writing workshop, "A Writing Life/A Creative Life: The Importance of Words," taught by Susan M. Tiberghien. Fee is \$80 for International Women's Writing Guild members; \$95 for nonmembers. A \$25 nonrefundable deposit is required. To register, call (773)

go., PAGE B15

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FAMILY FRIENDLY

Singer tells Lincoln's history through songs from his time

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

As a former archaeologist, Chris Vallillo is fascinated by the past. He is also an award-winning folk singer who combines his two passions in "Abraham Lincoln in Song," 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

"I've been involved collecting and performing roots music in Illinois — the music that people came with and lived by before television and radio," Vallillo said. "I've also performed at many of the Lincoln sites over the years. The more I learned about Lincoln, the more fascinating I found him. He was a man of great depth and led a most remarkable life. In many ways, his life paralleled the development of our country."

Vallillo uses the music

that Lincoln knew to tell his life story. "These old songs are wonderful windows into the past," he explained. "They're written in the words of people that experienced the events and they give you insight into history that no book can ever give you."

The show is particularly timely because "clearly Barack Obama is a man who is looking to Lincoln as a guide and inspiration."

For details, call (847) 965-4220.

Spring for tea

Treat your little girl and her favorite doll to a "Spring Tea Party," 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Skokie Heritage Museum and Log Cabin, 8031 Floral Ave. You'll enjoy refreshments, work on craft projects and make a picture frame for a souvenir photo. Cost is \$20 per



Folk singer Chris Vallillo will give a concert, "Abraham Lincoln in Song," March 22 in Morton Grove.

couple for residents, \$30 for nonresidents, \$15 per extra participant. Reservations are required.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 3000.

Secret celebration

Those plush pets that

come with secret codes will be the center of attention at Webkinz Party, 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. The event will include games, fun and prizes for kindergart-

Secret celebration

Those plush pets that

ners and older. Registration is required. For details, call (847) 825-3123.

Dog day

Your young kids will get a kick out of being greeted by the Big Red

Dog of storybook fame at Meet Clifford, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Barnes & Noble Book-sellers, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. They can even get their photo taken with Clifford, the star of Norman Bridwell's book series, which has enchanted kids since 1963.

For details, call (847) 676-2230.

A day to play

Start spring in a fun way with Come Out and Play! A Family Play Day, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. Your family will enjoy nature-based activities, of interest to all ages, using found objects. Cost is \$10 per family for residents, \$12.50 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500.

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Continued from PAGE B13

282-7035, ext. 19. Oakton Community College offers Alliance for Lifelong Learning classes. For information or registration, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-

9888, press 3. March 30, 7-8:30 p.m.: Ravinia: Where Music Spends the Summer (MUS F01-01) examines the history and lore of the North Shore music park. Class meets at Evanston Township High School. Course fee is \$20. Oakton Community College Emeritus Program offers courses at its Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. For information about the Emeritus Program, call (847) 635-1414 or visit

www.oakton.edu/emeritus. Sirens: The Great Tempresses of Opera (MUS C04-71) features video and audio excerpts, as well as biographical details about the composers. Eight-week course meets 1-2:30 p.m. Fridays, starting March 20. Fee is \$100. The New Yorker (HUM E93-72) focuses on selections from the magazine, which was established in 1925. A subscription is required. Six-week course meets 9:30-

11:30 a.m. Mondays, starting March 23. Course fee is \$77. Mysterious Travel VI (HUM B29-71) explores the popularity of the mystery novel and the use of fiction to better understand other cultures. Eight-week course meets 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fridays, starting March 27. Course fee is \$100. The Violin Goes to the Opera (MUS B63-71) examines the use of virtuoso violin arrangements in popular operas. Hear performances of

selections by Rossini, Bizet and Mozart. Four-week course meets from 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, starting April 1. Course fee is \$70. Our Town by Thornton Wilder (HUM B52-71) discusses the themes in this classic play and how they still relate in this age of instant communication. Four-week course meets from 2:30-4 p.m. Wednesdays, starting April 1. Course fee is \$60.

ET CETERA

Hollywood Celebrities & Memorabilia Show, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 21 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 22 at the Chicago O'Hare Marriott Hotel, 8535 W. Higgins Road, Chicago. General admission \$15 daily; free for children under 14 accompanied by an adult. www.hollywoodcollectors.com.

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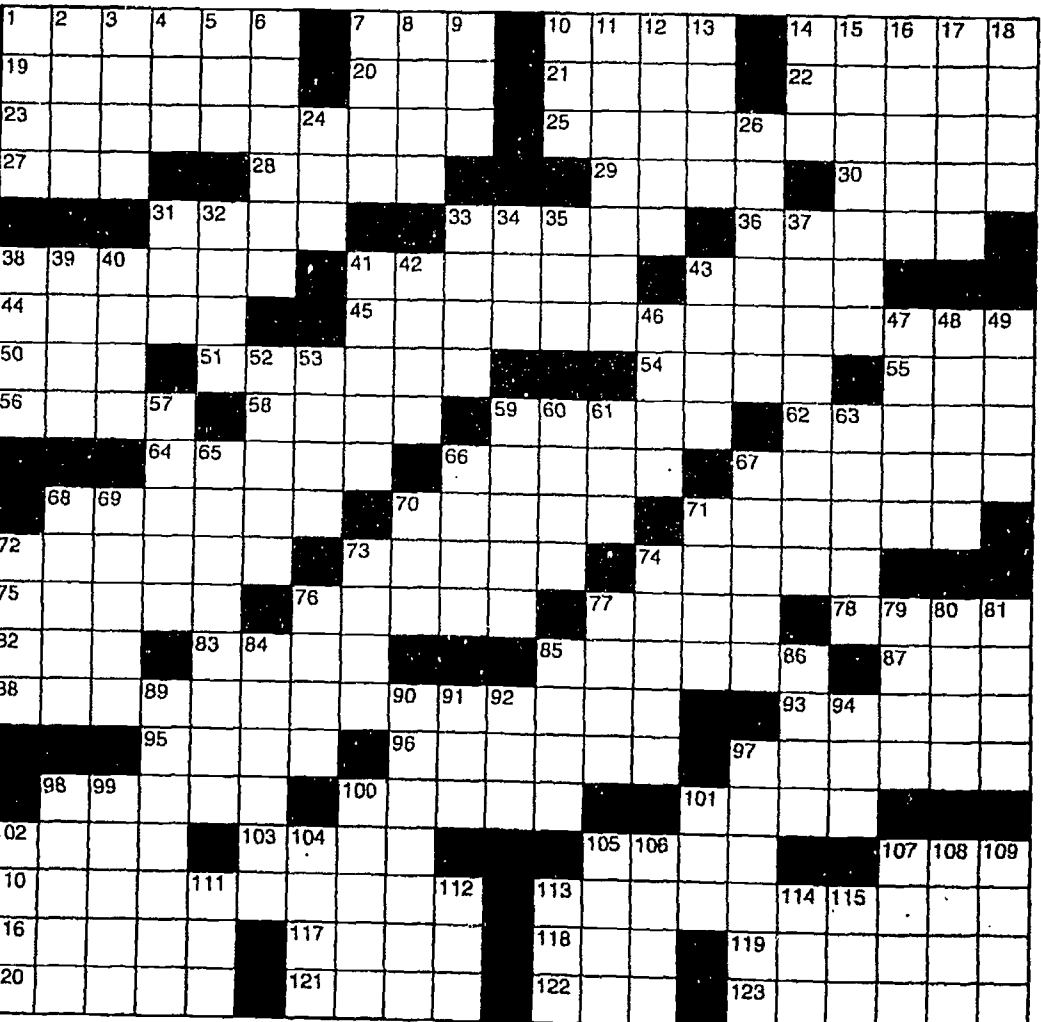
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| ACROSS | 1 Writer Susan | 7 AAA handout | 10 Explorer Tasman | 14 Checker move? | 19 Carry too far | 20 Winter hazard | 21 Creme — creme | 22 Kunta — ("Roots" character) | 23 Start of a remark by Steven Wright | 25 Patrician | 27 Canadian prov. | 28 Victim | 29 Wool gatherer? | 30 Roll-call reply | 31 Level | 33 Entire range | 36 Put up with | 38 Thick stick | 41 Put aside | 43 Blind part | 44 See 11 Down | 45 Part 2 of remark | 50 It may get flipped | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 51 Connecticut town | 54 Summit | 55 Live and breathe | 56 Mighty mile | 58 Sausage segment | 59 Long island resort | 62 Tel Aviv teacher | 64 Out of the way | 66 Beak | 67 One way to park | 68 Tranquil | 70 Part 3 of remark | 71 Kukla or Lamb Chop | 72 Ill will | 73 Cherbourg chapeau | 74 Glee | 75 — a "Symphony" (65 song) | 76 Submarine finder | 77 Competitors | 78 Facilitate a felony | 82 — Tin Tin | 83 Paradise | 85 Merchant | 87 Cal. page | 88 Part 4 of remark | 93 Over | 95 Jai — | 96 Sounds the tocsin | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 97 Ullman or Gold | 98 Goalish | 100 Bar hop? | 101 Dr. Scholl's concern | 102 Source | 103 Cardinal | 105 — Flynn Boyle | 107 Mil. training ctr. | 110 African capital | 113 End of remark | 116 Jazzman | 118 Organ of equilibrium | 119 Steak or lobster | 120 Abrasive substance | 121 — forgive those ... | 122 Be too interested? | 123 Arid area | DOWN | 1 Manhattan district | 2 Hot spot? | 3 Frog's kin | 4 Singing syllable | 5 They may be personal | 6 Mahalia's music | 7 Pixie and Dixie | 8 — Breaky Heart" ('92 hit) | 9 Princess bruiser | 10 Orthodoxists' org. | 11 With 44 | 12 "Silas Marner" author | 13 Endure | 14 Ring stat | 15 Kansas city | 16 "The Lady" ('79 film) | 17 Gawp | 18 French bean? | 24 Fancy vase | 26 A Muse | 31 Inflatable item? | 32 Sell | 33 Continue | 34 Circle section | 35 "Mal de —" | 37 Impoverished | 38 Fountain order | 39 Component | 40 Carthaginian queen | 41 Book part | 42 Travel with Spock? | 43 — aerobics | 46 Rotisserie part | 47 Defer | 48 NASA lap | 49 Equine accessory | 52 Skirt shape | 53 Coney island attraction | 57 Ballet's Tallchief | 59 Actress Stevens | 60 Santa's problem | 61 Destiny | 63 Dominant, as a dog | 65 On the sly | 66 Doris Day refrain | 67 Handbag | 68 Master, in Madras | 69 '85 John Malkovich movie | 70 Barnyard belle | 71 Mottled | 72 Sorvino or Nair | 73 — fide | 74 Complains | 76 Big rig | 77 Lute feature | 79 Coll. hotshot | 80 Roof part | 81 Playing card | 84 TV's "— & Greg" | 85 "Comin' — the Flye" | 86 Half-baked? | 89 Moro squalid | 90 Heavenly sight | 91 Alphabet sequence | 92 Network | 94 Try for a hit | 97 Provoked | 98 Biblical city | 99 Pianist Wats | 100 Fishermen, frequently | 101 Auber's "— Diavolo" | 102 Confront | 104 Swedish rockers | 105 Last name in limericks | 106 Crooked | 107 Grimm creature | 108 "Moon-struck" star | 109 Dele a dele | 111 Utter | 112 Blow away | 113 Drill sergeant's shout | 114 Compass pt. | 115 — Not Unusual" ('65 hit) |



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Answers: Inside today's classified section

Local Death Notices

Death Notices

Brush, Shirley
Shirley Brush, age 82, of Delray Beach, FL formerly of Park Ridge, passed away March 15, 2009. Devoted wife of the late Edward; loving mother of Edward (Christine), Clifford and Lawrence; cherished grandmother of Danny, C.J., Kristen, Connor and Grayson. Visitation Friday, March 20, 5-9 p.m. at Nelson Funeral Home, 820 Talcott Rd. (at Cumberland), Park Ridge. Funeral service Saturday 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment Town of Maine Cemetery. Funeral info: (847) 823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.
Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

Hendricks, Eugene G.
Eugene G. Hendricks, 88. Loving husband of Genevieve, nee McKavanagh; dear father of Michael E. Hendricks and Susan L. (Gregor) Hendricks; dear brother of Mary Jane (Jerry) Teister; friend to many. Memorial Mass was held Saturday, March 14, 2009, at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge, IL. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Rainbow Hospice Ark, 444 N. Northwest Hwy. Ste. 145, Park Ridge, IL 60068, or the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois. Info 800-422-8358
Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

