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THIS WEEK

NEWS



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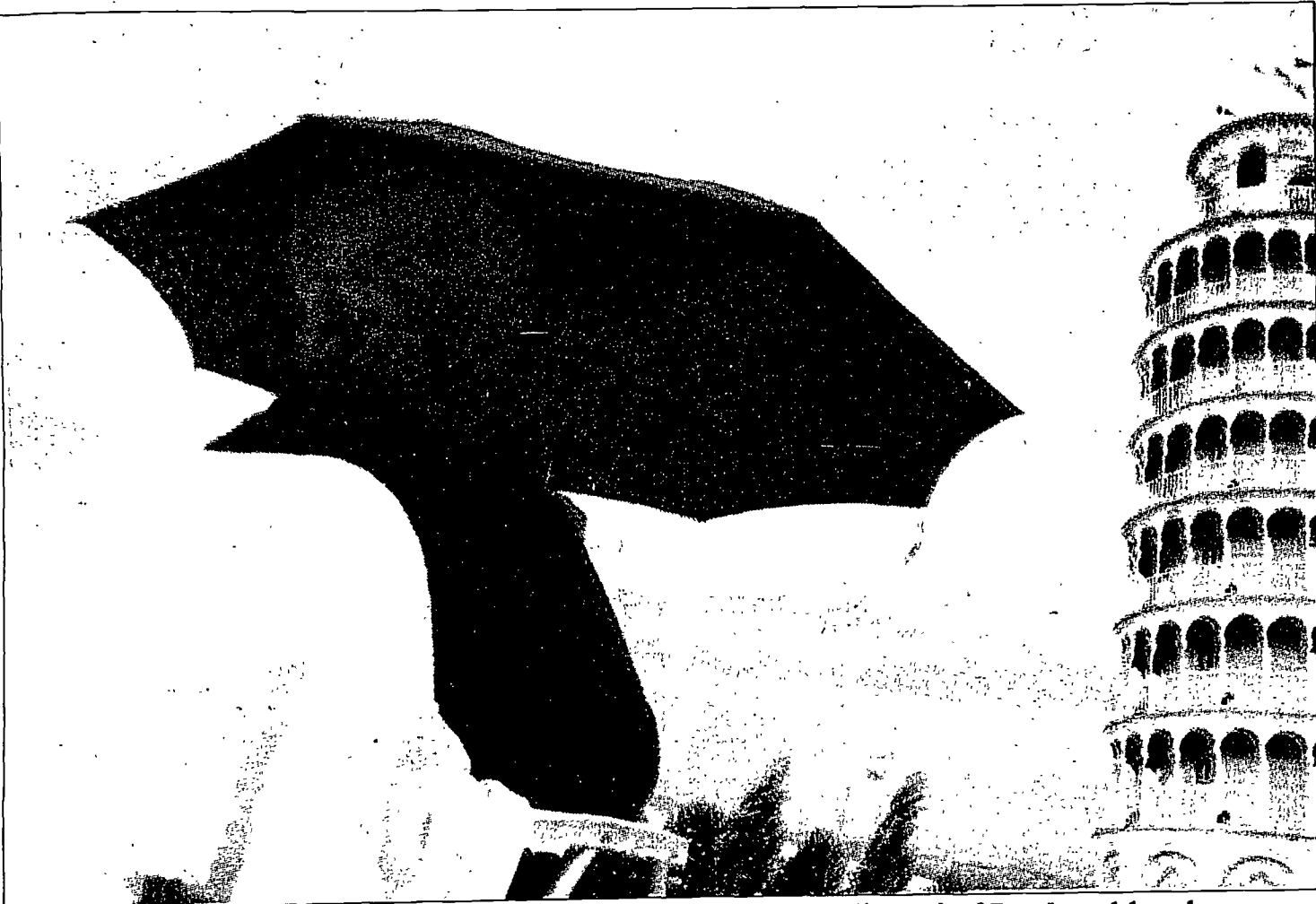
PAGE 4

IMAGES



GIRL SCOUTS
Natalie Carioti, 10, enjoys appreciation week for Girl Scouts.

PAGE 51



RAINED OUT Josephine Pekara, of Norridge, listens to the music of Enzo Incandela under an umbrella before a rainstorm began July 10 at the Leaning Tower Concert series in Niles. Find events this week in Peek at the Week, page 52. PHOTO BY ALLISON WILLIAMS/PIONEER PRESS

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<p>Skokie \$450,000 Renovated ranch-4 bed, 2.2 bths. Entirely new kitchen! Refinished oak flrs. John Creighton ID#83108085 847-491-1855</p>	<p>Skokie \$394,000 Great 3 bed 1 1/2 bath family home with huge family room on double lot. Gabi Gates ID#83158087 847-724-1855</p>	<p>Skokie \$385,000 Rock solid 4BR VNTG bungalow quiet st, spotless, FNC'D YD w/gardens 2c gar. Julie Naumiak ID#83108114 847-491-1855</p>	<p>Mount Prospect \$384,900 SBR, 3BA w/lge LR/DR, eat-in kit, screened porch, 2-1/2 car gar in-law possibl. Donna Bolas ID#74717137 847-823-1855</p>	<p>Des Plaines \$384,900 3br 2ba Split Level w/bsmt & h/dwd flrs. LL family rm w/bar & frpl. Great loc. Mary Childers ID#84718066 847-823-1855</p>
<p>Skokie \$379,900 Skokie! Spacious 3br 2ba Brick Ranch. Refin Oak Flrs. Kit w/SS Appl+Granite. Patty Cerny ID#84408133 773-775-1855</p>	<p>Skokie \$369,500 Cheerful 3/4BR 1.5BA Brk Rnch w/Lg yard, 2CGar, updated! New roof, Dist #68. Julie Naumiak ID#83108069 847-491-1855</p>	<p>Des Plaines \$359,900 Classic Colonial 3br 1.1ba. H/dwd flrs. 1st fl fam rm & laundry. Great loc. Mary Childers ID#83158095 847-823-1855</p>	<p>Morton Grove, 8840 N Ozark Ave \$349,900 Well maintained 3BR/2BTH all brick ranch. Full basement, 2 car att. garage. William Blohm ID#83158095 847-724-1855</p>	<p>Lincolnwood, 6545 Trumbull Ave \$349,000 Charming brick Cape Cod nestled on tree lined street. Entertain in lge rms. Pauline Dreuth ID#84408164 773-775-1855</p>
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Greek food fest to tempt taste buds in Niles

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
(Left to right) Eleni Couris and Dina Margaritis are preparing melomakarona (honey-dipped walnut cookies) for this weekend's Big Greek Food Fest in Niles.

Dedicated parishioners from St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church have spent days stuffing grape leaves and baking baklava in preparation for The Big Greek Food Fest this weekend.

This year's festival runs from Friday to Sunday on church grounds at 7373 Caldwell Ave. in Niles and touts authentic Greek food, pastries and assorted wines.

"We serve over 15,000 people in three days," said Eleni Lanzourakis, the festival's public relations chairwoman. "We're big time here."

The celebration will also feature cooking classes, Greek dancers and children's activities. Raffle prizes include \$20,000, a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle, and a new 2008 Saturn Sky.

But food is the real attraction, Lanzourakis said. "Everything is all homemade," she said. "There is no box mix here."

Every year, women and men from St. Haralambos church community come together to cook for festival. "They do something

pretty much every night," Lanzourakis said. "A barbecue that feeds 15,000 people can't cook the night before."

As of Thursday, the team of devoted chefs had produced 4,000 stuffed grape leaves, 48 pans of moussaka, 4,000 sugar

cookies, and 20 sheets of baklava.

"It's all out of the church," Lanzourakis said. "We always run out of stuffed grape leaves. You know, they roll each one by hand."

This will be the second year the festival has of-

fered Kids Corner, an area with entertainment and activities for children including face painting, arts and crafts, and local magician Michael Hall.

Visitors can also view travel films showcasing the natural beauty of Greece. "You can take a

tour of all the islands," Lanzourakis said.

Admission will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for senior citizens over 65. Children younger than 12 are free. Call (847) 647-8880 for details.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

\$380K grant to fund District 63 technology

By TONY BERTUCA
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

East Maine Elementary School District 63 has been awarded a \$380,000 grant to improve the use of technology inside the classroom for both students and teachers.

The Enhancing Educational Through Technology

(EETT) grant comes from federal funding as part of No Child Left Behind Act. Nearly \$5 million has been awarded to 16 school districts in Illinois for the 2008-09 school year.

Districts must use 75 percent of the grant money on technology hardware needs, such as computers, laptops, digital cameras, and interactive

whiteboards.

Judy Satkiewicz, director of technology at District 63, said the leftover money would go toward the professional development of teachers.

"We're very excited about the grant," she said. "It's an opportunity to work with teachers and to teach students 21st Century skills."

A big part of that is ensuring teachers are up to the challenge, she said.

"Professional development is important because technology changes so rapidly in our students' lives," she said.

"We have to keep up," Satkiewicz said that because computers and the Internet are so present in students' everyday lives,

teacher's priorities have changed.

"Focus is no longer on the hands-on use of computers," she said. "You still teach keyboarding, but now it's more about higher levels of thinking, problem solving, finding information and being creative."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Starters

Golden anniversary sneaks up on nun

By **TONY BERTUCA**
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Sister Carol Ann Hauber, 69, recently celebrated her 50th anniversary as a nun at St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles, where she has spent 36 years as a teacher.

"It doesn't seem that long," she said. "Time just flies when you're enjoying yourself."

Sister Hauber, who was born in Cresco, Iowa, became a Franciscan sister when she was 18.

"Religious life is very rewarding," she said. "The people that I meet are very friendly, very warm. They keep you going."

Sister Hauber now

teaches fourth grade at St. John Brebeuf, but she has also taught grades 1 through 3 during her many years at the school.

"It's always been a great joy to bring spiritual life to the children," she said. "It's very important to be a part of a parish."

The Rev. Thomas May, pastor at St. John Brebeuf, said Sister Hauber was probably the longest-serving member in the parish community.

"She has a great sense of humor and she's just a very good person," he said. "To have that level of continuity in a person for such a length of time is truly a gift.

Every family in the



St. John Brebeuf students (left to right) Victoria Mazur, Albin Poothurai and Maddie McTague work with Sister Carol Ann Hauber.

parish seems to have had someone go through one of Sister Carol Ann's classes."

As a teacher, Sister Hauber said she strives to teach her students to be good citizens of strong character.

"I really want to en-

courage children to have a sense of social justice and be part of a community," she said.

"We need to teach children how to do things in constructive ways."

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INDEX

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING	C1	LETTERS	11
CROSSWORD	B14	MOVIE REVIEW	84
DIVERSIONS	B1	OBITUARIES	58
FIXER	13	PEEK	52
FOOD	53	PAUL SASSONE	11
FORUM	11	POLICE BLOTTER	9
IMAGES	51	SHOWTIME	87
		SPORTS	61

CAMPUS CLOSE-UP

Bradley

The following local students have received recognition on the Dean's List for the Spring 2008 semester at Bradley University in Peoria. They are: **George S. Kontos** of Des Plaines and Mount Prospect residents,

Daniela A. Burkiewicz, Jennifer E. Dunmore and Stephanie M. Fuerst. Also, honored are **Kristen M. Greif** of Niles and **Chelsea M. Petersen** of Park Ridge.

To be eligible for the Dean's List a student must achieve a minimum 3.5 grade-point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

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Sympathy, but no change in decision to take daycare site

By **KATHY RUTLIFFE**
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"If we could have avoided this, believe me, we would have."

Niles Township Supervisor Lee Tamraz told more than a dozen parents July 7 that rocketing food pantry need, not animus toward the Niles Township Community Childcare Center, motivated his board's June decision to stop funding the childcare center.

He and other township trustees told them repeatedly that their decisions earlier this year — shifting about \$100,000 in township money from the center to an as-yet unplanned daycare scholarship program and evicting the program from a township building that has housed it since 2000 — would help more needy children and families

"If we could have avoided this, believe me, we would have."

than the center itself does.

Tamraz and trustee Michael Lorge also said conflicts between the former center board and township officials didn't influence the decision. Most conflicts ended when new daycare board members, including president Michelle Mazzenga, came on board. But that couldn't erase the township's desperate need for more food pantry space, Lorge said: "It's a terrible crisis... our response had to be for more space to store more food, balancing that against the needs of children."