Peterson, Donald W.
Donald W. Peterson, 77, of Park Ridge. Founder of the former Donald W. Peterson & Associates; beloved husband of Barbara, (nee Madden) for 53 years; dear father of Amy Peterson (Robert Kiley) and Andrew Peterson; fond brother of the late Norman Peterson and Audrey Peterson Anderson. He was a graduate of Lake Forest College, long standing member of Rosemont Chamber of Commerce, a world traveler and an avid golfer. He served as an agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps of the U.S. Army from 1953-55. Visitation was held Tuesday, March 17, at Nelson Funeral Home, Park Ridge. Service was Wednesday, March 18. Interment Irving Park Cemetery. Contributions to the MDS Foundation, P.O. Box 353, 36 Front St., Crosswick, NJ 08515 appreciated. Info: 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.
Sign Guestbook at legacy.pioneerlocal.com

FRED STOCKE
Fred Stocke, age 79, died March 9, 2009; Purple Heart veteran of the Korean War; dearly beloved husband of Jean, nee Nelson; loving father of Michael, Christopher and Fred Richard; loving step-father of Laura (Larry) Stocker and Madeleine (Ken) Percival; cherished grandfather of Jessica (Brian) Bradigan and Kelly Jo (Travis) Turner, Jeffrey and Katie Stocker; great grandfather of Gavin, Kaylin, Madison and Ashlyn Bradigan; dear brother of Lynn Baumhardt. Cremation private. Those wishing to honor Fred's memory please donate to their favorite charity working to cure cancer or heart disease.
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<p>695- Judicial Sales</p> <p>general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to whether or not the property is subject to a lien for inspection. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY, LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVELL, 201 CHICAGO, IL 60606, (312) 371-1125. Please refer calls to the attention of the JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE 164907.</p> <p>Published in Pioneer Press 3/19, 3/26, 4/2/09 (1677615) C</p>	<p>695- Judicial Sales</p> <p>ILCS 605/9(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY, LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. 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THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION WILL AT 10:30 AM ON APRIL 23, 2009, AT THE OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION, ONE SOUTH WACKER DRIVE, 24TH FLOOR, CHICAGO, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE 164907, SELLS AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, AS SET FORTH BELOW, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE: Commonly known as 8228 NILES CENTER ROAD UNIT 213, Skokie, IL 60077 Property Index No. 10-21-401-0000. The real estate is improved with a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION. FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY, LAW OFFICES OF IRA T. NEVELL, 201 CHICAGO, IL 60606, (312) 371-1125. 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695- Judicial Sales

and the legal fees required by subdivisions... (9) and (14) of Section 9 of the Uniform...

695- Judicial Sales

will receive a Certificate of Sale which will entitle the purchaser to the highest bidder...

695- Judicial Sales

Corporation will on Monday, April 20, 2009 at the hour of 11 o'clock...

695- Judicial Sales

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure...

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Sports Mart

Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

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Autos for Sale Dealership

Autos for Sale Dealership

Marketplace

700s

705- Pets

Advertise 24/7

755- Miscellaneous

Direct Free 4 Room

775- Stereo, TV, VCR's, Electronics

Antique Auction!

790- Wanted to Buy

Wanted Home Stereo

734- House Sales, Conducted

Regal Estate Sale

★ Moving Sale ★

Moving Sale

★ Moving Sale ★

Moving Sale

★ Moving Sale ★

Moving Sale

Legal Notices

1000s

1008- Assumed Name

1008- Assumed Name

1008- Assumed Name

1008- Assumed Name

1008- Assumed Name

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Sold by Pioneer Classified

- 24" Hair Human Long Show Girl Wig
Cray Meat Sticks
Crobat Fur Coat
32 Variety of Large Healthy Trees
Ponies
Alaskan Bear Hide
Cheesecakes, Baklava
Video Telegrams
Beehive Urns
Louis XVI Armchairs
Muskrat Stroller Coat w/raccoon collar
4 ft Ceramic Tiger
Seeburg 1950s Jukebox
Barn Lumber
White Barber Pedestal Sink
Player Pianos
Buckskin Quarterhorse
Elvis Presley Decanters
1961 Studebaker chest
1500 lbs Candle Wax
114 pcs King Richard Sterling Flatware
Log Splitters
2-one way tickets to Las Vegas
French Candelabra
Bombay Chest
Steamer Trunk
1926 Dodge
1935 Louis XV Steinway Grand Piano
English Jumping Saddle
Peruvian Guinea Pigs
Lucky Bingo Necklace
Russian Brass Smovarov
Butterfly Collection
Long White Milk Scarf
French Legion of Honor Medal
BK Kitching Orchestra Bell
Chinese Brass Incense Burner
Massage Table
Billy Beer Can Brass Buttons from England
Key Ring from Eastern Steamship Lines
Cigar Box Collection
Frozen Custard Machine
Mission Library Table
Chinaware
Plngall Lithograph
Polar Bear Skin Spiral Stairs

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ADOPTION: A housewife and her husband...

CLASSIC ANTIQUE CARS: Midwestern Classic Cars, Inc.

HELP WANTED: Over 187 Available to Travel...

REAL ESTATE: Home/Business Opportunity...

EVENTS/SHOWS: KNIFE SHOW...

HELP WANTED DRIVERS: Truck and Delivery Driver...

ANTIQUE AUCTION!: Collector's Estate and Other...

TAX RELIEF: AMERICAN TAX RELIEF...

LAND FOR SALE: 4.00+ AC. WHITE PINE TREES...

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE: 18" x 24" WHITE FINE TREES...

AMERICAN TAX RELIEF: FREE CONSULTATION...

BUYING OR SELLING: Pioneer Classified is the place for you!

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The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and The Doings with advertising of a national appeal.

1066- Public Notices

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you! (847) 998-3400

1066- Public Notices

Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you! (847) 998-3400

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Buying or Selling, Pioneer Classified is the place for you! (847) 998-3400

1062- Probate

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION

1066- Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE Take notice that an application for a Liquor License has been filed

1066- Public Notices

Sold by Pioneer Classified Alaskan Bear Hide Muskrat Stroller Coat

1066- Public Notices

Sold by Pioneer Classified Alaskan Bear Hide Muskrat Stroller Coat

1066- Public Notices

Sold by Pioneer Classified 24" Long Human Hair Show Girl Wig

SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT ALTERNATE BONDS PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that on March 17, 2009, the Board of Park Commissioners of the Skokie Park District adopted the within published ordinance...

The specific number of voters required to sign a petition asking that the question of issuing general obligation alternate bonds...

ORDINANCE NO. 09-002

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,100,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION ALTERNATE BONDS FOR PARK PURPOSES

Section 1. Authority and Purpose. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to The Park District Code, 70 Illinois Compiled Statutes 1205...

1. Various park and playground improvements, at an estimated cost of \$480,000. 2. Renovations at the Weber Leisure Center...

Section 2. Authorization of Bonds. To meet part of the \$2,100,000 estimated total cost of the Project, including the cost of issuance...

Section 3. General Obligations. The full faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal and interest on the Bonds...

Section 4. Alternate Revenue Source. The Bonds shall be payable from recreation program fees, facilities fees, and all other rentals, permits and fees imposed by the District...

Section 5. Supplemental Proceedings. If no petition meeting the requirements specified in Section 15 of the Local Government Debt Reform Act is filed...

Section 6. Publication. This ordinance shall be published in the "Skokie Review", a newspaper of general circulation in the District...

Section 7. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect in the manner provided by law.

Published in Pioneer Press 3/19/09 (1677960) C

1066- Public Notices

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH I WALKER COUNTY

THE MARTIN J. BUTLER FAMILY TRUST

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT BRANCH I WALKER COUNTY

LEGAL NOTICE DEADLINE FOR SENIOR TAX FREEZE EXTENDED

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1066- Public Notices

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Pioneer Press Classified Auto Dealer Directory

ACURA BOB ROHRMAN'S ARLINGTON ACURA IN PALATINE

JOE RIZZA ACURA 2055 WEST 159TH STREET, ORLAND PARK

MULLERS WOODFIELD ACURA 1099 WEST HIGGINS ROAD, HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL

PAULY ACURA 2699 SKOKIE VALLEY ROAD, HIGHLAND PARK, IL

AUDI THE AUDI EXCHANGE 2490 SKOKIE VALLEY RD, HIGHLAND PARK, IL

BENTLEY STEVE FOLEY BENTLEY 100 SKOKIE BLVD., NORTHBROOK

BMW BILL JACOBS BMW 1564 W. OGDEN AVE., NAPERVILLE

ELMHURST BMW 466 WEST LAKE STREET, ELMHURST

KNAUZ BMW KNAUZ AUTOPARK ROUTE 41 @ RT. 176, LAKE BLUFF

PATRICK BMW 700 EAST GOLF RD., SCHUMBERG, IL 60173

BUICK GROSSINGER BUICK 6900 N. MCCORMICK BLVD., LINCOLNWOOD

KNAUZ BUICK KNAUZ AUTOPARK ROUTE 41 @ RT. 176, LAKE BLUFF

The new, unmistakable Audi Q5



The Crossover just got interesting

You are invited to the Audi Q5 Test Drive Event Thursday, March 26th through Saturday, March 28th.

Please call 847-432-5020 to schedule a test drive.

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CADILLAC ETTLESON CADILLAC-BUICK-PONTIAC-GMC

GROSSINGER CADILLAC 6900 N. MCCORMICK BLVD., LINCOLNWOOD

HERITAGE CADILLAC 118 W. ROUTE 173, ANTOCH, IL 60002

PATRICK CADILLAC 526 MALL DRIVE, SCHUMBERG, IL 60173

RIZZA CADILLAC 8425 WEST 159TH STREET, TINLEY PARK

BREDEMANN CHEVROLET 1401 W. DEMPSTER, PARK RIDGE, IL

CLASSIC CHEVROLET 425 N. GREENBAY RD., WAUKEGAN, IL

CHEVROLET GROSSINGER CHEVROLET 151 E. LAKE COOK ROAD, PALATINE

JENNINGS CHEVROLET 241 WALKER RD., GLENVIEW

RAY CHEVROLET 39 N. U. S. HIGHWAY 12, FOX LAKE, IL 60020

RIZZA CHEVY 8200 SOUTH HARLEM AVENUE, BRIDGEVIEW

SHEPARD CHEVROLET AND MEDIUM DUTY TRUCK CENTER

BUICK GROSSINGER BUICK 6900 N. MCCORMICK BLVD., LINCOLNWOOD

BUICK GROSSINGER BUICK 6900 N. MCCORMICK BLVD., LINCOLNWOOD

DODGE DUPAGE DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP

GURNEE DODGE 7255 GRAND AVE. (1 mile west of Gurnee Mills)

LIBERTY AUTO CITY/DOGE 1000 E. PARK AVE., LIBERTYVILLE

FORD HIGHLAND PARK FORD/LINCOLN MERCURY

CHRYSLER DUPAGE DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP

LIBERTY AUTO CITY/CHRYSLER 1000 E. PARK AVE., LIBERTYVILLE

GMC GROSSINGER GMC 6900 N. MCCORMICK BLVD., LINCOLNWOOD

HONDA MULLER HONDA 550 SKOKIE VALLEY ROAD, HIGHLAND PARK, IL

O'HARE HONDA 1633 RIVER RD., DES PLAINES, IL

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SPRING SHOWCASE 2009

Today's New Homes

WEEK 7

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION MARCH 18-20 NORTH EDITION

Welcome mats aplenty at Northbrook's Meadow Ridge

By Karle Angell Luc
SPECIAL TO SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

Spring typically has winter-weary homeowners shaking out their welcome mats. However, at Meadow Ridge in Northbrook, more than 50 new homeowners aren't spring cleaning. They've just moved in.

These days, you'll find many brand-new welcome mats at this breathtaking community. With more than 30 home purchases closed since winter, Meadow Ridge is breaking records in today's housing market.

This success is partly due to the stunning custom model that opened last October. The model overlooks patios and perennial gardens stocked with seasonal foliage. Two more field models have since opened. This brings the total of on-site models to three — an impressive number of models for a community the size of Meadow Ridge — also demonstrating the level of commitment by award-winning KZF Development.

What's more, gardeners last autumn made certain the grounds were planted with plenty of spring bulbs, all of which are now flowering, beckoning would-be buyers to view the



The new Meadow Ridge model has a natural palette of interior decor that takes full advantage of the land's history. The land at Meadow Ridge once was pristine prairie, eventually becoming a nursery. Enjoy viewing earthy and the verdant greens that weave their way to the upstairs at this cutting-edge model.

Turn to MEADOW RIDGE, 2

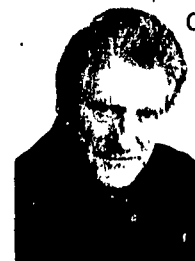
inside

Winning workouts

Home fitness can be more appealing when enjoyed in the privacy of a master suite — or from penthouse facilities with beautiful views.