The township originally

funded the center in order to help truly needy families, Tamraz said, but most daycare families now pay tuition, "and that's not what we created it for."

Not all parents asked that the change be reversed. Some, like Christina Lambeth of Niles, simply asked if Niles Township could extend the daycare center's eviction notice past Aug. 31, to give parents more time to find new daycare. Tamraz said July 8 such a request would have to be officially made in writing to the township board.

Other parents, including Mazzenga and daycare board secretary Michelle Thompson, lamented what they called a lack of communication between the two groups. The township may have talked about end-

Parents air woes about child care loss at Niles Township meeting

By **KATHY RUTLIFFE**
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Parents who supported Niles Township Community Daycare at a recent Niles Township board meeting worried that their needs for high quality child care wouldn't be met by the scholarship program the township plans to support.

Some asked why the township was increasing food pantry services, which serves large numbers of senior citizens, at what they said was the

expense of township children.

Others, like Christina Lambeth, asked how they could find good childcare on short notice. Parents at the center learned just last month that the daycare program was being evicted from its township quarters at the end of August, she said.

Lambeth also worried about the fate of program staff members, who will have to look elsewhere for jobs.

"Three years ago,

when I started looking for childcare, I looked at about 15 facilities," daycare board secretary Michelle Thompson said. "When I came to this one, I was impressed... I wanted to put my daughter here."

"To know that your child is going to be somewhere, maybe 10 hours a day, with people you can trust to take care of them," she said, starting to cry, "Well, it's just hard to see that end."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Skateboarders complete journey to NYC

By **TONY BERTUCA**
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After 900 miles on a skateboard, the bright lights of Times Square were almost too much to take in for Niles natives Michael Kosciesza and Arthur Swidzinski.

"It's unbelievable that we got here," Kosciesza said. "It was bright as day. Our jaws just dropped."

The 36-day journey ended at 11 p.m. July 7 when the weary travelers finally hit the Big Apple.

"It was pretty emotional," Swidzinski said. "We hugged."

Kosciesza and Swidzinski, both 20, left Chicago's Millennium Park June 2 with the intention of skateboarding to New York City. They have done battle along the way with crippling fatigue, sideways rain, and endless stretches of hot asphalt. And don't forget the Appalachian Mountains.

"Our bodies seem pretty good now," Ko-

sciesza said. "But we're starting to stiffen up because we're not moving as much as we're used to."

The Maine East High School alums were accompanied by James Lagen of Des Plaines and Tony Michael of Park Ridge, who rode bicycles and filmed their friends' exhausting effort for a documentary to be titled "Shred America."

The word "shred" is a slang term pertaining to superior skateboarding skills.

The team has attracted the attention of the East Coast media establishment since embarking on their journey. They were scheduled to appear on ABC's Good Morning America July 10.

"Good Morning America hooked us up with a room at a hotel in Times Square," Kosciesza said. "It's pretty sweet. We never thought we'd get this coverage."

Kosciesza and Swidzinski both said that the most



This the Shred America Team: (Left to right) Michael Kosciesza, James Lagen, Tony Michael, Arthur Swidzinski.

rewarding part of the journey was being able to meet so many different people.

"It was totally awesome," Kosciesza said. "We met so many cool people."

People like "Trucker John" from Ohio, who gave the team dinner and let them camp in his back-

yard and "Josh," a rock 'n' roll biker from Pennsylvania who hosted the travelers on the Fourth of July.

The team planned to head back to Chicago on Saturday — by train.

"We're going to take Amtrak and relax this time," Kosciesza said.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

'Portrait' memorial honors soldiers who died in service

By **PAT KROCHMAL**
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Friends and relatives from Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Elk Grove and Chicago's Northwest Side scanned sketches of 180 fallen soldiers for those they knew and loved Friday at the Des Plaines Library.

They visited the memorial viewed by thousands in more than 40 communities across the state — an

exhibit of hand-drawn portraits of Illinois men and women who have died in service to the United States since Sept. 11, 2001.

"The Portrait of a Soldier memorial is a moving tribute to the men and women who have given their last full measure of devotion to our democracy," Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn said.

Artist Cameron Schilling, 24, of Mattoon, first came up with the

idea in August 2004, when he drew a portrait of Army Spc. Charles Neeley, also of Mattoon, who was killed in Iraq.

Schilling gave the

sketch to Neeley's parents to convey his sympathy for their loss.

Then Schilling decided to draw a portrait of every Illinois service member

who has died during the war.

State Sen. Dan Kottowski, D-33rd, state Rep. Carolyn Krause, R-66th, and state Rep. Elaine

Nekritz, D-57th, also viewed the display.

The exhibit ran until Wednesday.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Families pay respects

The Portrait of a Soldier memorial drew members of local Gold Star families to Des Plaines Public Library where the exhibit was displayed July 11-16.

They included: Danuta Kowalik, mother of Marine Lance Cpl. Jakub Kowalik (Des Plaines); Sandy Salem, mother of Army Spc. Adriana Salem (Elk Grove Village); and Jed, Kristen, Kurt, Jeff,

Judy and Laura Scherkenbach, family of Army Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach (Mount Prospect).

Also among the families were John and Courtney Olson, father and sister of Marine Cpl. John T. Olson (from Elk Grove Village and formerly Chicago's Norwood Park neighborhood, along with the soldier's aunt, Barbra Baley.



Des Plaines resident Danuta Kowalik, mother of the late Marines Lance Cpl. Jakub Kowalik, adjusts her Gold Star Families pin Friday at the Des Plaines Public Library. Kowalik said her son died in Iraq, and wears the pin to represent her support of families who have experienced the death of a soldier.

Village poised to approve expansion despite outcry

By **TONY BERTUCA**
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

Some Niles residents are angered over recent developments that might push forward a controversial \$80-million expansion at Assi Plaza.

Assi Plaza is bordered by Milwaukee Avenue, Dempster Street, Ballard Road and Washington Street. It is home to a Ko-

rean grocery store and several retailers.

Owner Michael Kim has proposed an expansion on the 12.1-acre site that would include a 200-room hotel, a 13,000-square-foot Korean family spa, a 13,000-square-foot retail building, a seven-tier parking structure and a 300-seat banquet hall.

The Niles Planning and Zoning Commission re-

cently recommended that the Village Board approve the expansion, but many residents have spoken out against the project, saying it is too dense and would add to traffic congestion.

"It's going to be a total nightmare," said Nancy Comita, who lives north of the plaza. "This area already has a lot of town homes and three-flats. This is a high-population

area and the project is overbuilding."

Comita said she and many of her neighbors plan to appear at the Tuesday Village Board meeting to oppose the project.

"Our village slogan says Niles is a place where people count," she said. "Well, the people need to be heard on this." Les Feller, Comita's

neighbor, said the development would pose a safety issue for children in the neighborhood, as Washington Terrace Park is adjacent to the project, and Gemini and Nelson schools are both within walking distance for students. "I think it's going to be dangerous," he said. "Kids walk to the park and they walk to the schools. There's going to

be a lot more congestion and people are going to be side-streeting," Charles Ostman, Niles director of community development, was not available for comment Monday. He recommended the Planning and Zoning Commission approve the project at its July 7 meeting, as did other village officials who conducted a traffic study for the project.

Notre Dame High School staffer Diane Soreng dies

Diane Soreng (nee Johnson), 53, a long-time staff member of Notre Dame High School for Boys in Niles, died Friday. A former Ravenswood resident, she had lived in Chicago's Edison Park community since 1985 and was a member of St. Juliana Parish.

Her most recent job was as administrative assistant and events coordi-

nator at Notre Dame, but she had worked with the development office since about 1990.

Although health problems had made it impossible to work full time for several months, she had worked at school through the big fund-raiser, the spring dinner auction — one of her special projects each year.

"She loved her dog, her

family, her grandkids," her son, Jim, said.

"Her friends meant the world to her, but family first."

When her husband, James Sr., collapsed in 1998, diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, Mrs. Soreng and her sons drew strength from their faith and faced the challenges of finding help for James Sr.

The disease had left him paralyzed, and he was hospitalized over the next 18 months while undergoing intense therapy to restore what movement and speech were possible.

When he could finally return home in early 2000, it took a lot of renovations at the house and extra medical equipment. Support was offered from both parish and Notre

Dame High School friends.

Even as Mrs. Soreng, a breast cancer survivor, learned this year she was ill again herself, she was praying hard for her newest grandson, who was facing some healing of his own.

Friends from school and church stepped in again this spring to help her round the clock with

her medical battles, her son said.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 2003 and by her father, Jack Koss, and sister Linda Johnson. She is survived by her sons, James Jr. (Beth) and Brian; grandsons Michael and James Patrick; her mother, Marie Koss; sisters Gail (Bob) Paradowski and Barbara Johnson; and a niece, loving aunt of Theresa Paradowski.

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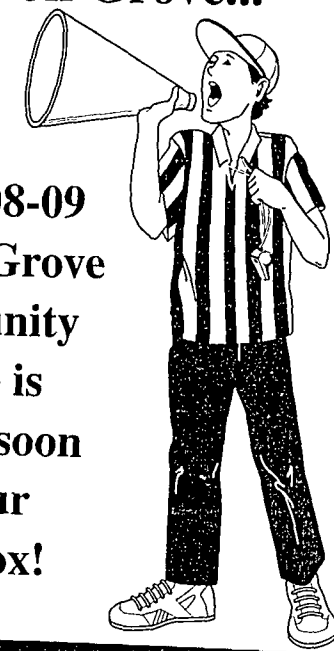
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 Morton Grove \$335,000 Immaculate 3 br, 2 ba updated bi-level home. Hdwd floors thruout. New windows, roof, furnace, a/c. Fin LL w/family rm & office. Large fenced yard w/patio. 2.5-car garage. John Gearhart/Violet Hakopian 773-467-5300	 Morton Grove \$330,000 Brick 3 br ranch home on beautiful tree-lined street in area of many larger new homes. Updated kit & ba. Wonderful heated porch. Larger lot. Also for rent at \$1700/mo. Jean Royster 847-234-8000	 Morton Grove \$329,900 Large 70 feet wide wooded lot on an excellent area. Developers and builders don't miss this outstanding opportunity to build a dream home. Manuela Papazisi 773-880-7500	 Morton Grove \$319,000 Lrg 4-level 5 br 2.5 ba Mortonaire home. Granite kit w/iss appls. Mstr ste w/marble shower & glass doors. All new windows, furnace & a/c. Lrg fam rm to spacious yard. Chi Zhang 773-935-4466	 Morton Grove \$249,900 2 br, 2 ba bright top flr end-unit. New carpet & laminate flrs. New windows & more. White cab kit, skylight, in-unit full size w/d. Lrg balc w/tree-top view. Gar space. Sue Oleksy/Cam Benson 773-467-5300	
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School District 219 renews, sweetens bus contract

By KATHY ROUTLIFFE
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com

Positive Connections, the bus company whose initial service to their schools last year prompted anger among Niles Township High School District 219 board members and parents, will continue to provide service in the district during the 2008-09 school year.

School board members on June 30 approved a 7.63-percent increase in what the district will pay the Homewood-based company for service in the coming year.

Assistant Superintendent Gerry Yeggy reported to the board that the existing three-year contract provides for a renewal increase each year, based on a transportation

cost formula provided by the Department of Labor. This year's formula requires the increase to be 7.36 percent.

The School Board hired Positive Connections in May of 2007, for \$1.47 million over three years. Its bid was the lowest of five, but the company came under fire as soon as it started in late August, for slow or nonex-

istent route service, a lack of bus drivers, and other problems. Attempts to solve the problems didn't immediately work. District officials, and their counterparts in township elementary school districts who also used Positive Connections, were still reporting irregular service in late October.

"We did have questions," before approving the renewal, board President Robert Silverman said. "While admittedly they did have a rocky start, they turned things around quite nicely." Last October, District 219 also decided to contract with Skokie Elementary School District 68 to provide some bus service for its special education students. The cost was

\$60 per route per day, which Yeggy said at the time was less than the district would have paid to Positive Connections.

Silverman said District 219 would probably continue that agreement, "because I think, for special education, we decided that really was the better way to go."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

No one hurt in Sunday house fire

A fire started Sunday inside a single-family home on the 7000 block of Niles Terrace, local authorities reported. No one was injured.

The woman who owns the house told police she called 911 after she saw

smoke and heard her fire alarm going off, according to a Niles Police report.

Deputy Chief Steve Borkowski, of the Niles Fire Department, said Monday that the fire appears to have started on the second floor in a room

at the rear of the home.

Borkowski said the cause of the fire had not yet been determined and the extent of the damage was unknown.

— By Tony Bertucco

Daycare Center facts

By KATHY ROUTLIFFE
kroutliffe@pioneerlocal.com

The township, under former Superintendent Tom McElligott, started a daycare program in 1984 to serve needy families. The program has served an average of 20 children each year. Center officials had hoped, during the late 1990s, to hike that to 40 but that did not happen. It currently employs a center director, two teachers and a teacher's aide.

Until 2000, it operated within the Niles Township government building at 5255 Main St. At that point it moved to a separate annex building just south of the old location. It rents the daycare annex

for \$1 a month from the township.

The annex was financed and built by the township, at cost of \$810,000, and was part of a larger expansion project. That project also included more than \$273,000 to expand the then-existing township food pantry in the township building, and to replace the building elevator.

The daycare center is officially independent of Niles Township government, despite its name and provenance. The separation was re-emphasized after the 2000 expansion. However, it has historically gotten the largest block of its operating funds from the township, via annual

grants.

In FY07, the daycare center's budget was \$267,000, \$90,000 of that from Niles Township. The FY08 budget had been planned to run about \$6,000 higher. It currently has about \$52,000 in the bank, daycare board president Michelle Mazzenga says, which will be used to pay remaining bills and create severance packages for employees.

The program has been under fire before. In 1997, parents unhappy with the center's then-current administrator asked the township to shut it down. Its fate was also part of the lengthy expansion project discussion.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Sympathy

Continued from PAGE 5

ing program support for a year, as trustee Marilyn Glazer said, Mazzenga said.

But that didn't reach her ears, she added.

"We were expecting, after working with Michael (Lorge), that based on our need you wouldn't give us as much as you have in pre-

vious years," Mazzenga said. "Instead, you said, 'Based on your need, you have no need, and we're cutting off funds.'"

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

District 207 wants its chance to raise funds at fireworks too

By ANDREW SCHNEIDER
aschneider@pioneerlocal.com

The board of Maine Township School District 207 has decided it will directly approve the contract with the Park Ridge Fireworks Committee, a non-profit entity overseeing the July 3 fireworks at the Maine East High School stadium, next year.

The change was motivated by at least one board member's frustration over the limitations of this year's contract and a decision made by the organizers this year to charge \$5 for every car that parked on the grounds of Maine East High School, 2601 Dempster St., Park Ridge, where the fireworks are held annually.

Board Member Jeff

Bergen said July 7 that, since the cost of maintaining Maine East was borne by taxpayers from not only Park Ridge but other surrounding communities, it isn't right that the contract allows the Park Ridge Fireworks Committee — a group of volunteers from City Hall, Police and Fire departments and the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District — to charge for parking, while also granting them the exclusive rights to raise funds the night of the fireworks.

"I think, if we're donating our facilities, we shouldn't be forfeiting the right to do fundraising," Bergen said.

By contrast, board member Sean Sullivan, who had chaired the event in the past, de-

fended the contract, saying it is extremely difficult to raise money for the fireworks display.

"It's very difficult when you say, 'Give us some money so we can blow it up,'" Sullivan said.

Superintendent Joel Morris was most concerned, however, that fireworks attendees should understand that any funds raised from 2008 the parking fees went only to the fireworks display and organizers and not to the school district.

"One of the things that we want to make clear is that school district didn't get any of that five dollars," Morris said.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed among 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.

BATTERY

Barry Broderick, 31, of 4026 N. Octavia Ave., Harwood Heights, was charged with battery, disorderly conduct, and resisting a police officer July 13 on the 8100 block of North Milwaukee Avenue in connection to an incident with a 41-year-old man. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Aug. 21. In connection with the incident, Brian McNeela, 29, of 8324 N. New England Ave., Niles, was charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Aug. 21.

Mario Grana, 31, of 8730 W. Park Lane, Niles, was charged with battery July 13, accused of striking a man with

a beer bottle. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Aug. 7.

THEFT

Christopher Graham, 17, of 2433 N. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, was charged with retail theft July 13 of \$168 in merchandise from a store on the 2000 block of Golf Mill Center. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Aug. 7.

An American flag valued at \$25 was stolen July 11 from a home on the 7700 block of North Nordica Avenue.

A woman told police that a wallet containing \$40 was taken from her pocket July 12 at a crowded store on the 7900 block of North Milwaukee Avenue.

A bicycle valued at \$200 was stolen July 11 from a bike rack outside a store on the 5600 block of West Touhy Avenue.

DUI

Humbert Panteleon, 29, of 3742 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol July 13 on the 7200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$3,000 bond and is due in court Aug. 19.

Tadeusz Dec, 48, of 7657 N. Oketo Ave., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol July 12 on the 7500 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Aug. 21.

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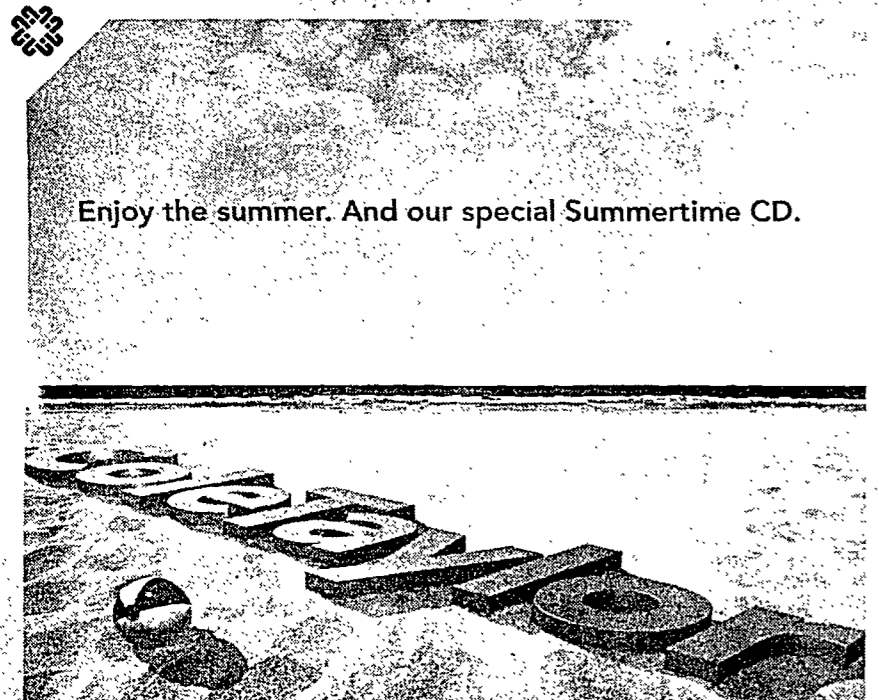
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Opinion

WE SAY Looking at baseball's second half from both sides of home plate

The second half of the baseball season begins today, and as of Friday, the Cubs and the Sox were both in first place.

Could the ultimate World Series be in the offing?

This isn't the first time the Sox and Cubs have led their divisions at the All-Star break. They were both in this position in 1977, and neither was able to pull it off. But with the way these teams are playing, the rivalry is going to spike in the coming months.

We thought we'd help get it started with views from editorial advocates for both teams.

The Cubbie blue view: Next year finally here?

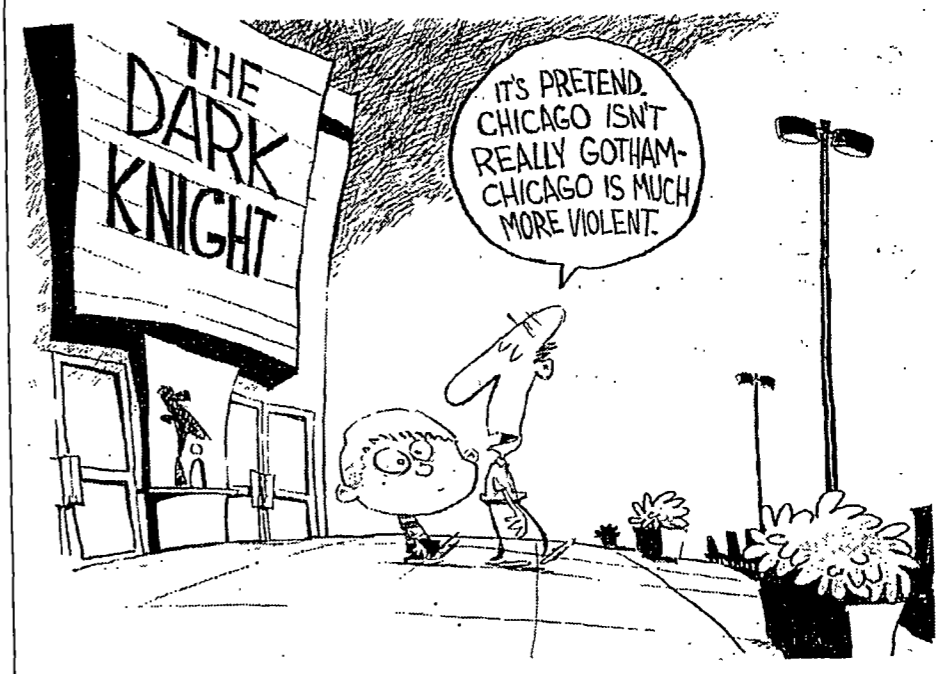
Here it is midseason, and yet the Cubs' flag is still flapping above all the others in the division.

But Cubs fans are a paradox — eternally hopeful, but also fearful. (Sox fans like to call them saps for their loyalty, but they don't run at the first sign of a slump.)

Since superstition has dogged (or is it billy-goated?) the Cubs' image for so many years, they might as well turn to the stars to see how things are aligning this year — it's been 100 years since the Cubs' last World Series win, and it's been 10 since announcer Harry Caray died.

So wouldn't a match-up with the White Sox even make that more exciting? What would a Cubs/Sox World Series look like? Probably a lot of purple sky and buckled sidewalks and rips into

1000 WORDS



You don't know what we'll do



PAUL SASSONE

Created by concern for the environment and fueled by fuel prices, a new approach to getting around is abroad in the land.

Walking and biking are becoming the preferred mode of transportation for more and more of us.

Just look around. Newspapers, TV and the Internet are bursting with stories and tips about biking and walking.

Bikers are more in evidence on our streets.

Those little yellow signs are appearing in more and more crosswalks warning drivers that state law requires that drivers must yield to pedestrians. And police are cracking down on drivers who don't.

And just the other day I received a notice of an upcoming Pedestrians' Rights rally.

Yep, walkers and bikers have it pretty good these days. Walking and biking are healthy and don't damage the environment. Cheaper than driving, too.

But, may I add one sour note?

Dear walkers and bikers: Don't trust us.

By "us" I mean drivers.

State law may be on your side, but Newton's law isn't.

In a confrontation a 160-pound, crunchy-on-the-outside and squishy-on-the-inside biker or

dozing, texting, watching TV, surfing the Internet, reading, shaving, grooming, changing CDs.

Just because that little yellow sign in the crosswalk proclaims you to be in the right, don't count on it.

We cannot be trusted.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that 4,881 pedestrians were killed and 64,000 injured in 2005 in crashes with motor vehicles.

In that same year, 784 cyclists were killed and

"Never forget that we drivers are sometimes angry and hostile and most of the time distracted by talking on the phone, eating, drinking, dozing, texting, watching TV, surfing the Internet ..."

walker hasn't a chance against a couple of thousand pounds of metal, glass and plastic.

And never forget that we drivers are sometimes angry and hostile and most of the time distracted by talking on the phone, eating, drinking,

45,000 were injured in traffic accidents.

So, don't just count on your rights when you're out walking and biking.

Rights won't stop an SUV.

Be careful out there.

You don't know what we'll do.

YOU SAY

Concerned parents want fair answers

I am one of a committee of concerned parents from Lincoln (Middle School)'s 7-2 academic core. The handling of this teacher reassignment has been botched by all levels of District 64 administrators. When a delegation of parents follows the proper protocol of communication and meets with Mr. Blouch, Dr. Pryor and the District 64 School Board and receives no answers, frustration, mistrust, and speculation surface. We parents have two simple questions that have thus far gone unanswered: 1. Why is the change being made? 2. Why can't the change wait nine months? This issue would be closed if these questions can be answered honestly.