Page 5

Think the money for a big down payment is keeping you from owning a home or



condo? In some cases, as little as 5 percent will do. Read Don DeBat, Page 2

Researching a community is vital before any home purchase. Where to start,

Pages 3, 6

online

Market news, expert advice, neighborhood profiles and more. Visit:

SEARCH CHICAGO
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See a preview online at www.meadowridgenorthbrook.com

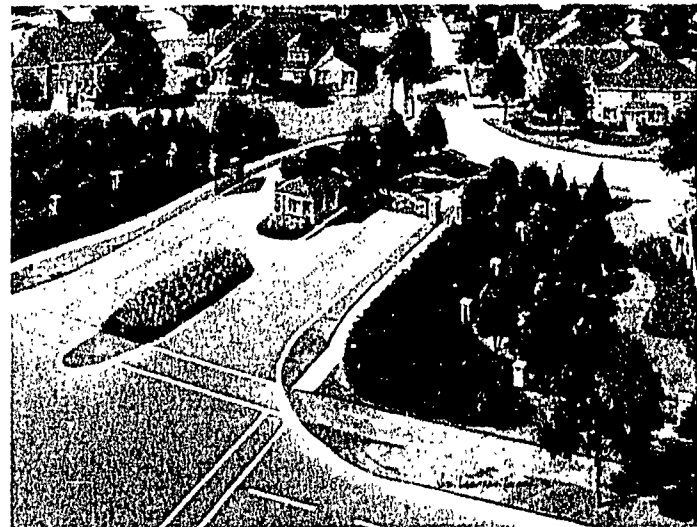
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MEADOW RIDGE

Meadow Ridge FROM PAGE 1



At Meadow Ridge in Northbrook, verdant tones and rich, deep notes highlight all the details. The model kitchen has black cabinetry and granite countertops.

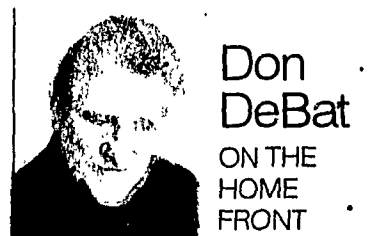
models and ultimately making Meadow Ridge their preferred, new address in a neighborhood of friendly faces. "We are now talking to our homeowners who come in almost daily to tell us how much they enjoy their new lifestyle and home," said Shannon Gibson-Giampa, director of sales for Meadow Ridge. "Many at Meadow Ridge have chosen the first-floor master suite and new appointments straight out of design magazines. "They've never been happier." A true sense of community has unfolded like a Midwest prairie wildflower, Gibson-Giampa said. Since Meadow Ridge began sales approximately two years ago, more than 100 units have been contracted. Now those first purchasers are living in the maintenance-free homes of their dreams. Additionally, these happy homeowners are talking with future buyers, which has only helped to convince newcomers to partake in the luxurious appeal of this guard-

to empty nesters. The expansive open areas, many with a great room appeal, encourage entertaining on a grand scale, with a show-stopping fireplace adding to the ambience. To view the models, call the model home tour hotline at 847-559-0500. Meadow Ridge is located at the gateway intersection of Techny Road and Founders Drive in Northbrook, just west of Waukegan Road. To help find Meadow Ridge, look for the warm brown brick Techny Towers as your benchmark and landmark. You cannot miss their beauty amid the pristine prairie setting of spectacular Meadow Ridge. For a sneak preview, visit www.meadowridgenorthbrook.com. However, a personal tour of the grounds and models would be best to fully experience the unforgettable prairie setting for which Meadow Ridge is so celebrated.

ed, gated community, which is located close to retail shopping and first-rate Northbrook schools. Yet KZF Development is so in tune with current events that even with positive word-of-mouth and neighborly marketing, Meadow Ridge staff members have created a sensitive, cutting-edge approach to sales outreach in response to new economic challenges. "We walk buyers through the process of selling their current house and make sure they have clear direction," Gibson-Giampa explained. "We show them how to make their new Meadow Ridge home attainable." Meadow Ridge offers six floor plans, with the attached residences ranging from 2,300 to 3,700 square feet. The base pricing begins at \$495,000, with many deliveries as early as 60 days. Meadow Ridge is proud of its quality, full-brick duplex and townhome-style residences. Four of the floor plans have first-floor master suites, appealing

Home and condo shoppers can buy with 5 percent down payment or less

Most recession-battered first-time home and condominium shoppers believe they have to save up a big down payment to step across the threshold of the American Dream. "That's a myth. If you have a stable job and good credit, you now can get pre-approved for a mortgage, place a down payment of as little as 5 percent and obtain a commitment for conventional 30-year fixed mortgage financing on a primary residence instead of the 10 percent to 20 percent required today by many lenders, reports Wintrust Mortgage, a leading Chicago-based mortgage company. "When every other lender says 'no' to 95 percent condo financing, we say yes," said Perry D. Farella, a North Side mortgage banker for Wintrust Mortgage. According to Farella, Wintrust Mortgage has obtained a waiver exception with a major private mortgage insurance company to originate 95 percent loan-to-value conventional Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans on any condo conversion or new construction condominium in the Chicago area. The low-down payment loans are available even if the condominium developer has not turned over control of the homeowners association to the owners, but must be warrantable. "This exception was granted to Wintrust due to the excellent performance of our past 95 percent condo-loan clients," said Farella. "The program is for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac conform-



Don DeBat ON THE HOME FRONT

ing loans of up to \$417,000 involving borrowers with a credit score of 700 or better who occupy the property only as a primary residence," he said. Here is the example Farella gave for how you could buy a condo with a sale price of \$263,158 by placing a 5 percent down payment of 13,158. The borrower with good credit would qualify for a 30-year fixed rate loan of \$250,000 at an interest rate of 5 percent. The monthly principal and interest payment would be \$1,342.05. Typically borrowers who place less than a 20 percent down payment are required to pay private mortgage insurance (PMI). The monthly mortgage insurance is based on a PMI factor of 0.94, or \$195.83 a month in this example. Real estate taxes of 1 1/2 percent of condo's sale price also must be escrowed, adding \$328.95 per month to the payment. To hold monthly mortgage costs down, Farella suggests that during negotiations the condo buyer ask the developer or seller pay 3 percent of the condo price as a closing cost credit. "This is legal on any Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac loan of 95 percent loan-to-value, and that can be used to pay the cost of the private mortgage insurance once, up front at the closing, so the buyer avoids paying the

\$195.83 for PMI each month," Farella said. "This is known as up-front MI (mortgage insurance), and is valid for the 95 percent condo mortgage insurance program," he said. There are no loan points or extra fees charged for the 95 percent condo loans, he said, and annual percentage rate (APR) would be 5.081 percent interest in this example. For more information on 5 percent down payment mortgages, call 773-303-0038, or e-mail pfarella@wintrustmortgage.com. Lenders also say it is important in today's market to obtain pre-approval for a mortgage. And remember, financing a home or condo purchase is directly tied to the borrower's individual, verifiable and documented financing situation. What if you don't have that 700 credit score? These days, lenders say you would need a credit score of at least 680 or higher to obtain a mortgage with 10 percent down, and you would be required to pay PMI. If you only have a credit score of 580 and no cash, what do you do? Don't dismay. If you can charm your parents or rich uncle into giving you a 3 1/2 percent down payment, you still could qualify for a Federal Housing Administration-guaranteed mortgage. It is best if you apply at a direct endorsement FHA lender, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Visit www.hud.gov or call 800-CALLFHA for a list HUD-approved mortgage lenders that use direct endorsement.

Today's New Homes

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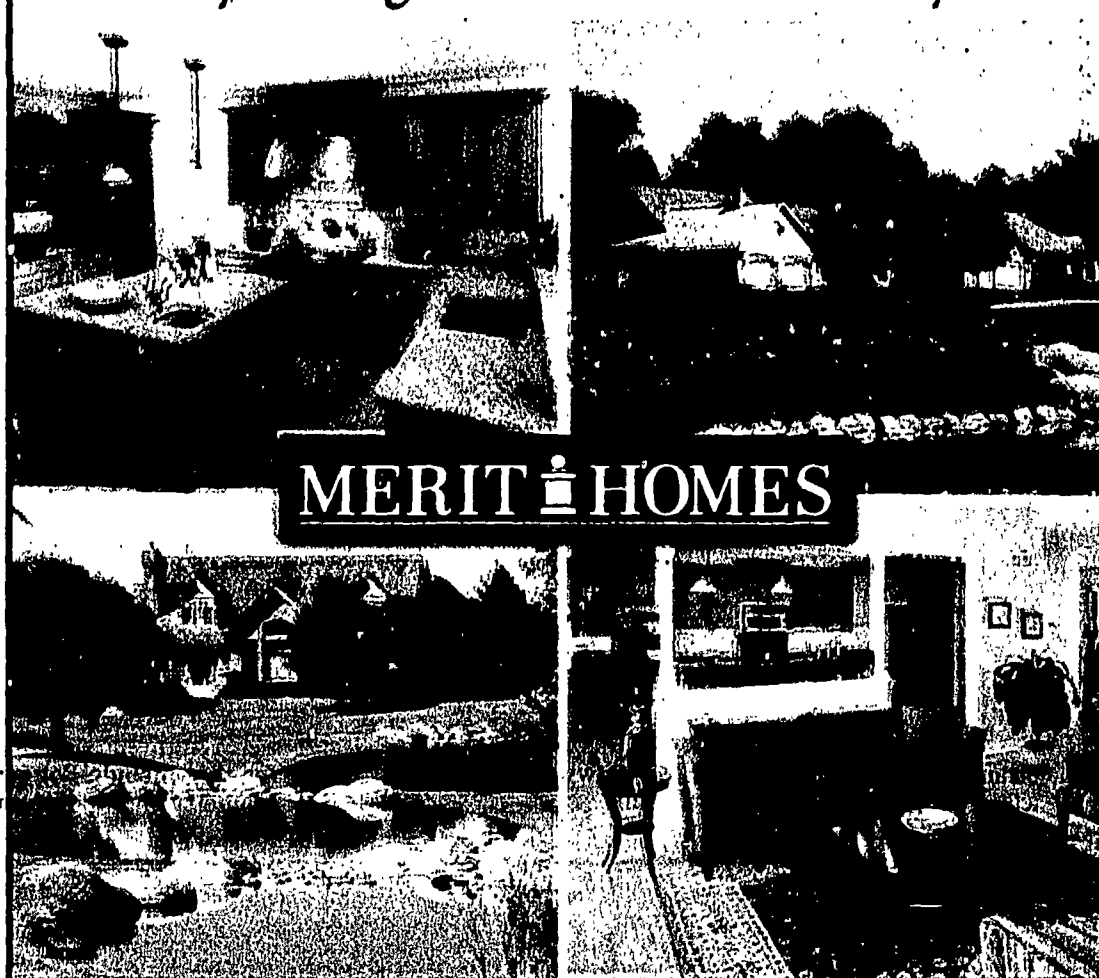
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How to research a community

Tips to find out what you want, need to know

Education: Good schools are the cornerstone of a good community. To find out where the schools in a community stand, visit the school's Web site. And if your child will be starting in elementary school, be sure to check out the Web sites of the junior high or middle school and the local high school. All schools are required to post the current state report card on their site or provide it to parents on request. You also can find data at the U.S. Department of Education (www.ed.gov/index.html) and the Illinois State Board of Education (www.isbe.state.il.us).

Another idea is to ask your real estate agent to put you in contact with parents of school-age children so you can find out what they think about the education local schools are providing. Or contact the schools your children would attend and arrange for a tour of the building and a meeting with the principal. Parks and recreation: Find the link to a community's park district via the community or library Web sites to find out what offerings are available. Most park districts post their activities on their Web sites. Join down the times and locations of activities your family might participate in and observe while the activity is in session; call first to make sure visitors are welcome.

You also can visit the recreation center, if one exists, to check out the facilities. Drive through town and take a gander at the parks. Are they in good repair? Crime: It's important to know that you're buying into a safe community. A good place to start is the FBI's uniform crime reports (www.fbi.gov/ucr/crime.htm). Or check out the Illinois State Police uniform crime reports (www.isp.state.il.us/crime/ucrhome.cfm). Another good resource is the U.S. Bureau of Justice (www.ojp.gov/bjs/cvict.htm).

Other sources for this information include city or town Web sites, the U.S. Department of Housing (www.hud.gov/community/index.cfm) and local library Web sites, which often provide information about the community and links to other community Web sites such as schools and parks and recreation districts.