When the district departs from its' own philosophy midstream, the children, teachers and parents impacted deserve an answer. The "rigor" of core 7-2 was the original explanation given to the students by their teachers. Shouldn't school be rigorous? Of course the children are resilient and of course the new teachers will teach the curriculum. The issue however is, the children in core 7-2 deserve the same advantages as their peers at Lincoln and Emerson. Furthermore, teaching the curriculum is NOT the concern. Rather, the caliber of teaching and the added dimension that these reassigned teachers brought to learning will be missed.

Just because a principal has the right to make a decision, it doesn't mean it is the right decision. Good leaders admit mistakes and learn from them. Why the cover-up? If the circumstance that caused

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Letters

Continued from PAGE 11

this dismantling was so critical, why didn't Mr. Blouch have the vision to make this change last year before he disrupted 100 plus students? Why are the superintendent and the board loyally supporting a mistake? After three meetings, all at the parents' request, we are given the same standard response of, "We are not changing our minds" prior to hearing any of the concerns from the viewpoint of those that need to be considered. It is simple to observe that we are not engaged in open and honest education.

This district heavily relies on the parent component in its community partnership. Parent involvement distinguishes District 64. When the leadership of this district turns a deaf ear to valid parent concerns, it does not value the very essence of the

community it serves. We have been told, and continue to be told, to trust the process. At this point, the trust has been repeatedly broken and the process has not worked. The real losers in this mis-handled mess are the students of core 7-2. Why not reconsider with an open mind and provide some truthful answers?

Becky Hatzopoulos Park Ridge

There may be good reasons for change

The word change is such a powerful word in our vocabulary, which often causes debate on the new course of direction when implemented. We hear the word every four years from our politicians promoting their new ideas on how to govern. Board members of our publicly held institutions change the way companies are run to keep up with their ever changing industries. I've been involved in many changes in organizations I

have worked for in order to receive optimal performance from a staff of employees.

So when I read that there has been controversy on the change Principal Jim Blouch made to his teaching staff at Lincoln Middle School, I was a bit surprised. Jim Blouch has been a principal at Lincoln for many years, and he's made a lot of changes at the school to enable all children there to attain the best education they can receive. His recent action to have made some changes within his teaching staff surely has made in the best interest of the school.

Within my own experience of changes in teams that I have been a part of, I took the positive aspects I used in my job responsibilities and shared them with my new team members so that they may try to apply them in their own efforts. I also took the new ideas that were given to

Letters, PAGE 54

Baseball

Continued from PAGE 11

ter the balance of power. Fans of the winning team would be unbearable for a lifetime. And while that would be great fun if the Sox won, what if ...

Sox fans, admit it. You have an inferiority complex already. You know you're second banana in this city. Instead of the Friendly Confines, you have a corporate-named stadium. Secretly, Sox fans enjoy watching Cub fans fret over the prospect of losing their field's moniker to the highest bidder. And last we checked, Wrigley also is the name of a hugely successful gum conglomerate.

Both teams enjoyed a sweep of the other at home. Maybe we should just leave it at that, and let the Sox carry the city's banner into October. They've shown they can get the job done.

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

Services parallel Lourdes pilgrimage from Chicago

Catholics from across Chicago and the suburbs are invited to take part in the At Home Pilgrimage scheduled for Archdiocesan parishes and shrines between Aug. 1 and 8.

The week-long series of celebrations is designed to unite all the faithful in the Chicagoland area in prayer with the participants of the Archdiocese of Chicago Lourdes Pilgrimage 2008, and will include torchlight rosary, Eucharistic and Way of the Cross processions, as well as a Mass with the anointing of the sick.

As 180 Catholic pilgrims from the Archdiocese accompany Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, to pray at the Grotto of Massabielle, where Catholics believe the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 — special events are planned in the Chicago area.

These include locally: A special departure Mass in honor of the pilgrims traveling to Lourdes at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 1, at Queen of All Saints Basilica, 6280 N. Sauganash Ave., Chicago.

Cardinal George will be the principal celebrant at

this Mass. Most Rev. Thomas Paprocki, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago for Vicariate IV will concelebrate.

A torchlight rosary procession, led by Bishop Paprocki will take place at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 5, on the grounds of the Provincial House of the Felician Sisters, Mother of Good Counsel, 3800 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago.

For more information, contact Todd Williamson, Director of the Archdiocese's Office of Divine Worship and Director of the At Home Pilgrimage at twilliamson@odw.org or (773) 486-5153.

growth of our online audience, we now have more benefits than ever to offer our advertising clients." Sun-Times Media Group announced in June that it had joined with more than 700 newspapers to enhance its online advertising offerings and increase its sizable audiences through a strategic alliance with Yahoo! Inc. The alliance includes: Offering a one-stop buying experience for advertisers of the Sun-Times News Group; Using Yahoo! technology to offer to Sun-Times News Group advertising clients graphical advertising, behavioral targeting and search functions; Distributing local news stories across multiple Yahoo! properties and sites to increase the number of online viewers who see Sun-Times News Group ads.

Sun-Times, Pioneer Web traffic spikes

Sun-Times Media Group, Inc. (OTCBB:SUTM) announced last week that total page views of its Sun-Times News Group Web sites, which include pioneerlocal.com, increased 45 percent from June 2007 to June 2008 up to 54.6 million, according to Nielsen/Net Ratings. That marks the first time the Sun-Times News Group sites combined have topped 50 million total page views.

In addition, the time visitors spent on Sun-Times News Group Web sites increased on average to 9 minutes and 10 seconds. The combined Sun-Times News Group sites continue to rank among the top 10 newspaper Web sites with more than 3.5 million unique visitors each month.

"These numbers show there is a growing hunger for local Chicago area news, sports and commentary," said Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr., president and chief executive officer of Sun-Times Media Group. "The Sun-Times News Group is delivering increasingly robust prod-

ucts online that are clearly showing results in the data we are seeing," he said.

The Sun-Times News Group features more than 90 local Web sites, including sites that correspond with the Chicago Sun-Times, Pioneer Press and each of the company's 70 suburban newspaper titles, all of which together provide more than 200 communities with information unique to their cities and neighborhoods.

Among the specific sites showing particularly strong traffic growth were suntimes.com, rogerebert.com and searchchicago.com/autos.

"Chicagoans want their local news and movie information from the best source, which is the Sun-Times," Freidheim said. "And we are pleased with how the online and print versions of our expanded SearchChicago/Autos products have performed, particularly in such a tough economic and advertising environment," he added. "What's more, through our recently announced partnership with Yahoo! Inc., and the

Keep an eye on those taxes



STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN

THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

One thing The Fixer has learned from reading your letters over the years: It's always easier to prevent losing money than to try to recoup it later.

Which brings us to today's tale of woe. John of Glenview received a letter in the mail last fall from one of those research companies that helps you recover unclaimed money you may be owed by the government. They do the digging, and you pay them 50 percent of the proceeds.

John agreed, and the research company discov-

ered that back in 2002, when John had refinanced his mortgage, the title company had paid an extra \$1,806.01 in property taxes.

It took a while, but in February, the research company got the money back from the Cook County Treasurer's Office and gave John his 50 percent share, or \$908.01.

It was money he didn't have before, and John was happy that the research company helped him. But he's annoyed that no one at the tax office ever alerted him to the overpayment.

John complained and got a letter from the treasurer's office saying they're not obligated to return overpayments unless the person files a claim form and provides proof of overpayment.

"The costly lesson,"

John wrote The Fixer, "is if you are refinancing your mortgage, make sure your property taxes are not overpaid."

Special note from The Fixer: If you think you might have missing funds held by the state of Illinois, check out Cash Dash at www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/cash-dash/cash-dash.aspx.

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 unless the person files a claim form and provides proof of overpayment. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress

Week ending July 11

Major roll call votes in the Senate

Spy Powers: Senators sent President Bush, 69-28, a bill to renew the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and grant immunity to telecom firms (next issue). A yes vote backed a bill (HR6304) to allow spying without specific warrants on foreign communications passing through the United States. Sen. Richard Durbin: No; Sen. Barack Obama: Yes

Telecoms' Immunity: Senators refused, 32-66, to strip HR6304 (above) of retroactive immunity for companies such as AT&T, Sprint Nextel and Verizon that have been sued over their helping the administration spy on Americans without court warrants after 9/11. A yes vote opposed immunity. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Barack Obama: Yes

Medicare Doctor Payments: Senators voted, 69-30, to overcome GOP blockage of a bill that would rescind the administration's 10.6 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors that took effect July 1. The bill was sent to President Bush on a non-record vote. A yes vote backed HR6331. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Barack Obama: Yes

Gen. Petraeus Confirmation: Senators confirmed, 95-2, the appointment of Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, 55, as commander of the United States Central Command, which conducts U.S. military operations in the Middle East, Central Asia and East Africa. A yes vote was to confirm Petraeus. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Barack Obama: Not voting

Housing Bill Advances: Senators voted, 84-12, to advance a housing-recovery bill that, in part, would enable lenders to refinance hundreds of thousands of at-risk mortgages in return for government backing of the new loans. A yes vote was to advance HR3221 toward eventual Senate passage. Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Barack Obama: Not voting

Major roll call votes in the House

Electronic Records Retention: Members voted, 286-137, to require the White House and other federal agencies to preserve all e-mail messages and other electronic files under National Archives oversight. A yes vote backed a bill (HR5811) sparked by a massive loss of White House e-mails.

For a more detailed description of the issues, see our Web page at www.pioneerlocal.com and pick your hometown paper, click on News and click on Politics.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Party, Issue, Vote



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MUSIC
Robert Loerzel interviews Andrew Langer of the Deerfield-native rock band The Redwalls before their performance July 18 at Arlington Park.

FILM
Catey Sullivan talks to the Wilmette residents behind the indie horror film "Witches Night" before its DVD debut.

GAMES AND CDS
Erik Stein reviews "Games Overlord: Raising Hell," "Don King Presents: Prizefighter" and "Guitar Hero: Aerosmith." New albums by Beck and Willie Nelson with Wynton Marsalis top our CD coverage.

HOROSCOPE
Check online for this week's forecast.

MOVIE TIMES
Updated movie times can be found online on Fridays.

Joker trumps Batman in 'Dark Knight'

By BRUCE INGRAM
bingram@pioneerlocal.com

The Dark Knight ★★
You can't trust that Joker character. He's a vicious, amoral, psychopathic, murdering maniac and, given half a chance, he'll steal your movie.

Jack Nicholson did it in the 1989 "Batman" and Heath Ledger most definitely does it in the generally excellent "Dark Knight," though their approaches to the character couldn't be much more different. Nicholson camped it up but Ledger, whose death from a drug overdose six months ago now seems even more of a loss, took the Joker seriously — and found a way to make the demented character seem uncomfortably, almost disturbingly, real.

Writer/director: Christopher Nolan, returning after reinvigorating the franchise three years ago with "Batman Begins," uses the Joker to open the film, with a murderous, and treacherous, heist of a mob bank that's one of six sequences shot with IMAX cameras. (That may not make much of a difference to you unless you see the film at an IMAX theater, but it should translate into eye-popping hi-definition when "The Dark Knight" is released on DVD.) In just a few minutes, the Joker demonstrates that he's deadly serious and completely devoted to anarchy. He doesn't play by the rules, even the rules governing criminal behavior,



Heath Ledger and Christian Bale in "The Dark Knight."

Gotham City to chaos, while playing games with Batman just for fun. Batman, meanwhile, is considering hanging up his armored Bat-suit, because it seems that heroic district attorney Harvey "Disarm and Deck a Crook in the Witness Box" Dent (Aaron Eckhart) and police 'Dark Knight,' PAGE B4

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STAGE

In the beginning...

There were 'Children of Eden' and a cast of 45 students

'CHILDREN OF EDEN'
7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 17-20 at the Forest View Educational Center Theatre, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd., Arlington Heights. \$12/advance, \$15/door; \$35 for 6 p.m. dinner and 8 p.m. Saturday performance. (847) 718-7702.

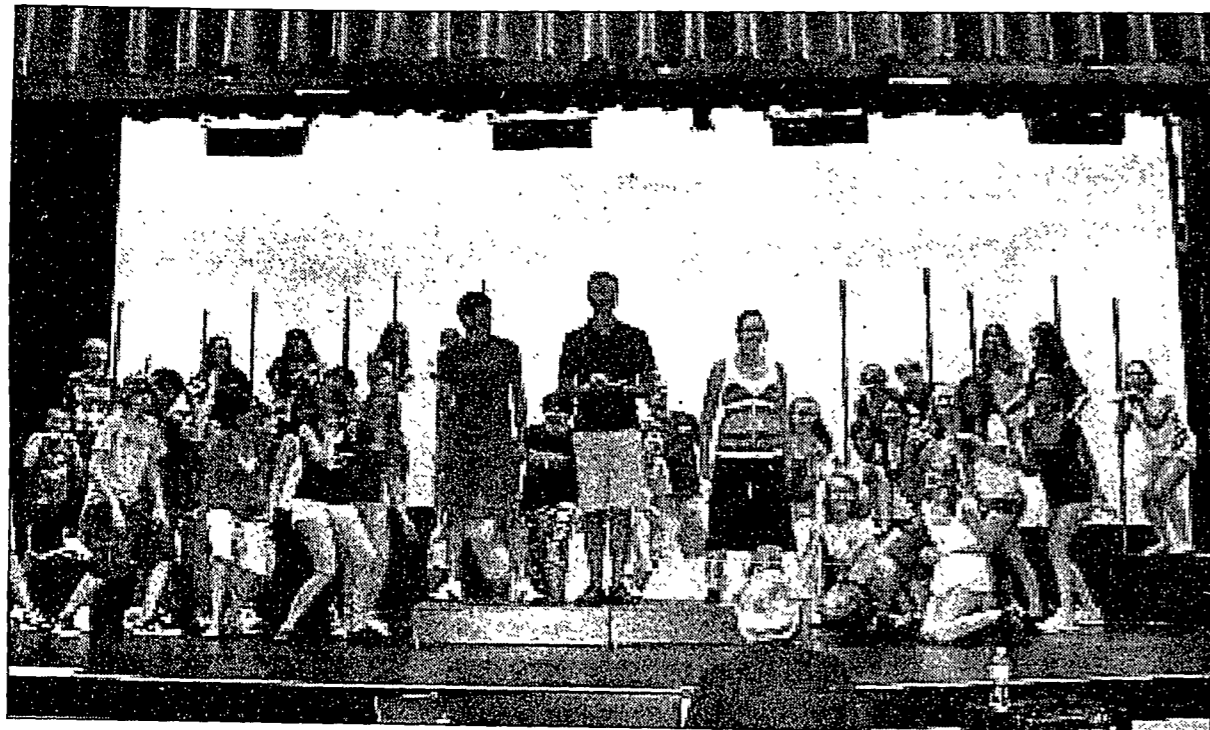
By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz takes audiences on a journey from the creation of the universe to the aftermath of the great flood in "Children of Eden." Jan Scott of Mount Prospect, co-founder in 2001 of The King's Players, thinks that is a trip worth taking. Scott directs the community youth theater production of the musical this weekend at Forest View Educational Center Theatre in Arlington Heights.

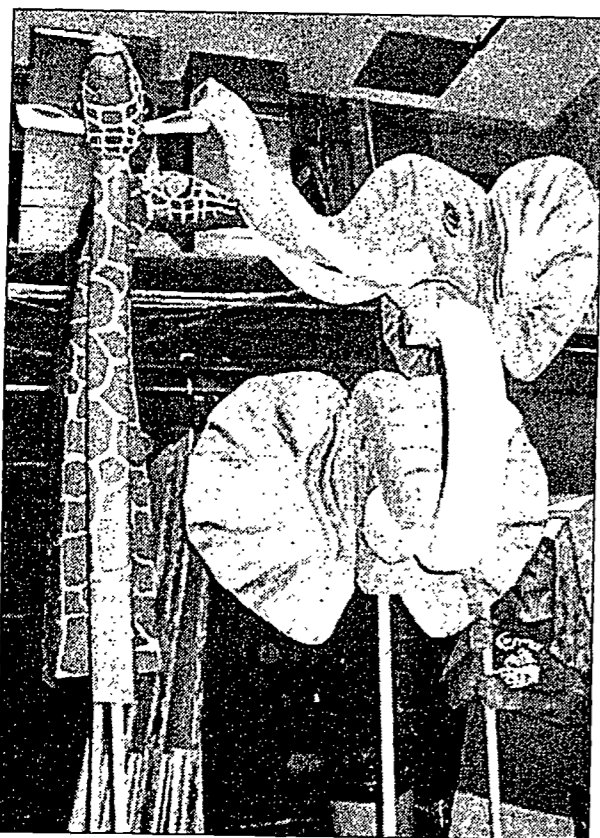
"I am absolutely in love with this show," Scott declared. "Hardly anybody ever does it and it is such a powerful show. The music is just magnificent. I never thought that we would be able to pull off a production like this because it is really difficult."

Scott's main concern about the show, which relates the first nine chapters of Genesis, was with the central character.

Then she realized that she could cast an adult in the role of Father. She chose Ken Whitney, a 2002 graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in music education and vocal performance, who serves as choral director of Southwest Chicago Christian Schools. He is joined by a cast of 44 northwest suburban junior high and high school students.



Cast members assemble during a rehearsal for "Children of Eden" at the Forest View Educational Center Theatre in Arlington Heights.



Larger-than-life puppets are part of the extensive character costuming in "Children of Eden."

Fifteen-year-old Claire Reibel of Mount Prospect plays Eve. Kurt Schueler, 17, of Arlington Heights is Adam.

Top credentials

Scott cast Reibel because "She has such a lovely voice, and I know



King's Players' costume designer Kim Perlich adjusts some of the cast members' costumes.

her to be an extremely dedicated and hard worker. And in the audition, she acted the part beautifully."

Reibel noted that "in this show, [Eve] is portrayed as being a very curious person. She is always seeking knowledge of what life is about. Adam is content with the Garden. He is totally happy with his life and wants to stay with God forever. But she wants to find out more."

Her curiosity, of course, leads to the couple's expulsion from the Garden.

Reibel said that she would have been happy with any part she got in the show because "It's such a fantastic musical. The music is incredible. I was really happy to get Eve. She's got some great numbers."

A long-time performer with the King's Players, Reibel was in the group's first show. "It's been a lot

of fun growing up with them," said the Prospect High School sophomore.

Director Scott said of Kurt Schueler, who plays opposite Reibel: "Kurt has put in his time in the trenches with us. At auditions, he sang the part so well. He's got a really nice voice in the right range for the part of Adam."

Role model

Schueler also would have accepted any role, but was pleased to be cast as Adam. He described the character as "pretty much the typical Adam in the Bible. In the beginning, he's just a child, like his Father made him. Then, after he eats the forbidden fruit, he matures and becomes a parent to Cain and Abel."

That transformation is the biggest challenge of the role, the Prospect High School senior noted, "having to go from being a child in the beginning to suddenly being a mature father figure." To prepare for that aspect, Schueler said he bonded with the actor who plays Father, as well as Eve, and especially with the production's Cain and Abel, "to become more of a father to them."

The timing is perfect for seeing "Children of Eden," Scott explained. "Rumor has it that it's going to Broadway next season, which means that the rights won't be available for community theater groups again for probably another decade. So it's kind of a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Schueler added that the show is well worth seeing because The King's Players is "a community theater that puts on professional-quality."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com

STAGE

Actors fight demons in Harper's 'Virginia Woolf'

'WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?'
7 p.m. July 23-24 and July 28-31, at Drama Lab, Room L109, Building L, Harper College, Roselle and Algonquin roads, Palatine. \$15. (847) 925-6100 or www.harpercollege.edu.

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Tim Philbin and Mary Luckritz are preparing for a battle of wits as George and Martha in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" The Edward Albee classic opens July 23 at Harper College in Palatine.

George is a history professor at a Connecticut college. His wife, Martha, is the daughter of the school's president. Their ongoing battle appears to be about George's lack of career initiative, but the roots go far deeper. Caught in Martha and George's destructive web are a young faculty couple, Nick (Nick Bullaro of Barrington) and Honey (Karah Janssen of Mount Prospect), who are visiting for a nightcap.

"I love the show and it's a dream role," Luckritz said. "Of course, now I'm scared to death!"

The Des Plaines resident has the training to experience to prepare her for this challenge. She earned a bachelors in musical theater from Drake University, and was in the original Chicago cast of "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding." Luckritz also performed in the Jeff-winning ensemble of "The Kentucky Cycle" at Pegasus Players and toured in a one-woman show about Dorothy Day. She teaches English and serves as fine arts coordinator at Rolling Meadows High School.



Actors Tim Philbin (standing) and Mary Luckritz (seated, far left) engage in a battle of the wits, and take young couple Nick (Nick Bullaro) and Honey (Karah Janssen) along for the destructive ride.

Demonized

Luckritz described Martha as "a woman who has a thousand demons. She wants so much to be loved and to love and she has to fight (her demons) every day."

Preparing for the part has required self-analysis, Luckritz related. "And then, at the end of the day," she said, "it's all about, 'Where is the Martha within me?'"

Palatine resident Philbin earned a bachelors in acting from Lewis University and a masters in acting from Northern Illinois University. He has performed with area companies such as Organic Theatre, Absolute Theatre and Bailiwick Repertory Theatre. Philbin has worked at the Harper College Library for the past 12 years and acts on the side.

Philbin auditioned for the role of George because "I thought I fit the character fairly well." He laughingly added that

he's not "totally" like George. "Let's say I can play it."

"George is a very, very intelligent, very acerbic college teacher," Philbin related. "He's kind of stuck in a dead-end job. He's married to the president of the university's daughter and the marriage is rocky, to say the least. There are things in his life that leave him somewhat tortured."

No walk in the park

Preparing for the show "is like running a marathon," Philbin said. "The play runs a little under three hours, but there's only four characters so it's an immense amount of learning lines. There's so much gut-wrenching emotion in it, it's not exactly a walk in the park to perform."

That doesn't detract from Philbin's enthusiasm about the piece, though. "Albee's very good at wordplay; he's very good at dialog," he said. "It's

much darker than the usual things I've been in." Luckritz praised the playwright's insight into the characters.

"And then, at the end of the day it's all about, 'Where is the Martha within me?'"

Mary Luckritz

"These people are the secrets," she said. "We talk about the perfect house and the 2.2 kids, and the perfect marriage. Nobody wants to explore what happens when there are demons."

Comment: pioneerlocal.com



SOMETHING TO 'HYDE' Monica Szaflik of Norridge plays one of the two female leads in the musical "Jekyll & Hyde" running through July 20 at Chicago's Theatre Building (call 773-327-5252). The role of Lucy Harris performed by Szaflik is that of a young prostitute (played by Ingrid Bergman in the 1941 movie version with Spencer Tracy) who befriends Dr. Jekyll, but is then molested by Hyde. She sings a song called "Bring on the Men" which contains the line: "I like to have a man for breakfast each day." Theater critic John Olson wrote: "Ms. Szaflik displays the best acting of the cast. The character's vulnerability and fear in the face of real and anticipated cruelties are palpable and more than a little disturbing." A graduate of Norridge's Ridgewood High School, Szaflik majored in musical theater at North Central College in Naperville and has appeared in a number of films, including "The Lake House" (2006), "The Break-Up" (2006) and upcoming this fall, "The Express" with Dennis Quaid.

'Dark Knight'
Continued from PAGE B1

lieutenant Jim "Decent, Honest Family Man" Gordon (Gary Oldman) have the mob on the run. The smarmy leader of the city's organized crime (Eric Roberts) is on trial and Batman, Dent and Gordon are on the verge of raiding the mob's banks and impounding all of its money.

If the mob is put out of business, Batman/billionaire playboy Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale, who wisely cedes the stage to Ledger for the most part) hopes that Gotham won't be the services of The Dark Knight anymore. And that he can settle down to a normal life with assistant district attorney Rachel Dawes (Maggie Gyllenhaal) — because, really, all those supermodels and ballet dancers he hound-dogs around with mean nothing to him compared to true love.



Deadly serious: Heath Ledger in "The Dark Knight."