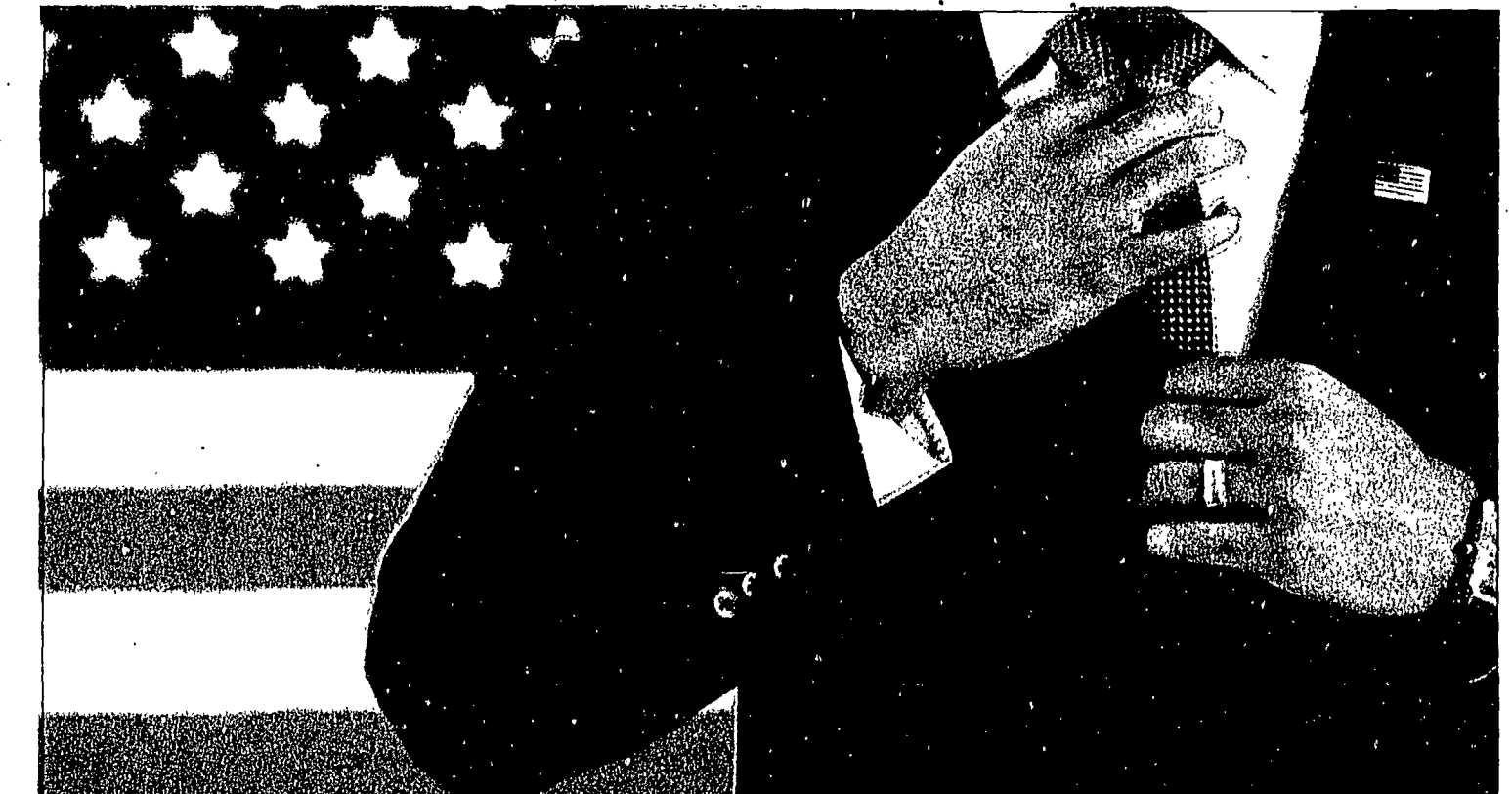
'C'est si bon' for buyers at 10 E. Delaware

It's a building rich in character, which is hard to come by in new construction... It offers the type of understated elegance that would make the building right at home on the streets of Paris.

With its wide, European-style streets and boulevards, Daniel Burnham's architectural plan for Chicago was nicknamed "Paris in the Prairie" when it was introduced in 1909. Nearly a century later, another renowned architect, Lucien LaGrange, is again giving Chicagoans a touch of Parisian flavor with 10 E. Delaware, his European-inspired masterpiece in the Gold Coast. Located on the northeast corner of State and Delaware, 10 E. Delaware is a 35-story boutique high rise developed by The Prime Group, Inc. Currently under construction and more than 75 percent sold, the luxury condominium building features an elegant sand-colored limestone facade and curved balconies with black railing. Exterior detailing includes a dramatic front entrance with rusticated stone and a limestone entry arch with inset keystone. "Lucien has instilled this building with a graceful, old-world style that perfectly complements the traditional architecture you so often see in the Gold Coast," said Michael W. Reschke, CEO and chair of The Prime Group, Inc. "It's a building rich in character, which is hard to come by in new construction. In fact, its style is one of the hallmarks behind the building's success. Buyers are in awe of its refined exterior and charming interior. It offers the type of understated elegance that would make the building right at home on the streets of Paris."

Advertisement for Newport Cove featuring a boat and text: Newport Cove. Home sites from \$120,000 - \$450,000. Home/lot packages from \$365,000-\$1.2 million. Models open Sat. & Sun. noon-4:30pm or by appt. Grass Lake Rd. in rural Antioch, to Bluff Lake Rd., to the shores of Bluff Lake. www.newport-cove.com or call 847.726.2727.

From the White House to your house.

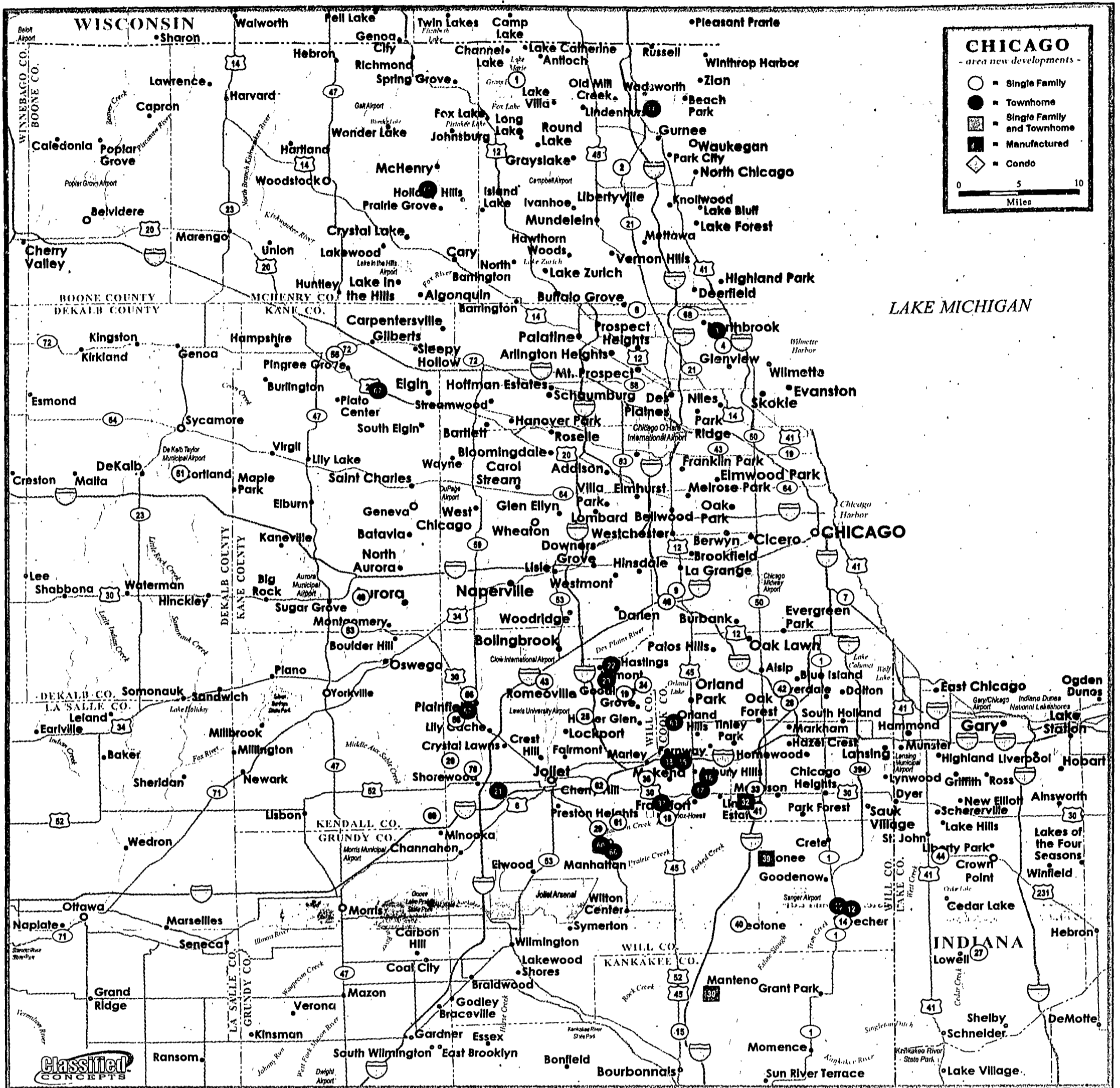


The "economic stimulus" means lower prices, easier financing and an "American Dream" home of your own.

Things are starting to look up! Prices and financing are becoming so affordable that buying a new home makes sense once again. There are new tax advantages and new cash incentives provided by the government and by Lakewood Homes, too. The opportunity is just like the home you'll enjoy: completely new. And there's nothing nicer than a new home.

Lakewood Homes advertisement listing communities: LAKEWOOD CROSSING IN HAMPSHIRE, LAKEWOOD PRAIRIE IN JOULET, SADDLE RIDGE IN ST. CHARLES, EASTON PARK IN CAROL STREAM. Includes contact information and website.

MORTGAGE GUIDE table with columns for Program, Rate, Points, Fees, % Down, APR. Includes sections for AMERICAN DREAM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, MARKET MORTGAGE CORP., ABI MORTGAGE, ALL AMERICAN MORTGAGE CORP., AT HOME MORTGAGE GROUP, and PRESTIGE MORTGAGE CORPORATION.



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EVANSTON	
47	Winthrop Club Condominiums - Winthrop Properties 1567 Maple Ave. (Maple Ave & Davis St.) \$329,000-\$1,489,000 847-328-4700 www.winthropclub.com
LIBERTYVILLE	
2	The Enclave at the Reserve at the Merit Club - Merit Homes 1697 Burr Oak Dr. (Milwaukee Ave. (Rt. 21) & Buckley Rd. (Rt. 137)) \$655,000-\$800,000 847-680-0090 www.merithomes.net
MCHENRY	
65	Morgan Hill - Centex 4351 Veterans Parkway (Route 30 and Bull Valley Rd.) \$150,000 877-682-5980 www.centex.com/illinois
NORTHBROOK	
3	Meadow Ridge - KZF Development 2282 Washington Dr. (Waukegan & Techy) \$495,000-\$895,000 847-559-9800 www.meadowridgenorthbrook.com
NORTHFIELD	
4	Sunset Village - HI-Tech Housing 2450 Waukegan Road (Willow and Waukegan) \$70,000-\$150,000 847-724-7711 www.SunsetGlenview.com
SKOKIE	
5	Optima Old Orchard Woods - Optima 9645 Woods Drive (W of 94 between Golf & Old Orchard Rd) \$249,000-\$1,400,000 847-583-4700 www.optimaweb.com
VOLO	
48	Symphony Meadows - Cambridge Homes 319 Mozart Ln. (Rte. 120 & Gillmar Rd.) \$170,000-\$286,990 847-984-4933 www.MyCambridgeHome.com
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WHEELING	

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CITY	
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7	Revere Way - Revere Properties 7211 S. Ellis Avenue (71st Street) \$195,000 312-993-1083 www.phenomrealtygroup.com
64	Opera Lofts - Bronzville Construction 2545 S. Dearborn (26th & State) \$239,900-\$899,900 312-225-5000 www.TheOperaLofts.com
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AURORA	
49	Tanglewood Oaks - Tanglewood Homes 3066 Trillium Ct. West (Orchard Road & Galena Blvd.) \$329,990 630-897-2026 www.tanglewood-homes.com
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50	Easton Park - Lakewood Homes, Inc. 369 W. North Ave. (North Ave. Rt. 64 & Gary Ave) \$270,000 630-665-0531 www.lakewoodhomes.com
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8	Providence - Town & Country Homes 3040 Longcommon Parkway (Rt. 20 (Lake St) and Randall Rd.) \$179,995-\$449,995 866-902-6325 www.TownAndCountryHomes.com
67	West Ridge Village - Centex Route 20 & Nesler Rd. (Routh 20 & Nesler Rd.) \$180,000 877-673-0595 www.centex.com/illinois
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52	Lakewood Crossing - Lakewood Homes, Inc. 1450 Hearstone Dr. (Route 47 and 1-90) \$160,000 847-683-3379 www.lakewoodhomes.com
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9	LaGrange Estates - HI-Tech Housing 6 Court Drive (Joliet Road and LaGrange Road) \$60,000-\$120,000 708-354-0395 www.CapitalFirstRealty.com/c_lagrange.html