Unfortunately, Wayne hasn't counted on Rachel falling for her crusading, square-jawed boss. And he hasn't come close to imagining how much damage can be done by the Joker.

Nolan and his brother Jonathan (who co-wrote

"The Prestige and wrote the story for "Memento," still Nolan's best film) have come up with a fairly conventional story for "The Dark Knight," but Nolan delivers it in grand style and on an epic scale. This film is worth seeing simply for its spectacular

action setpieces — one sequence in particular, with Batman diving off a skyscraper in Hong Kong and sprouting wings to soar through the city is like a beautiful dark dream — but it also builds slowly to a powerfully dramatic finale.

Much of that has to do with what Ledger makes of the Joker, who emerges bit by bit from the template of the cartoon super villain and becomes a character with genuine stature, who's easily the equal of the Big Bat.

One scene in particular

illustrates that quality and it has nothing to do with wreaking havoc at a hospital or a police station or a packed ferry boat. It's a quiet moment between outrages, with the Joker leaning out of the window of a police car he's stolen, the wind blowing through his matted hair, his tongue licking his lips like a lizard and that jagged red smile on his cracked clown-white makeup looking like the real thing for once. It's a crazed image of out-of-control id, the total freedom that comes from living life with no restrictions — and believing you're unstoppable.

The scene serves no purpose, strictly speaking, in terms of advancing the plot, but it argues well, along with many other moments in "The Dark Knight," for an Oscar nomination for Ledger in the last performance he completed before dying far too soon.



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HELLBOY II THE GOLDEN ARMY

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS AN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVELY JACUDA A LAWRENCE GORDON/LEVOLO LEMMA PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH DARK HORSE ENTERTAINMENT A HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY FILM BY LAWRENCE GORDON STARRING SELMA BLAIR DOUG JONES JEFFREY TAMBOR AND JOHN HURT

MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes - Text HELLBOY with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (433-491)

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OPENING THIS WEEK

THE DARK KNIGHT ★★★ 1/2
 Writer/director Christopher Nolan and star Christian Bale return in this sequel to "Batman Begins." Heath Ledger steals the show posthumously as The Joker. Reviewed in this section. (B) Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and some menace.

MAMMA MIA! ★★★
 I have to admit that I'm one of those grumps who break out in a rash whenever I hear a song by the insistently upbeat '70s supergroup ABBA. Even so, this infectiously fun musical romp, which draws on the hits and the back catalog of the Swede popsters to tell a story of young love, not-so-young love and a big happy wedding on a sun-drenched Greek island resort, managed to win me over. For the most part, Meryl Streep (obviously having a blast), plays a middle-aged former nightclub chanteuse, whose daughter (Amanda Seyfried) invites the three men who might possibly be her father (Pierce Brosnan, Stellan Skarsgard and Colin Firth) to her impending nuptials, confident that she'll know her true dad at first glance — and ask him to give her away. That's a classic romantic comedy setup that might have appealed to Shakespeare, and "Mamma Mia!" makes good use of it, as Donna and her three former suitors are thrown into a tizzy of unresolved emotions and uncertain paternity. The big, bouncy, song-and-dance numbers often look like leftovers from "Grease," but that doesn't matter, really. The main reason to see this is Streep, who channels pure joy from time to time, in the lead role. She also knocks those solid-gold pop songs out of the park. Especially the show-stopping "Winner Takes It All." Hey, I didn't say they were bad songs; I just said I hate them. Most of the other usually non-singing cast members acquit themselves at least reasonably well, though there were some audible groans in the mostly female preview audience when Brosnan tuned up. It didn't matter, though. All was forgiven when he finally took off his shirt. (B) (108 min.) Rated PG-13 for some sex-related comments.

HANCOCK ★★
 Superman. Drunk, burned out, sleeping off a hangover on a park bench. Really annoyed by the whole superhero thing. Wishing the world would go away and leave him alone. Not much chance that's going to happen. That's the great high-concept idea at the heart of "Hancock" which starts strong, looks destined for great things, and then disappears. Badly. If you're looking for a good-time movie, it might not be a complete waste of time to check out this Will Smith action comedy, but savor the fun stuff in the first half. That's all you're going to get. And be warned before taking the kids: The PG-13 rating on this baby should be taken seriously. Smith plays the burnt-out superhero who serves time in prison as part of an image makeover engineered by a nice-guy PR man (the reliable Jason Bateman) and pretty much gets his life back on track — until he discovers he has a surprising history with the PR guy's wife (Charlize Theron). The movie pretty basically unravels from that point, with the tone shifting from comic quasi-bleak to serious bumtime — as the action changes from comic-book-style mayhem to brutally realistic violence involving some of the main characters. On the plus side, The special effects are spectacular and original (mostly designed around the idea of a superhero so hung over he can barely walk), the storyline is entertainingly offbeat and Smith gives a refreshingly different sort of performance as Hancock. The man's not personable, he's not likable and he looks like he's been down many years of hard road. Director Peter Berg is a talented guy who's made good films in the past (including "Very Bad Things" starring Jeremy Piven, "Friday Night Lights") and you can

SPACE CHIMPS
 The grandson of the first chimp into space gets his chance to carry on the family name on a mission to save a distant planet from an evil dictator. Voices of Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines, Patrick Warburton and Jeff Daniels are featured in the animated family adventure. Rated G.

STILL PLAYING

GET SMART ★★★
 The new "Get Smart" is a per-

flectly pleasant, more-or-less satisfactory revamp, with lots of little moments of comic inspiration (well, two or three or four, anyway). And all the stuff that makes it tedious from time to time — the elaborate stunts, the chase scenes, the big explosions — are no worse than par for the course for a summer action comedy. Best of all, it has Steve Carell as the supremely-confident-for-no-good-reason secret agent Maxwell Smart. Story-wise, there's not a lot going on here: Something about Max and Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway channeling Barbara Feldon with feistier attitude) uncovering a KAOS plot to nuke Los Angeles that doesn't seem to bother anybody very much. Fortunately, though, there's some very nice comic chemistry between Carell and Hathaway and Carell and Alan Arkin, ideally cast as CONTROL's weary, beleaguered Chief. And there are a better-than-average number of laughs in the slam-bang slapstick comedy orchestrated by director Peter Segal ("Anger Management," "The Longest Yard"). (B) (110 min.) Rated PG-13 for some rude humor, action violence and language.

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HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY ★★★
 Rude, brutish and not very bright. That's how the brainy, ectoplasmic leader of Hellboy's team of freaky-superheroes describes the cigar-chomping, wise-cracking Son of Satan. He may have a point, too, but big Red's still a good guy to have around whenever there's a giant forest god or an army of giant mechanical robots that needs to be clobbered. The second installment in a likely trilogy of Hellboy sagas has the same mix of dark, snarky humor and spectacular supernatural action as the 2004 debut (based on the similarly entertaining Dark Horse comics series), but writer/director Guillermo de Toro has made this one even more eye-poppingly fantastical — apparently finding work for every weird creature he couldn't jam into "Pan's Labyrinth." The plot is more-or-less standard comic book action-extravaganza stuff, with a pinch of dungeons and dragons for flavor. A dark prince of the magical world wants to destroy mankind with a giant mechanical army because of the way we've ghetto-ized all the fairies and ogres and trolls and so forth. Frankly, you can't blame the guy. But Hellboy says heck no. (B) (110 min.) Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action and violence, and some language.

WANTED ★★★ 1/2
 Some career changes are riskier than others. Russian fantasy thriller director Timur Bekmambetov ("Nightwatch," "Daywatch") made this heart-palpitating jolt of a movie about a miserable office drone named Wesley (James McAvoy looking, initially, decidedly un-macho), who gets the chance to change his life when he's recruited by a sexy hit-lady (Angelina Jolie, spectacular) to join a secret society of super-powered ultra-assassins. Seems dear old dad, who abandoned Wesley at birth, was also a member and it's his birthright to have a metabolism that pumps adrenaline at 400 times the normal rate — making it possible for him to perform superhuman acts of mayhem and destruction. After he's gone through a painful period of initiation and training. Very painful. Bekmambetov's chief stock in trade is a flamboyant visual style combined with a pedal-to-the-metal approach to storytelling, but he's also known for his dark, sardonic sense of humor — and that's the quality that makes this movie considerably more fun (if fun's the right word to describe a non-stop orgy of ultra-violence) than the average action extravaganza. Throughout, Bekmambetov delivers the thrills on a level that transcends over-the-topness and approaches the para-normal, with bullet cams, bullet cams in reverse, bullets that shoot around corners, bullets that just don't behave the way ordinary bullets do — and accompanying acts of wanton destruction deliciously imagined. (B) (110 min.) Rated R for strong bloody violence throughout, pervasive language and some sexuality. — Reviews by Bruce Ingram

KITT KITTREDGE: AN AMERICAN GIRL
 Aspiring young reporter Kitt (Abigail Breslin of "Little Miss Sunshine") investigates the charge that a camp of hobos is responsible for a crime wave in Depression-era Cincinnati. Patricia Rozema ("Mansfield Park") directed the adventure derived from the American Girl doll line. (101 min.) Rated G.

THE VISITOR
 The life of a college professor (Richard Jenkins of "Six Feet Under") is changed when he finds a young illegal immigrant couple living in his apartment. Thomas McCarthy ("The Station Agent") wrote and directed the comedy/drama. Rated PG-13 for brief strong language.

WALL-E ★★★★★
 A treasure. If you've been wondering when PIXAR's winnina streak is going to come to an end, the answer is: Not this time. Not on the

FILM CLIPS

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Music plus Seuss equals silliness kids love

BY MYRNA PETLICKI Contributor

"Kids love to watch kids," said Kristy Warren of Mount Prospect. There will be plenty of them to look at in St. James Community Theatre's "Seussical, the Musical," at Prospect High School, 801 W. Kensington Road, Mount Prospect, through July 26. About 50 of the 93 cast members are under the age of 18, reported Warren, who directs.

Families should also enjoy seeing the vivid, primary color costumes and listening to the music, which ranges from jazz to blues, pop and Latin styles. The plot interweaves 17 of Dr. Seuss' most beloved stories.

"I saw the show a couple of years ago and fell in love with it," Warren said.



Kids on and off stage will get a kick out of "Seussical the Musical" at Prospect High School.

"I wanted to direct it because I could put a lot of people in the show — and the music is awesome."

"Dr. Seuss was wonderful messages," the director added, "helping others,

saving the planet, being kind to people and not judging people by what they look like."

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, plus 1:30 p.m. mat-

nees on July 20 and 26. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. For details, call (847) 253-6305, ext. 178 or see www.stjamesah.org/play.

Chime in

Your family can enjoy the sound of music in your backyard or on the front porch after you create a windchime out of such found objects as CDs and cans at "Whimsical Windchimes." The Partner Project workshop, for an adult with a child ages 6-10, is 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, July 26, at Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. Cost is \$18 per pair for members, \$20 for non-members.

For details, call (847) 823-6611.

Performing pooch

The dog trainer known as Popeye will bring his remarkable trained canine Sweet Pea to Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, as part of the free Magical Merry Go Round children's concert series. Popeye has been presenting his dog act around the country for more than 20 years.

For details, call (847) 674-1500.

Count on Nichols

... to entertain the whole family. A wide array of puppets will populate the stage for the Mark Nichols Puppet Theatre performance, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at Prairie View Park, 6834 Dempster St., Morton

Grove. The veteran of 30 years of puppetry, who is known for his variety of styles — hand, rod, string and shadow — will present a free show set to classical and contemporary music.

For details, call (847) 965-1200.

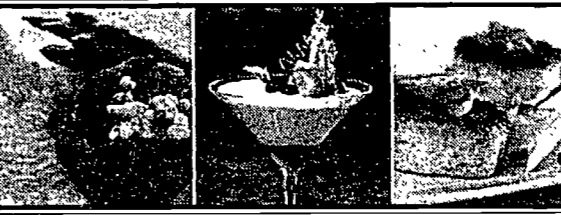
Band together

You'll hear the music of the Monkees, the Rolling Stones, Tom Petty and more when The Lennys, a family rock and roll band, performs from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, at Lake Park Memorial Pavilion, Lee Street, north of Touhy Avenue, Des Plaines.

For details, call (847) 391-5700.

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H-31 PP

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JULY 10 - AUGUST 17, 2008



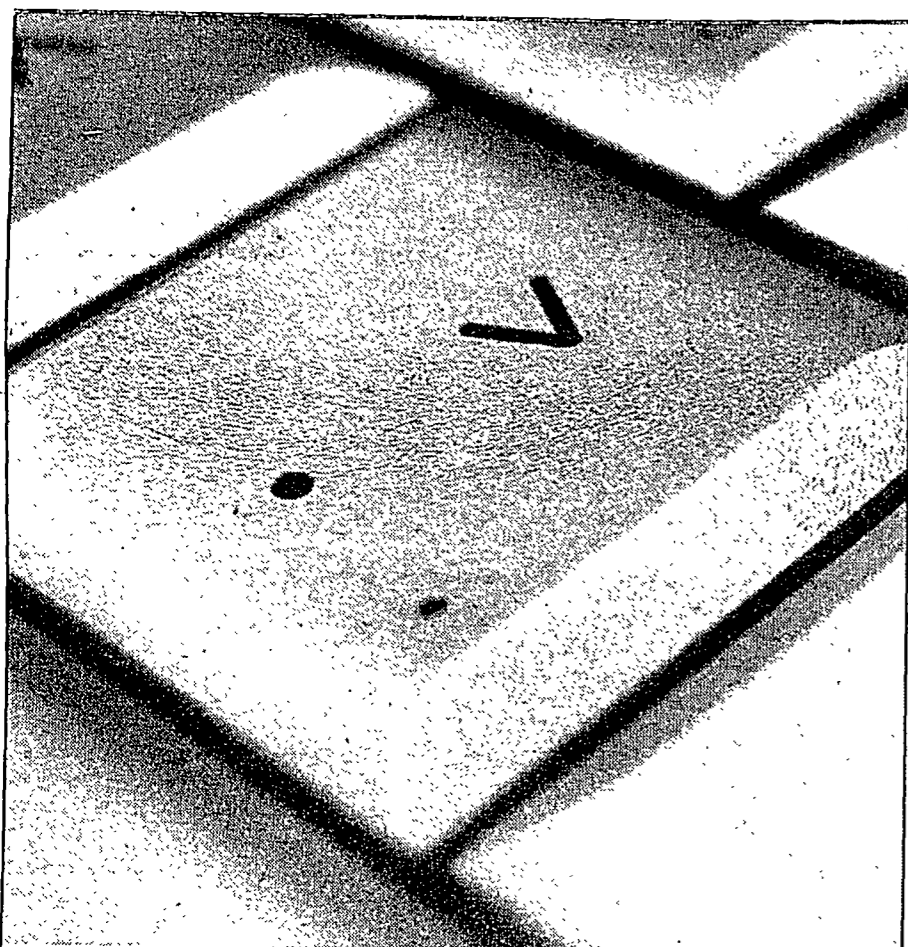
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Continued from PAGE B11

p.m.: Wednesday Afternoon Summer Youth Programs. Free admission; reservations required. July 23: "The Magic of Science." July 30: "The Magic of Green." Aug. 6: "Pinocchio," presented by the National Marionette Company of Chicago. Aug. 13: "Brass Works." Aug. 20: "The Magic of Memory."

COMEDY

Silvie's, 1902 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. (773) 871-6239. July 30, 8 p.m.: Skokie resident Debbie Sue Goodman presents a comedy performance based on her books, Still Single and Still Dating. Cover charge \$5.

DANCE

GROUPS & LESSONS

Barefoot Hawaiian Inc., 1401 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, offers dance and music classes. Classes include hula for youth and adults; Tahitian, beginners and advanced; Tahitian drumming Maori; ukelele; Pilates; and swing dancing. Call (847) 699-7336.

Chicago's Windy City Jitterbug Club holds dances to the music of the '50s, '60s and more, from 8 p.m.-midnight at the American Legion Hall, 9757 W. Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, unless otherwise noted. Admission to club dances is \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Proper attire required; no blue jeans or shorts allowed. Must be 21 or older. Call (773) 467-0177 or visit www.jitterbugchicago.com. July 19: Guest DJ John McIntosh. Aug. 2 and 16: Regular dances.

Denim and Diamonds hosts line dances from 7-10:15 p.m. Tuesdays at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. All ages. Beginners lessons given at 7:30 p.m. Retro Night is on third Tuesday. Admission of \$6, \$4 for those 17 years and under, includes weekly lessons and review. Call (847) 965-6353.

Frisbie Senior Center, 52 E. Northwest Highway, Des Plaines. Mondays: Big Band Night, 7-9 p.m., dance to big band music; \$3 for members, \$5 nonmembers. Tuesdays: Line dancing from 10-11 a.m.; \$2.50 for members, \$3 nonmembers; square dancing, 12:30-2:30 p.m., \$3 per person. Wednesdays: Square dancing, 10 a.m.-noon; \$1.50 for members, \$2 nonmembers. Fridays: Round dancing, 9:30-10:30 a.m. for beginners, 10:30 a.m.-noon for regulars; \$3.50 for members, \$4 nonmembers. Call (847) 7688-5944.

International folk dancing from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Mondays at the Lake Street Church, Lake Street and Chicago Avenue, Evanston. Beginners are welcome and no partner is needed. \$5. Call (847) 492-9393.

Leaning Tower YMCA, 6300 Touhy Ave., Niles, offers ballroom dance classes in the Skyline Room on Tuesdays. Levels 1 and 2 meet 6:45-8:15 p.m.; Levels 3 and 4, 8:15-9:45 p.m. Singles and couples welcome. Dance parties are held 7-10 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month in the Skyline room; cost is \$10; \$7 for Y members. Register by calling (847) 410-5110.

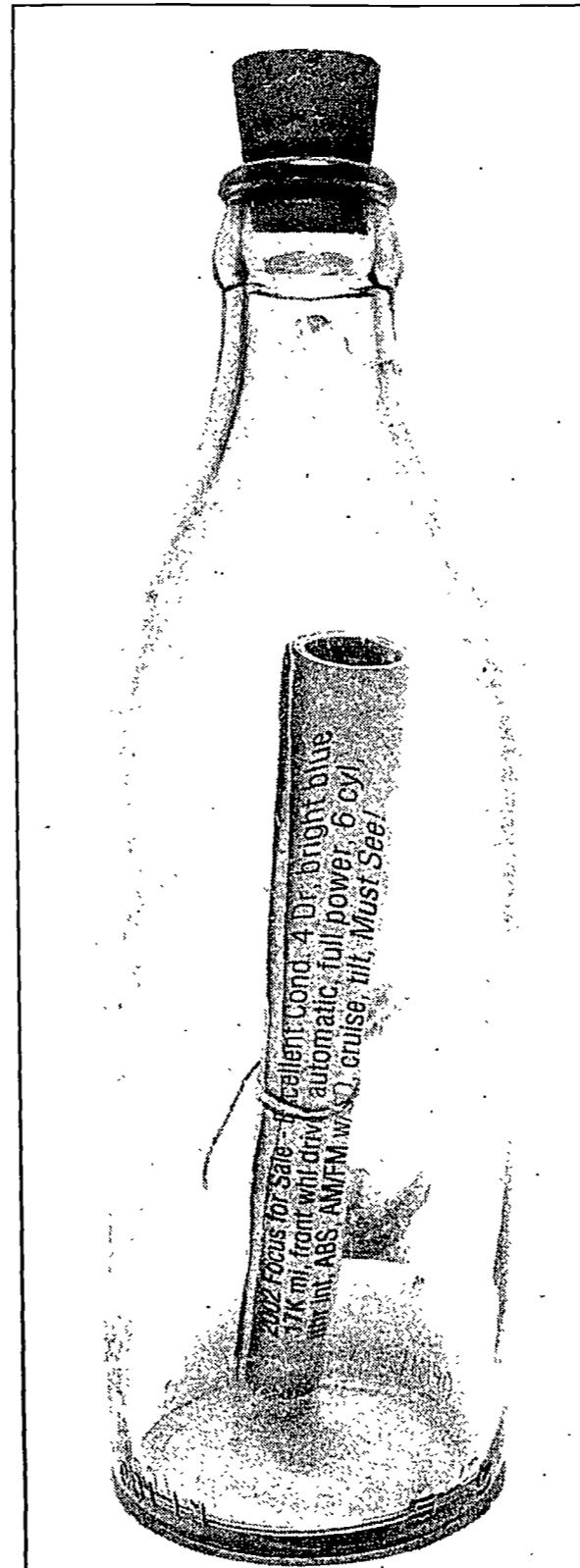
Leikarringen "Heimflug" dancers welcome those age 16 and older interested in Scandinavian folk dance to join them from 8-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the First United Methodist Church of Des Plaines, 666 Graceland Ave. No prior dance experience or partner necessary. Call (847) 823-7596 or (847) 692-6616.