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11	Hunters Chase - Philippe Builders 1689 Windscape Ln. (Church St. & Rt. 1) \$169,900 708-946-0100 www.philippebuilders.com
12	Prairie Park - Castletown 1393 Somerset Dr. (Church St. & Somerset Dr.) \$180,000 (708)946-9620 www.castletownhomes.com
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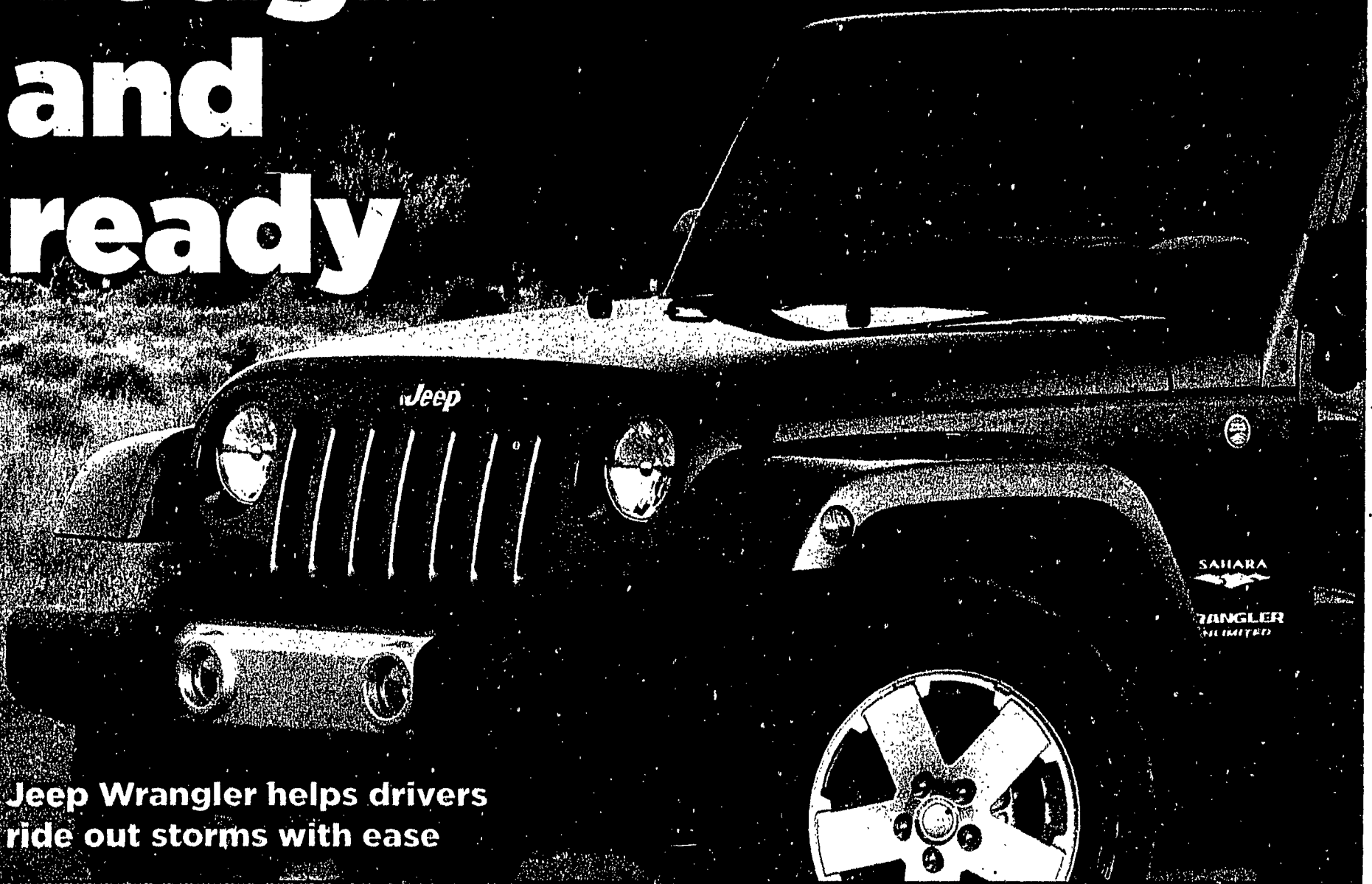
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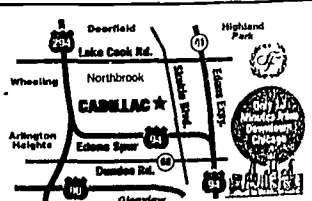
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P9303	2007	DTS	PLATINUM	\$29,995	6617B	2005 STS V8	* DARK GREY	\$19,995	9003A	2008 JAGUAR XJ VALENTIN PLAS	LUNAR GREY	\$49,995
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8165A	2005	ESCALADE ESV	BLACK	\$24,995	P9078	2005 STS V8	PLATINUM	\$21,995	1027A	2007 MERCEDES-BENZ S350	BURGUNDY	\$55,995
P9320	2006	ESCALADE ESV	WHITE DIAMOND	\$29,995	8714A	2008 STS AWD V6	SILVER SMOKE	\$23,995	968A	2005 MERCEDES BENZ SL65 AMG	SILVER	\$69,995
9251C	2007	ESCALADE AWD	QUICKSILVER	\$31,995	P9253	2005 STS V8	PLATINUM	\$24,995				
P9339	2007	ESCALADE AWD	BLACK	\$42,995	P9076	2005 STS AWD V8	PLATINUM	\$24,995				

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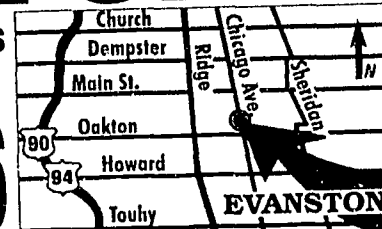
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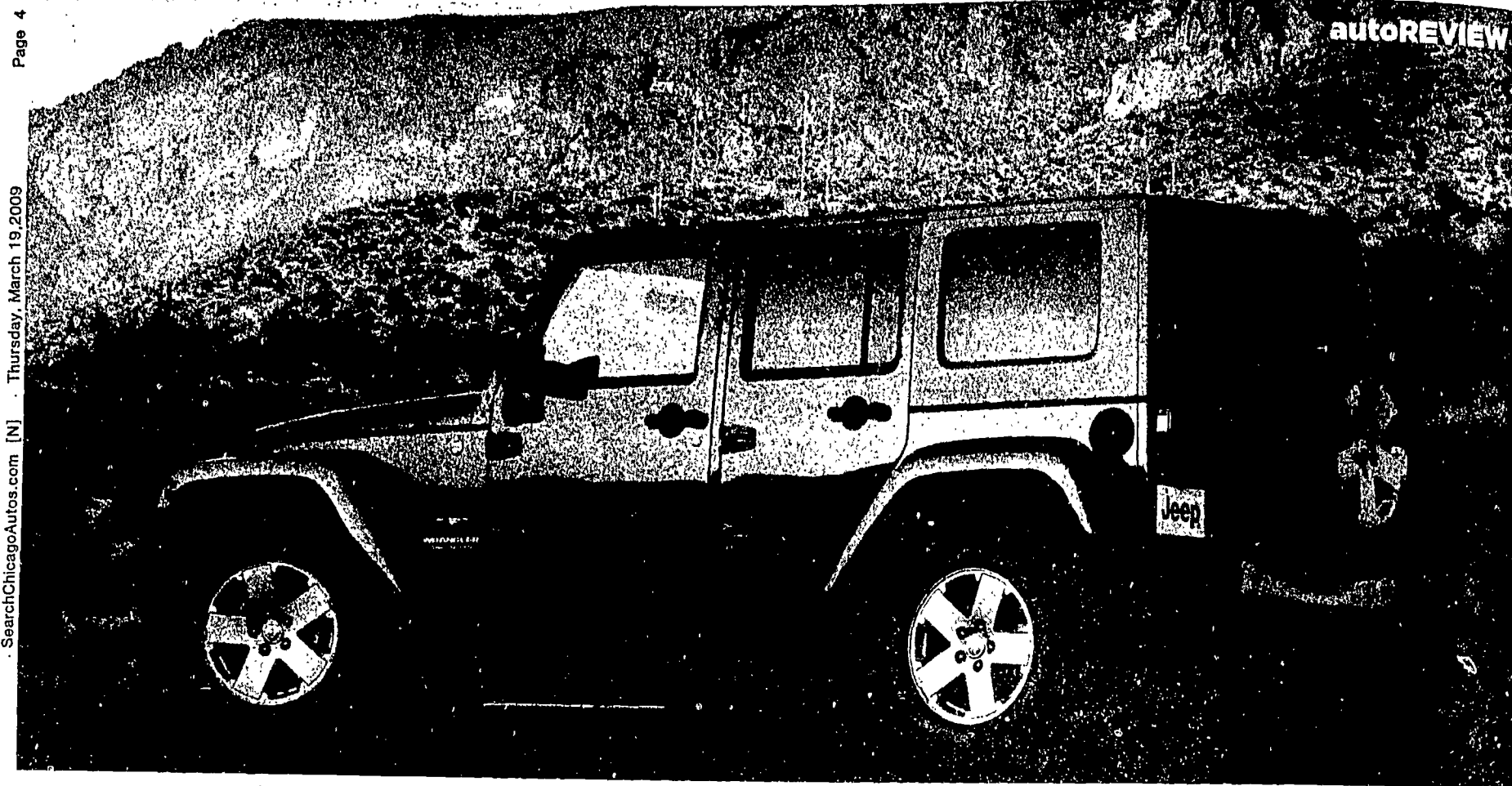
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autoREVIEW

Jeep Wrangler is ready for any type of road

BY JEFF TAYLOR
SearchChicago - Autos Writer

For more than 68 years, the Jeep brand has maintained its legendary off-road prowess for hearty individuals who want or need go-anywhere capability.

Both at the tail-end of the last economic crisis, Jeep's formula for its iconic runabout has remained intact more or less: body-on-frame chassis, solid front and rear axles, 4x4 go-anywhere capability, removable doors, fold-down windshield and gutsy drivetrains.

Over the years Jeep has tinkered with models offering wagons, convertible Jeepsters, Scrampblers, pickups, extended-length versions and in recent years a four-door model.

For 2009 the two- and four-door Wranglers continue to deliver best-in-class off-road capability with the ability to go "topless" if you're so inclined. Winter has to let go eventually and spotting the first Jeep with its canvas top rolled back

is an annual rite of spring. I've had the pleasure of pounding on these vehicles in some of the toughest environments to test their limits, but I appreciate them the most in the winter. We've just survived a winter of significant snowfall. By pure coincidence I had both two- and four-door Wranglers delivered right before two significant storms and they did the job, allowing me to drive unaffected to the office.

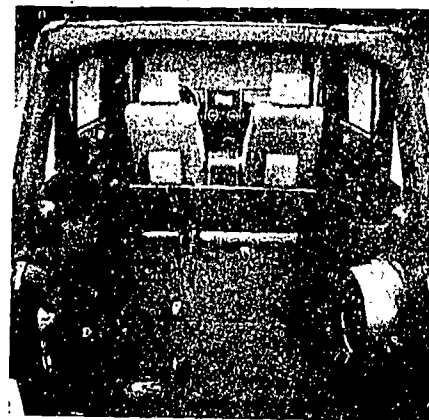
My 2009 Jeep Wrangler Sahara test vehicle was equipped with the second-generation Command-Trac NV241 part-time, two-speed transfer case with a 2.72:1 low-range gear ratio. If you spec out your own Wrangler make sure you opt for the Trac-Lok limited-slip rear differential. It provides extra torque and grip during slippery, low-traction situations such as driving over sand, gravel, and especially snow and ice.

While testing the Unlimited four-door version I actually got out of a jam with it as I rounded a corner and witnessed two cars in front of me spin and collide. Instead of jamming on the brakes to avoid contact I performed an emergency avoidance maneuver and drove into a culvert and back up on the road.

When you do stay on the road the Wrangler has a slight top-heavy feel, but not so much in the Unlimited model because of its longer wheelbase. I did note a bit of body lean when cornering and braking but nothing alarming.

The Wrangler is great to toss around and the suspension geometry balances ride and handling characteristics with off-road capability; the lower suspension spring rates help provide a fairly comfortable ride on smooth roads. One important note about the ride is that both vehicles tend to bounce you around a bit, especially on the shorter Wrangler.

One appreciated standard feature is the electronic stability program, which aids the driver in



maintaining vehicle directional stability in severe driving maneuvers on any type of surface. Hill start assist also is standard on all 2009 Jeep Wrangler models to prevent rollback on graded surfaces.

My Wrangler test vehicle came with the trailer tow group available on 2009 Jeep Wrangler models. This system monitors vehicle movement relative to the driver's intended path and activates the stability program if the trailer begins to sway outside set parameters.

The power for both the 2009 Jeep Wrangler and Wrangler Unlimited was supplied by a 3.8-liter V-6 engine producing 202 horsepower and 237 pound-feet of torque.

Jeep offers a decent six-speed manual gearbox for Wrangler two-wheel and four-wheel drive models. Unlimiteds in 2WD form only get the available four-speed automatic transmission. Of the two I would take the automatic as driving a Jeep with a stick in heavy traffic every day gets old. With the automatic fuel economy numbers are posted at 15 city and 19

highway. The manual will do slightly better. As for exterior styling, one of the best things about a Jeep Wrangler is that the exterior design doesn't change much. The last major redesign occurred for 2007. The slotted grille leads the charge followed by sturdy fenders that can be easily replaced if they get crunched. Both Wranglers offer full-framed or half doors, exposed hinges and fold-down windshields if you enjoy bugs in the face while driving.

The interior still has the hose-out feature, but watch the electronics on the dash. An important thing to remember about a Jeep is that it's supposed to get dirty and the interior reflects this philosophy. Don't expect cushy environs or lots of luxurious high-end features.

For Jeep families the Unlimited model is the way to go. This bigger Wrangler adds 20.6 inches of wheelbase, which makes a huge difference in comfort, ingress/egress; the extra cargo capacity is welcome. Four passengers fit comfortably and five will be OK.

The latest Wranglers are priced between \$21,000 to almost \$33,000 before you add options, so they can get pricey in a hurry. Case in point is the four-door Wrangler Unlimited Sahara 4x4. It started at \$28,320 and quickly jumped to \$33,200 with the addition of the dual top group, trailer tow package, automatic transmission, navigation system and \$700 destination charge.

Apparently, Jeep's pricing strategy is OK with consumers; the Unlimited model has proven to be popular with buyers, helping to boost sales. Overall, Jeep Wrangler model sales are up 28 percent over last year.

So, is the Wrangler the perfect vehicle for off-roaders, families on the go or those seeking a tough and durable vehicle? The answer is yes, but you really have to enjoy going through the woods to grandmother's house.

autoSPECS

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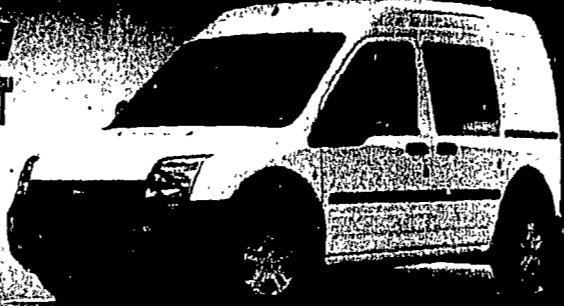
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Three GM vehicles make Kelley's list of top 10 family cars



General Motors has three vehicles in the Top 10 Family Vehicle list by Kelley Blue Book - the Chevrolet Malibu (left), Tahoe Hybrid and Traverse.

"If safe, roomy and affordable are the characteristics that qualify a vehicle as a family car, then the American family has never had so many choices," Kelley Blue Book says on its Web site (www.kbb.com).

"While a sea of options is ultimately a good thing, it can also make it more difficult for families to pick a winner. To help ease the

pain, every year we put together a list of the Top 10 Family Vehicles evaluating an ever-lengthening list of eligible vehicles on such as resale value, fuel efficiency, capability and kid-friendliness.

The other seven top family cars, according to Kelley, are the Honda Civic, the Toyota Camry Hybrid, the VW Jetta SportWagen, the Ford Escape Hybrid, the Toyota RAV4, the Toyota Highlander Hybrid and the Honda Odyssey.



Two Subaru models get a nod from Kiplinger's Personal Finance

CHERRY HILL, N.J. - Kiplinger's Personal Finance has recognized two 2009 Subaru models in the magazine's 2009 Car Buyer's Guide. The all-new 2009 Subaru Forester 2.5X (above) has been designated best new crossover in the category of small crossovers, and the 2009 Subaru Impreza 2.5i has been named best in class in the wagons and minivans category.

Best in class and best new winners are chosen on a basis of performance, value, safety, power, fuel efficiency, exterior design, interior room and cargo space.

"We are very happy to accept these awards from Kiplinger's Personal Finance," said Tom Doll, executive vice president of Subaru of America Inc. "They're especially meaningful coming from a magazine so keenly focused on advising their readers on smart purchasing

decisions and wise financial choices. The Forester and Impreza both offer versatility, performance and value - qualities that have long resonated with Subaru owners and are even more important in this economy."

Praising attributes that made the Subaru vehicles stand out, the buyer's guide cited the Subaru Impreza's standard symmetrical all-wheel drive and safety features, as well as strong resale value and "impressive" cargo room.

The 2009 Forester was lauded for its affordability and symmetrical all-wheel drive, as well as increases in size and ground clearance over its popular predecessor. Alluding to the new model's go-anywhere nature, the guide pointed out that "it performs even better on snowy roads and muddy driveways."

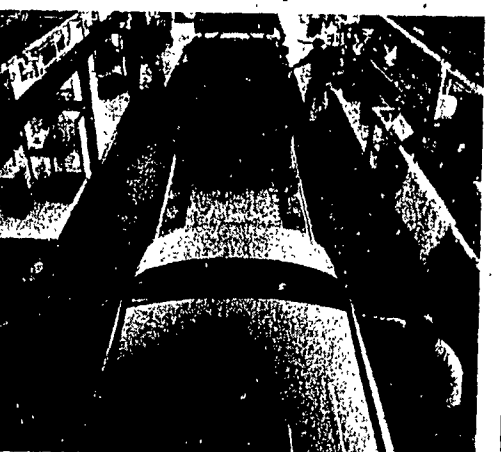
DiversityInc recognizes Chrysler LLC

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. - The editors of DiversityInc magazine named Chrysler LLC to the magazine's 2009 list of 25 noteworthy companies. This annual list is composed of companies the magazine's editors believe "are rising diversity-management leaders and are close to earning spots on the DiversityInc Top 50 companies list and have strong potential to be named to the Top 50 list next year."

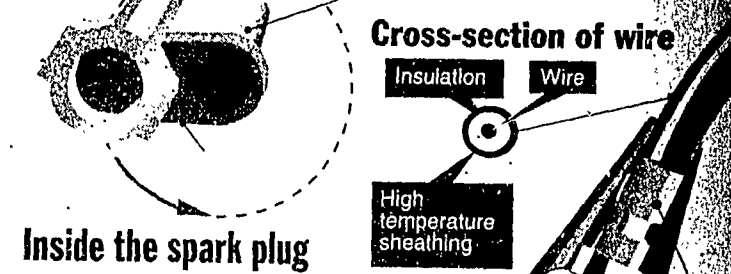
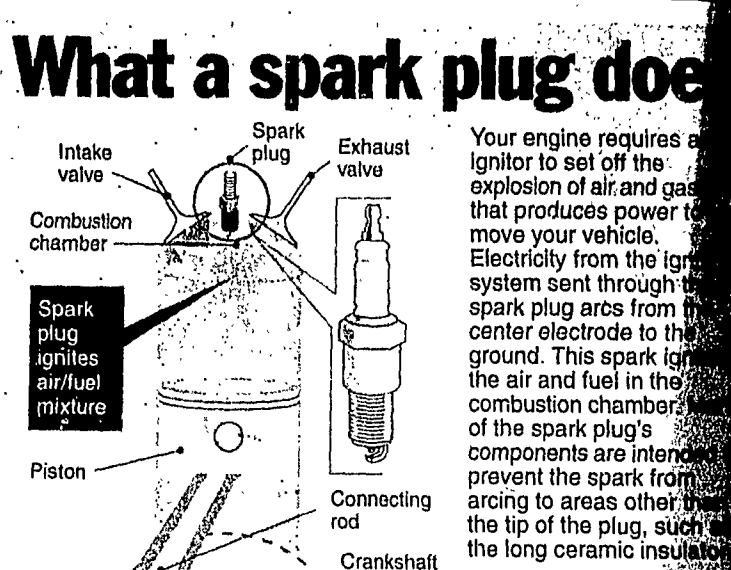
This is the fourth consecutive year Chrysler has been included on either of these two distinguished leadership lists.

Both the DiversityInc Top 50 list and the 25 Noteworthy Companies list were announced March 12 in New York City. Selections for the lists are based on empirical data submitted in The 2008 DiversityInc Top 50 Companies for Diversity survey.

"We are very proud of this recognition, particularly under such challenging market conditions," said Nancy Rae, executive vice president - human resources and communications, Chrysler LLC. "Going forward, our diversity will continue to be a source of innovation and competitive advantage, and a key factor in our continued viability."



What a spark plug does



Your engine requires a spark plug to set off the explosion of air and gas that produces power to move your vehicle. Electricity from the ignition system sent through the spark plug arcs from the center electrode to the ground. This spark ignites the air and fuel in the combustion chamber of the spark plug's components are internal preventing the spark from arcing to areas other than the tip of the plug, such as the long ceramic insulator.

Inside the spark plug
The insulator, made of ceramic, helps keep electricity inside the plug. The insulator keeps the current from arcing and causing a spark where it's not intended.

Spark plugs are made to be removed and installed with a six-point socket which helps prevent rounding of the shoulders that might prevent removal of the plug.

This lip seals against the cylinder head to prevent any of the compressed air/fuel from escaping.

Power traveling through the electrode is forced to arc to the ground post causing a spark that ignites the air/fuel mixture in the combustion chamber.

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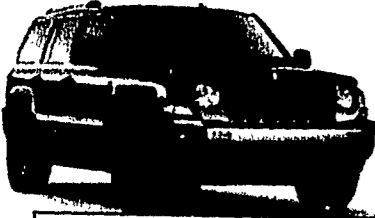
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- 2005 FORD FREESTYLE Only... \$12,995
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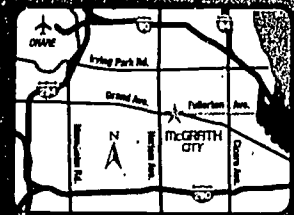
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RIZZA BUICK 8425 West 159th St., Tinley Park, IL 866-360-4575 www.rizzacars.com

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STEVE FOLEY CADILLAC 100 N. Skokie Blvd. Northbrook 866-372-3654 www.stevefoley.com

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ADVANTAGE CHEVROLET 155 & Route 53, Bolingbrook 888-655-5359 www.advantagechev.com

ADVANTAGE CHEVROLET LaGrange & Joliet Roads, Countryside Auto Mall 800-961-7609 www.advantagechev.com

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

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Grand Subaru York Rd. & Grand Ave., Elmhurst, Bensenville www.GrandSubaru.com 630-595-0250

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Grossinger Suzuki 6900 N. McCormick Lincolnwood 866-670-2599 www.grossingersuz.com

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AUTOBARN MAZDA Countryside 6060 S. LaGrange Rd. 708-354-2700 www.mazdaguys.com Evanston 1015 Chicago Ave. 847-866-9666 www.mazdaofchicagoand.com

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Grossinger Pontiac 6900 N. McCormick Lincolnwood 866-670-2599 www.grossingerpontiac.com

Porsche
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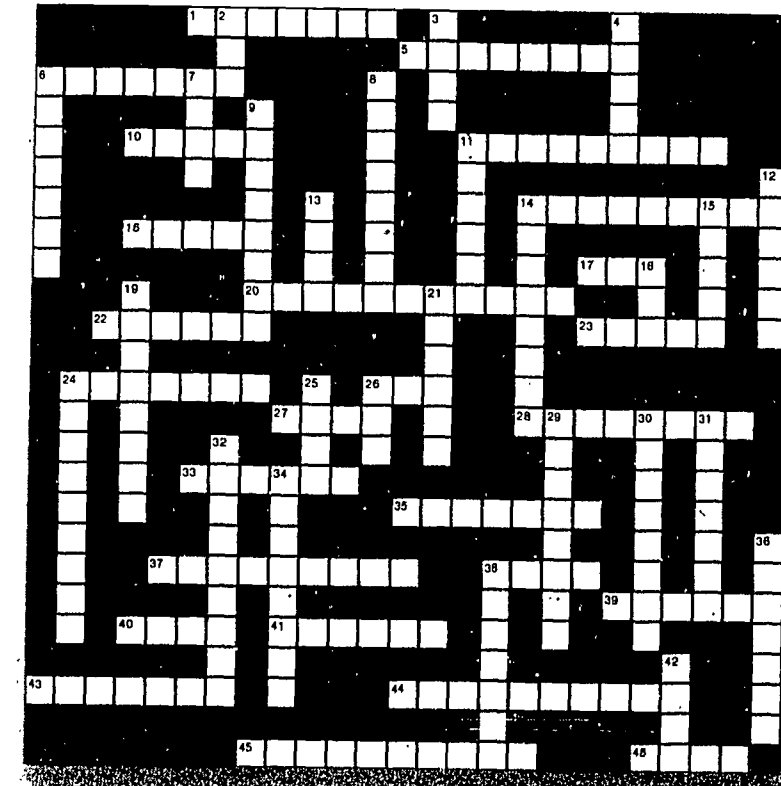
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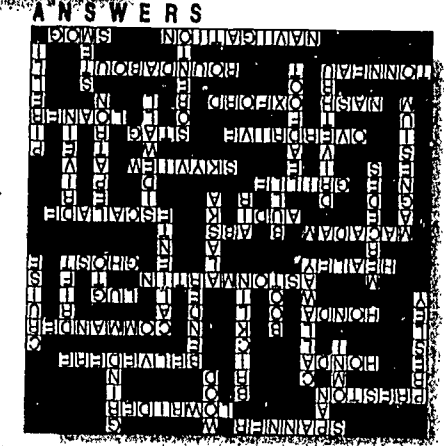
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LAUREL VOLVO OF TINLEY PARK 8031 W. 159th St. 866-339-4583 St. laurelvolvo.com

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 33. Fascia frames this
 35. Nissan's sunroof
 37. Popular '50s Ford option
 38. A deer Triumph
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 18. Australian-built Pontiac
 19. AMG badge found on these vehicles
 21. WW II highway
 24. "Mag" wheel
 25. Lamborghini mascot
 26. Mixes with fuel for combustion
 29. Aspect ratio refers to height of this
 30. Bugatti's handle
 31. A show for cars
 32. Shop without leaving car
 34. Speeding driver (slang)
 36. Italian tire maker
 38. Korean sport-ute
 42. Tire valve mounts inside this



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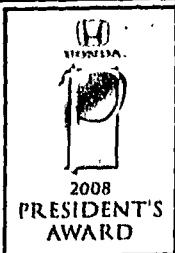
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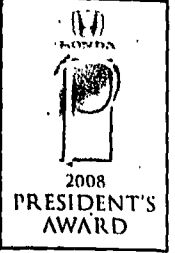
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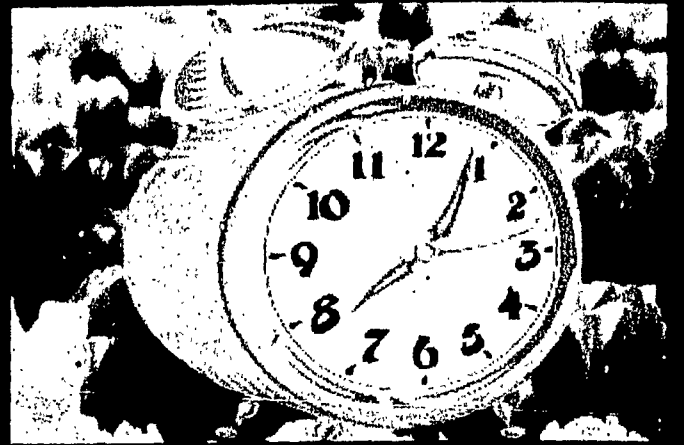
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Sports

BOYS BASKETBALL

Dons' comeback falls shy in sectional final

BY DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

Notre Dame did not have its best shooting night, and gave up a few too many easy baskets as well, losing to Glenbrook North 67-61 in the IHSA Class 4A Niles North Sectional final Friday night.

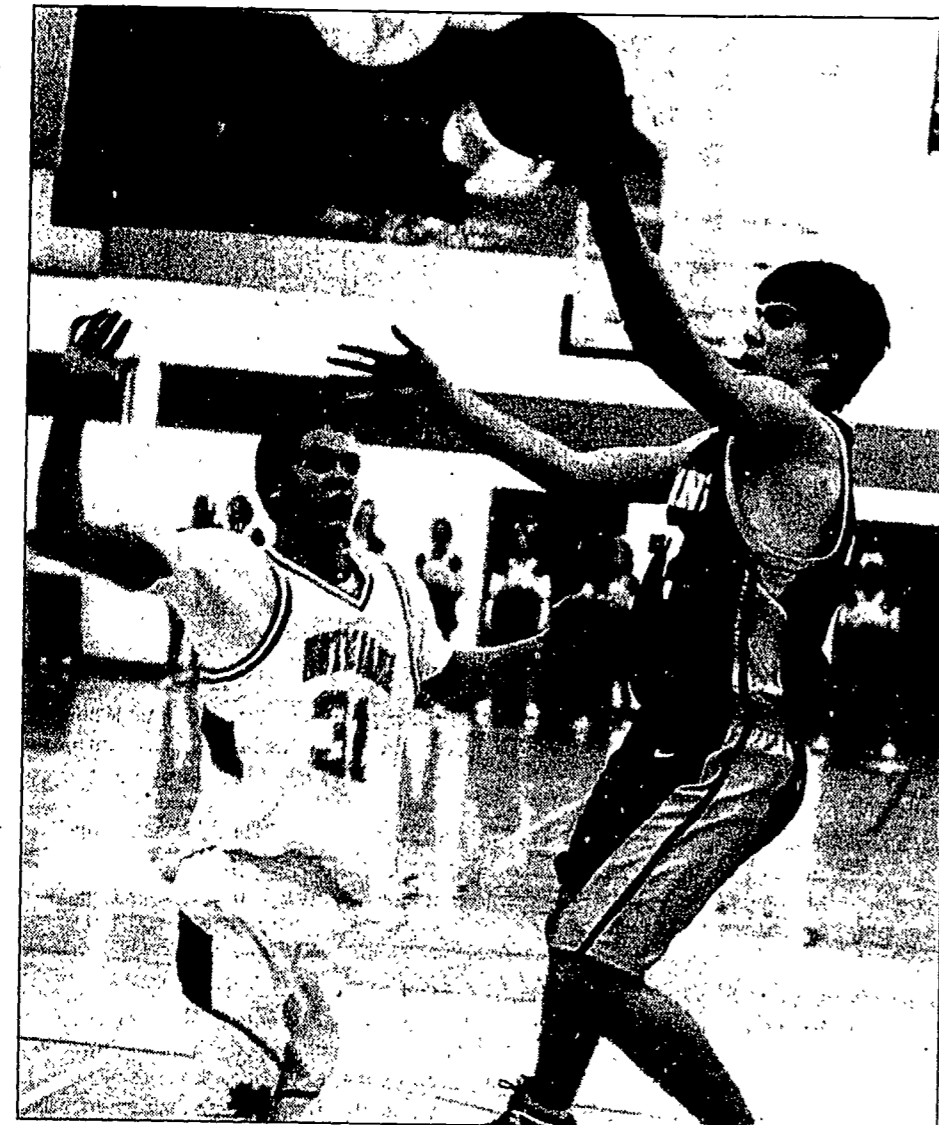
But the No. 3 seeded Dons (20-9) showed their character by fighting back from a 12-point, third-quarter deficit and getting in position to slice the Spartans' lead to one point in the game's final minute.

As it had the whole night, No. 1 GBN had a response to the late ND run. The Spartans got a big steal and then hit 6-of-8 free throws down the stretch in holding on for the win, improving to 23-7 in the process.

"We didn't play the best we've played, but part of that goes to (GBN)," said ND head coach Tom Les. "They blocked some shots around the basket and we didn't (always) execute, but part of the reason we didn't was because they did a good job."

The Dons, playing in their first sectional final since 2002, were led by junior **Shawn Wallace's** 21 points. Senior **Jimmy Martin** added 13, while seniors **Mike DiGregorio** and **Doug Wollney** scored nine each.

Notre Dame was at its best offensively this season when it was able to work the ball quickly around the perimeter until it fell into the hands of an open shooter. The Dons struggled to do that for much of sectional final, especially in the first half when they had just three



Glenbrook North's Raul Hudema (right) moves in to shoot over Notre Dame's Doug Wollney (left) during GBN's 67-61 win in the Class 4A Niles North Sectional final Friday. (George Pappamichiel/Pioneer Press)

attempts from behind the arc.

The Dons trailed 37-30 at the break, but opened the third quarter with a mini-run that cut the deficit to three. The Spartans quickly countered with a surge of their own, and led 51-39 with just under two minutes remaining in the third.

"They had more runs than us in the game," ND's **Billy Hughes** said. "They had about four runs, and we had like, two."

Wallace's seven points in the fourth quarter

helped the Dons make a game of it down the stretch.

Two nights earlier, DiGregorio's big second half — and a clutch steal and basket by senior **Dallas Moreland** — were the keys in ND's 64-62 win over No. 7 Glenbrook South in sectional semifinal action. DiGregorio started hitting his jumper in the second half, scoring 12 of his team-high 17 points after the break.

"We set ball screens, and (DiGregorio) got some shots from the elbow (of

the lane), which is his trademark, and he hit quite a few of them," Les said.

Glenbrook South trailed 60-57 and had possession with 30 seconds remaining when ND sophomore **Jake Everly** poked the ball away. Moreland scooped it up, dribbled the length of the court and laid it in, drawing the foul. It was Moreland's only bucket of the night, but it might have been the game's biggest hoop.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Seniors helped postseason push

BY DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

When Notre Dame lost five of its last eight regular-season games, head coach Tom Les appealed to his five seniors to reverse the slide.

To reinforce the point that the team's fate was in the hands of the quintet, Les began employing an all-senior starting lineup. This meant bringing all-conference junior **Shawn Wallace** off the bench.

The minor shake-up seemed to work as the Dons went on a playoff run that saw the program reach the sectional final for just the third time since 1997.

The season came to an end on Friday with a 67-61 loss to Glenbrook North.

"I put it in the hands of our seniors," Les said. "They were here last year when we got beat in the first round (of the playoffs). They remembered it, and did not want to go out after the first game this year."

Each member of the group, which featured all-conference guard **Mike DiGregorio**, **Jimmy Martin**, **Billy Hughes**, **Dallas Moreland** and **Doug Wollney**, had multiple shining moments during the team's four-game postseason run.

After Friday's defeat, Les praised the seniors for their contributions

this winter.

"Our seniors have had a heck of a year," the coach said. "It's my second season here and they've learned what the expectations are: good hard-nosed defense and playing hard all the time. They won 20 games doing that. I'm pretty proud of them."

"I'm not sure they're the most talented basketball players, but they're competitors. They play pretty hard and I think they're pretty tough."

Next season, the team will be built around the 6-foot-1 Wallace, who led the way with 21 points Friday. Joining him will be gritty guard **Jake Everly**, who could be called upon for more ballhandling duties as a junior, and the ever-improving junior-to-be **Quinton Chlevous**, who is 6-foot-4.

Seniors-to-be **Matt Moser** could become the team's main threat from behind the arc, while 6-4 Phil Kerber should see time in the post.

"I hope they understand how hard it is to get to (the sectional final), and that we did because our seniors worked very hard in the offseason," Les said. "So, the (returnees) are going to have to work that hard to get back here."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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WATER POLO

Demons get sweep, earn first wins at varsity

By MATT HARNESSE
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The Maine East water polo squads made history by taking two games from city rival Maine South Friday at home.

Club teams the past six years, the wins were the first as varsity teams.

In the evening's opener, **Natalia Bialecka** provided the fireworks for the eventual celebration. The junior attacker scored 12 goals and assisted another in the Demons' 14-8 win over the Hawks. Both South teams are in their first season at any level.

Tied at four at the half, the Hawks went ahead 7-5 midway through the third quarter. The Demons then switched up their offensive formation, and Bialecka scored nine in a row. The stretch spanned more than nine minutes and changed the complexion of the contest.

"That's what caught us up," said Bialecka, who changed positions with her co-captain **Agnes Dadej**.

Dadej scored the team's other two goals, and assisted on seven of



Maine East's Natalia Bialecki fires a shot against Maine South in a 14-8 win last week. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

Bialecka's scores.

"We have a strong offense, and the girls communicated well for the first game," East coach Megan Kamarchevakul said.

Anna Pieta scored South's first goal for a 1-0 lead and finished with a team-best four. **Kelly Gavin** scored twice.

The East boys completed the sweep with a

15-5 win. The Hawks led 1-0 on **Mike Szpak's** early goal, but the first-year team was no match for the Demons.

A 6-0 run in the second quarter separated the teams and sent East to its first win of the season. **Chris Scanlon** scored six for the winners, while **Michael Mazur** added five. Goalie **Alex Hrnjak** made 16 saves.



Maine East's Michael Mazur (left) looks for a path past Maine South's Mike Szpak on March 11. The Demons won the matchup 15-5 over the Hawks. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

Dave Zarychta and **Szpak** each scored twice for the Hawks, who managed only one goal in the second half.

The South boys, who lost 15-4 to St. Rita on Saturday, enter the week

0-3. **Ryan Simpson** scored three times. The South girls dropped a 20-1 decision to St. Charles East on Saturday to fall to 1-2.

East was scheduled to play Glenbrook South on Tuesday before hosting

Evanston today. South, scheduled to play the Wildkits on Tuesday, welcomes New Trier to town today before visiting Schaumburg on Friday.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

ICE HOCKEY

Dons plan to train harder after playoff struggles

By DAN SHALIN
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

When Notre Dame hockey coach Chris Gallagher looks back on the last six months, he sees a fine 2008-09 regular season that petered out come playoff time.

The long, but ultimately too short campaign came to an end for the Dons (46-17-3) in a 6-1 loss to Fenwick March 4 in a Blackhawk Cup second-round playoff game in

Bensenville.

Last month, the Ice Dons entered three postseason competitions hoping to make an impact in each. But after winning their first three in the Founders Cup Metro Central playoffs, ND dropped six of its final seven games, and in the process was bumped from the playoffs entirely.

Gallagher had preached to his team about not carrying the Founders Cup and

Catholic League playoff disappointments with them into the Blackhawk Cup. But he did not feel his team ever recovered from those defeats.

"Because of a couple key games we had played and lost, I tried to instill that it is a whole new season and a totally new scenario," he said. "But it didn't matter. We were done. Tapped out."

"Fenwick played well, they came out hard and the coach had them pre-

pared. We were not prepared. I thought I worked them hard enough. But it wasn't what the doctor ordered."

The Friars, a team Notre Dame had defeated in two of three meetings this season, led 3-0 five minutes into the game and 4-0 after one period. ND pulled a goal back, but Gallagher said his team was never really in the game.

The Dons will lose 17 regulars as Gallagher

looks to build next year's team around current underclassmen **Tim Vandermeir**, **Jeff Levar** and **Alex Murphy**. Junior **Ryan Zanon** will be counted on as a team leader next fall. **Ryan Maize**, who shared goaltending duties this season, should take over nearly full-time in the nets.

Next year's team will begin taking shape when spring hockey begins in early April. The Ice Dons will compete in a league

at Rolling Meadows, but Gallagher said the offseason will be more about training than playing games.

"Most teams usually go for games, but I don't want games. I need to work on them, train them and get their skills ready," he said. "Their skills are not at the level they need to be. I'll take it on my own as an ex-college coach to get the kids ready."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

All-Area North Stars Wrestling Team

Brassell comes up big, time after time

By **MATT HARNESS**
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

No one in the North Stars' area was more dominant on the mats this season than Chris Brassell.

That is why he has been selected Pioneer Press North Stars Wrestler of the Year.

Maine South's big guy won his first 37 matches and captured championships at the CSL tournament and at the Mather Regional. The 285-pounder finished second at the Leyden Sectional before going on to place third at State.

"I had my mind set on making the finals," he said. "But you can't always expect to be the winner. It takes a lot to wrestle back when things don't go your way."

Just how dominant was the senior?

Consider he finished with



Maine South's Chris Brassell looking to make a move on Devon Smith of Lake Park during a sectional match. CURTIS LEHMKUHL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

35 pins and a record of 44-2. In his four wins at the league and regional tournaments, he pinned all four

opponents in a combined 6:02. He recorded another pin at the sectional, where he lost by two in the final in

title and finished third at the sectional to qualify for State. Ended the year 41-7.

130 Mike Bahrmassel, Niles West junior Finished fourth in the CSL before winning the regional. He lost in the sectional opener to a state qualifier to end up 28-9.

135 Joe Brewster, Maine South junior Captured CSL and regional championships before taking third at the sectionals to qualify for State for a third year in a row. Finished 40-5.

140 Nick Turner, Glenbrook North senior Captured CSL and regional championships before taking third at the sectionals to qualify for State for a third year in a row. Finished 40-5.

145 Colin Baer, Maine South senior Came within a win of qualifying for State after finishing first in

the CSL and second at regionals. Capped career with a 36-5 season.

152 Denis Walsh, Notre Dame senior Wrestled at 160 in ESCC tournament but dropped down a class and finished first at regional. Ended up 1-2 at sectionals to end season 35-11. Also had 18 pins.

160 Ethan James, Evanston senior Captured two consecutive post-season championships before losing to state qualifier at sectionals to end up 43-4.

171 Taylor Neuffer, Glenbrook South senior Runner-up finishes at CSL and regional tournaments. Then went 1-1 at sectionals to end season 29-12.

189 Brian Ridge, Notre Dame junior Pair of second places at ESCC and regional events. Lost to

overtime. "He has such a great attitude," said South coach Craig Fallico after the sec-

state qualifier at sectionals. More than half of his wins were by pin.

215 Marc Nunes, Notre Dame senior Advanced to sectional semis before falling to state qualifier. Took third at ESCC and first at regional. Finished 33-12 with 20 pins.

285 Chris Brassell, Maine South senior

SECOND TEAM

103 Alex Gutierrez, Maine South sophomore

112 Mitchell Coplan, New Trier sophomore

119 Danny Khouri, Niles North sophomore

125 Josh Silver, New Trier sophomore

tional tournament. "He never let his record get to his head. He's just having fun with the sport he loves."

130 Jake Barack, Glenbrook South junior

135 Jim Wallenberg, Notre Dame sophomore

140 Patrick Conrad, Niles West senior

145 Tim Gavin, Notre Dame senior

152 Josh Guenther, New Trier senior

160 Pat Dougherty, Loyola junior

171 Eric Damios, Notre Dame senior

189 Tim Stringer, New Trier junior

215 Stephen Bora, New Trier junior

285 Jeffrey Brown, Evanston junior



GOLD LIST

State Qualifiers

Chris Brassell (Maine South, 285)

Joe Brewster (Maine South, 135)

Jamal Johnson (Niles West, 125)

Regional Champs

Mike Bahrmassel (Niles West, 130)

Jake Barack (Glenbrook South, 130)

Chris Brassell (Maine South, 285)

Joe Brewster (Maine South, 135)

Jeffrey Brown (Evanston, 285)

Tim Gavin (Notre Dame, 145)

Ethan James (Evanston, 160)

Jamal Johnson (Niles West, 125)

Marc Nunes (Notre Dame, 215)

Ben Rosen (Niles West, 112)

Matt Sommers (Notre Dame, 103)

Jim Wallenberg (Notre Dame, 135)

Denis Walsh (Notre Dame, 152)

PIONEER AWARDS

Newcomer of the Year

Eric Ronning (Niles West) In his rookie season, the 145-pound junior went 20-14, earned all-conference honors in the CSL and qualified for the sectionals.

Comeback of the Year

Cody Fallico (Maine South) A broken finger from football delayed the junior's season until January, but the 130-pounder overcame the discomfort to finish 18-9 with 13 pins and advance to the sectionals.

ICE HOCKEY

Season ends for Maine in Cup title game

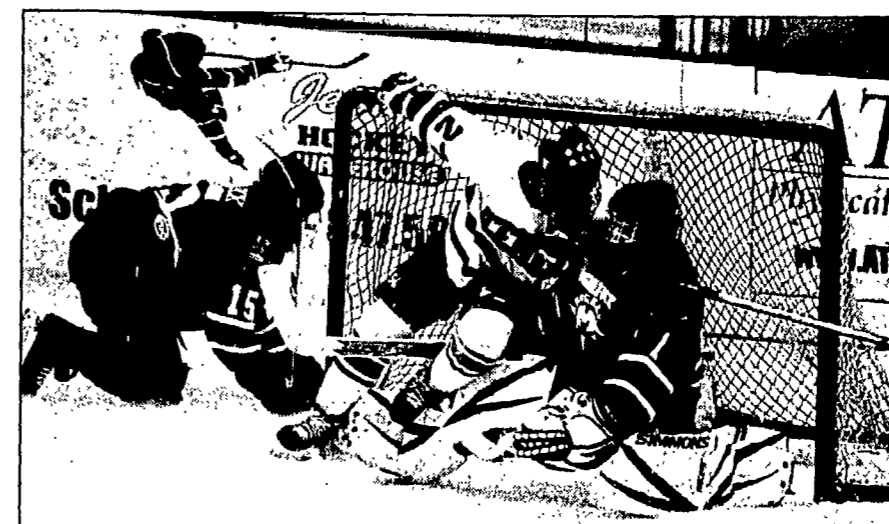
By **MATT HARNESS**
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Disappointment coursed through the Maine Township locker room and lingered long after last week's 6-4 loss to Rockford in the championship game of the Blackhawk Cup tournament.

The title was the top-seeded Icemen's 13th consecutive in the combined division.

But once Maine's defeated feeling dissipates, the MAINEIacs have plenty to proud of this season, which was arguably the best in program history.

"It was a tremendous season for all of us," said first-year coach Steve Glickman, whose team finished 37-13-3. "Of course, we wanted to send the seniors home with a championship, to have a



Maine Township goalie Jack Rice holds the puck as Rockford's Timothy Santopalo crashes the goal during a 6-4 loss to the Rockford Icemen in the finals of the AHAI State Tournament in Bensenville. (Photo by Brian Valentin/Staff Photographer)

glorified ending to their high school hockey careers."

Ricky Anderson scored the game's first goal on a breakaway and served noticed to the crowd at The Edge, in Bensenville, that the MAINEIacs were ready to challenge the Ice-

men's supremacy. But No. 2-seeded Maine was called for 12 penalties and played at a two-player disadvantage three times throughout the contest.

"Penalties killed us," said Pat LeBeau, one of three MAINEIacs selected to the AHAI's Illinois

Showcase Team. "If we didn't have all of those, it would have been a totally different game."

Rockford went ahead 3-1 early in the second, but Steve Zimmerman and LeBeau both scored in the period, each time bringing Maine within one. The

MAINEIacs then came out of the extended break by peppering Rockford's Joseph Panther, but they failed to get one past the Icemen's goalie to even the score.

After Maine goalie Jack Rice made two saves, Rockford upped its advantage to 6-3, scoring two goals within a minute of each other. LeBeau's shorthanded goal left the score 6-4, but that was all the MAINEIacs mustered down the stretch.

"We talked in the locker room about laying it all on the line," said LeBeau, who joins teammates Kevin Pazo and Anderson on the all-star team. "That's what we did at first, but then we stumbled. We didn't hold back, though."

Anderson's goal gave the senior — one of 12 for Maine this season — a

tally in every Blackhawk Cup game. He finished the tournament with seven.

"I'm proud of everybody, especially the seniors," Rice said. "It would have been good to go out on top, but we fought to the end."

Maine reached the title game with a 5-3 win over Glenbard North March 9.

Trailing 1-0 in the first period, Maine tied the score on a goal by Zimmerman late in the frame. The MAINEIacs then powered to a 4-1 lead after two periods on goals by Nick Karpinski, Nick Salemi and Anderson.

Anderson added another goal in the third for a 5-1 bulge, but Glenbard North answered with a pair to pull within 5-3. Rice held the fort from there, earning the win in net.

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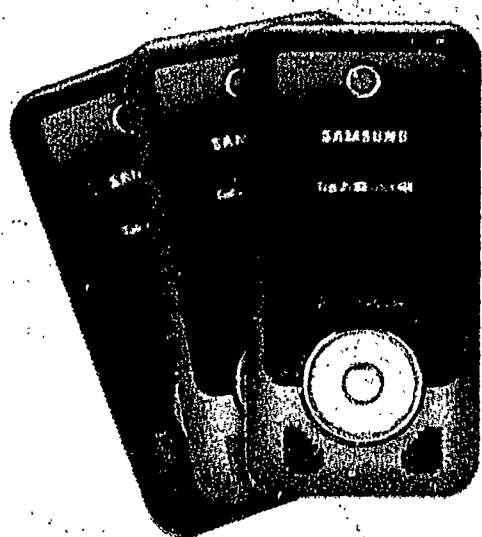
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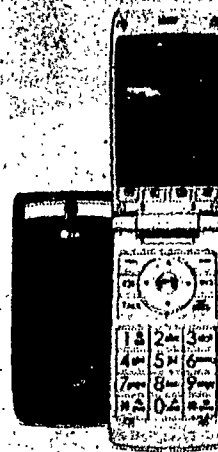
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