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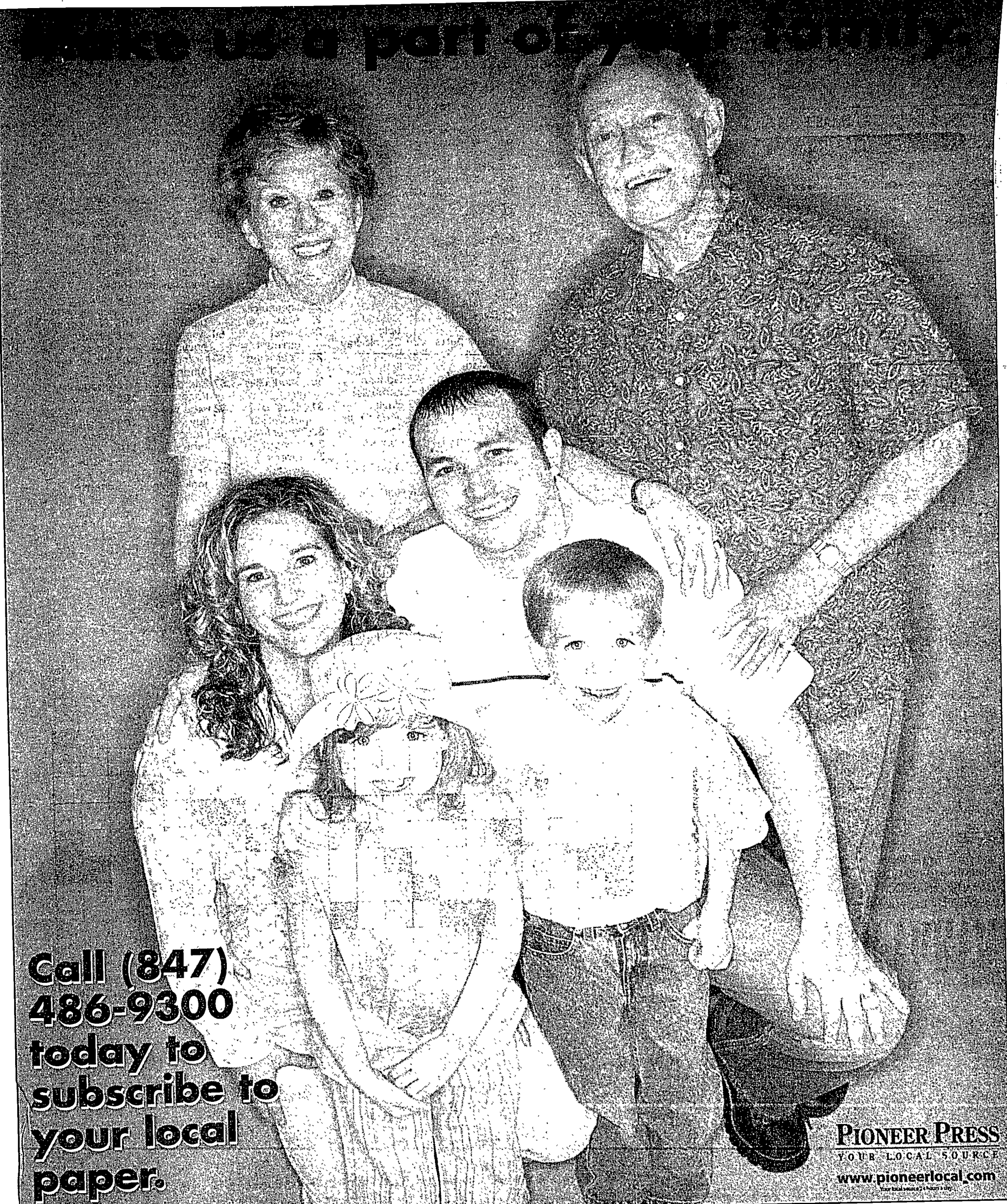
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- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 53 — jongg | 94 Broadway arrangement | 3 Crowdburst? | 40 Wholesome biker's publication? | 76 The Kit — Club |
| 1 Move like a mouse | 54 Hymns of praise | 99 Kennel feature | 4 Lincoln son | 41 Carpentry or printing | 77 In addition |
| 5 Neighbor of Java | 56 Viper | 97 Kitten gear? | 5 Pipe part | 42 Monsieur Le Pew | 78 Stocking shade |
| 9 — "Medicine" ('88 hit) | 57 Milne creature | 99 Pelite pie | 7 Den | 44 Patriot Samuel | 80 Antsy |
| 12 Corpulent | 58 Digression | 100 Sprite | 8 "Newhart" setting | 47 "Evita" character | 83 Opera feature |
| 15 Early computer | 60 Gouda alternative | 102 — | 9 Holstein's home | 50 — Park, CO | 84 Future of the present |
| 17 TV's "Heroes" | 61 — River, NJ | Buttermilk Sky | 10 Flagon filler | 51 Uninteresting | 85 Medieval mental |
| 19 Campbell of UB40 | 63 Tenor | ('46 song) | 11 Patois | 52 Subdue | 86 — de plumé |
| 20 Poorly | 64 Like Simon | 103 Classify | 12 Beat | 53 Pavarotti's love | 89 One of the Jacksons |
| 21 Restaurant critic's zine? | 66 Groovy Austin | 106 Maestro de Waart | 13 Felipe, Jesus, or Matty | 59 Bit of parsley | 93 Gobbled up |
| 23 Librarian's journal? | 68 Pugilistic poke | 107 "Electric" ('83 hit) | 14 Little one | 62 Northwestern st. | 95 Apparel |
| 25 Explosive initials | 69 Stephen King book | 111 To and — | 16 South African port | 63 Mouth piece? | 98 Debtors' letters |
| 26 Column | 70 Muliny | 114 Sailor's reading? | 17 Cholesterol letters | 64 Anger or envy | 101 Stud site |
| 27 Max — Sydow | 71 Produce a parka | 116 Depression era | 18 Goller Ballesteros | 65 Composer Albeniz | 103 Lhasa — |
| 29 Bunch of ballplayers | 72 — fide magazine? | 119 Icelandic art form | 20 Nigerian city | 67 Slender trace | 104 Cabbage concoction |
| 30 Solidify | 73 Byzantine | 120 Capek play | 22 "Aida" river | 68 Be a wise guy | 105 Philosopher |
| 31 Weber's "Freischutz" | 76 Pants parts | 121 Bring to light | 24 Forest ruminant | 69 French impressionist | 106 Bronte heroine |
| 32 Prepared to drive | 77 Ram's ma'am | 122 Goatish gamboler | 28 Ciceronian speech | 70 Chingachgook's son | 107 Where to find an onager |
| 33 Let up | 78 Directional suffix | 123 Have unpaid bills | 30 "GoodFellas" gun | 71 Nailed a gnat | 108 "Veni, vidi, —" |
| 36 Arthur or Pons | 79 Sock style | 124 "Hiver" opposite | 31 Place to pontificate | 72 Boitano or Blessed | 109 Markey or Bagnold |
| 38 — carrier | 81 Feign | 125 "— to Order" ('87 film) | 32 Correct | 74 New York city | 110 Fisherman's snare |
| 42 Snapshot | 82 Tree surgeon's periodical? | 126 Highflying agcy. | 33 Forward | 75 Require | 111 Chalky cheese |
| 43 — Lama | 87 Middling mark | DOWN | 34 Rover's review? | | 112 Skates |
| 45 Strained | 88 Whippet's wagger | 1 Adroit | 35 Presidential monogram | | 113 Gumbo thickener |
| 46 DEA officer | 90 Enormous | 2 Ever's partner | 36 Sanctify | | 115 Absent |
| 48 Browning's bedtime? | 91 Terpsichore's sister | | 37 Tombstone lawman | | 117 City on the Danube |
| 49 Gardener's monthly? | 92 104 Down, e.g. | | 39 Shake-spearean heavy | | 118 Ashen |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
15			16		17			18		19		20				
21			22					23		24						
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103	104	105				106			107	108	109	110		111	112	113
114					115			116	117					118		
119					120			121						122		
123					124									126		

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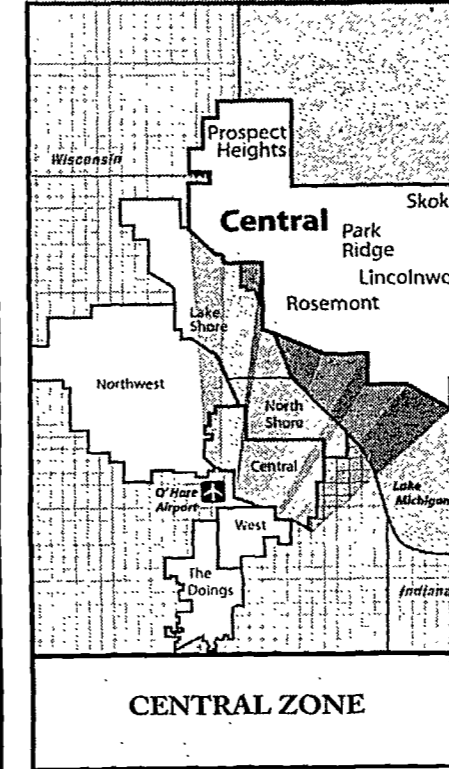
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INDEX

- Announcements100s
- Business Directory200s
- Homes Services300s
- Employment400s
- Rentals500s
- Real Estate For Sale600s
- Marketplace700s
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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

LET'S SPEND SOME TIME
Attractive, young senior, blonde/blue, average build, very youthful-looking, seeks secure SWM, 65-75, NS, with SOH, for companionship, movies, dining out, possible LTR. #148321

WANTED
A man with a mind is hard to find, and add to that he must be kind. Pretty, petite, North-Shore lady, refined but fun, asks "are you the one?" if you fit the bill, don't stand still, 69 and over will be fine!

INTERESTED?
SBF, 35, 57", NS, enjoys bowling, dining, movies. Looking for hard-working SBM, 40-45, for friendship, maybe more. #285657

TAKE A CHANCE
DWF, 31, marriage-minded, NS, 5'10", curvaceous, bubbly/blue, mother of two, loves church, seeks WM, 28-41, NS, for friendship, maybe more. #134323

LIKES TO LAUGH
Divorced mom, 31, three kids, looking to start dating again. You must be able to accept my children as part of my life. #275171 @ likeslaugh1

SEXY & INTELLIGENT
SBF, 32, 5'8", 190lbs, NS, one child, medium complexion, ISO good-looking, tall BM, 30-33, who is family-oriented, laid-back, independent, loves life. #278005

SINGLE MOM
Fun-loving, very outgoing BF, 25, 5'11", 220lbs, would like to meet a man who likes to have fun to go out on dates with. #276969

SOMEONE SPECIAL
Sweet, down-to-earth SWF, 32, in search of mature, older man who enjoys dining, movies and quiet evenings at home. #280146

DOWN-TO-EARTH
BF, 32, looking for SM, 27-45, to hang out and spend time with. If you're out there, give me a ring. #259962

HOT, SEXY NURSE
SWF, 34, 5'4", 120lbs, blond/brown, seeks SWM, 35-65, for LTR. New to the area. Wonderful winter fun a must. Let's get to know each other. #240633

THE BEST OF LIFE
SBF, 29, 5'2", full-figured, shapely, attractive, NS, looking for a spontaneous, passionate SBM, 30-36, for friendship first, maybe more. #272211

SIMILAR QUALITIES?
SBF, 31, 5'8", full-figured, secure, NS, social drinker, enjoys bowling, travel, weekend getaways and being spontaneous. Seeking tall, handsome, secure BM, 31-35, for dating. #274391

FRIENDS FIRST
SHF, 31, 5'4", seeks SWHF, 25-45, who is active, slender, petite, for friendship and companionship, dining, movies, shopping, good conversation, working out, etc. #275712

OLDER GENTLEMAN
WIF, 51", 110lbs, college grad, attractive, active, 70s, caring, friendly, enjoys walks, movies, music, theater. Seeking intelligent man, 77-82, to share pleasant times together. #24825

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT MAN
Soxy SJF, 56, 5'3", 125lbs, brunette, brown eyes, NKids, easygoing, honest, romantic, good dancer, seeks SWM, 53-65, NS, educated, loves to travel, good manners, for friendship possible LTR. #113966

PRETTY GIRL
SWF, 40, 47", 100lbs would like to meet a gentleman, who enjoys dining, quiet evenings, and fun times. Hoping to find a serious relationship. #249258

TIM WILLING TO
meet for coffee if you are. SWF, 60s, blond/blue, slender, attractive. NS seeks gentlemanly SWM, 57-67 that's down-to-earth and wants to share good times/laughs together. #220337

BEAUTY AND BRAINS
Very attractive, well-educated DAFP seeks tall WFM, 46-54, who is emotionally/financially secure, for LTR. #217385

TAKE LEAP OF FAITH
I did. SJPF, 46, blonde, 5'8", appealing. Traditional values, advanced degree, fun, passionate, ethical, very nice. Eclectic interests. Seeking compatible WM, Late 40s-Mid 60s for permanent best friend/lover. Great kiss! #25265

CASUAL DATING
SWM, 31, 6'1", blond, large build, looking for fun SWF, 27-35, to hang out with. I like reading, writing, movies. #25173

SEEKING REAL WOMAN
SBM, 33, seeks SW/BF, 18-45, seeks SW/BF, 18-45, for friendship first, possibly more. No drama. #28410

NO DISAPPOINTMENTS
SBM, 32, 6'1", 145lbs, slim build, father of two, seeks SB/HF, 25-33, DID-free, no drama, who will be there for me. #285203

CALL ME
HM, 32, looking for a good woman, 25-65, to develop a real relationship. #282531

LET'S DO LUNCH
Good-looking, fit, financially secure WM, 5'11", 175lbs, likes dining, talking, long drives. Seeking open-minded, sexy female, 35-65, to share fun and romance. #336623

GOOD-LOOKING GUY
Single Jewish male, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, physically fit, NS, enjoys movies, plays, long walks, dining out, dancing, and sports, has great sense-of-humor. Seeking attractive single Jewish female with similar interests, 52-60, for LTR. #749098

ATTRACTIVE
professional, Widower WM, 67, 5'10", 180lbs, NS, likes dancing, walks, movies, music. Seeking woman to further the journey of life. #281572

LOOK NO FURTHER
Divorced male, 60, NS, medical doctor, loves to travel, dine out, movies, theater, symphony, opera. Seeking SF, 40-60, with similar interests for possible LTR. #152534

WORTH THE CALL
DBM, 45, 5'4", 135lbs, honest, handsome, dark-skinned, financially secure, good job, enjoys life. Looking for a SF, 25-40, for possible LTR. Please no games. #279122

HELLO LADIES
SWM, 60, 6'4", 260lbs, enjoys dining in/out, flea markets, outdoor activities, casinos, old music, seeking nice SWF, 50-60, Waukegan area. #281889

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412- Seeking Employment-Medical Care

415- Seeking Employment-Household

424- Help Wanted Child Care

431- Business for Sale

432- Business Opportunities, Franchises

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Healthcare & Nursing The Latest News and Job Opportunities in the Industry To advertise in this section call our help wanted hotline at 847.998.3404 | PIONEER PRESS

Lab Technologist and Technician: Analyzing and Detecting Disease

by Sophia Mikos-Schild RN, EdD, CNOR Job Outlook The demand for lab technologists and technicians is expected to increase well into the year 2016 due to the growth of the US population, the discovery of new tests and greater knowledge of diseases.

have better opportunities. Best opportunities will be for those with certifications and advanced degrees. When working full time, lab personnel work 40 hours per week with usual rotation to work on weekends and holidays.

Income can vary depending on employer, hours, and responsibilities. There is opportunity for not only more income but also for continuing education. It is up to you and your ambition to set your course.

Career Options Career options include supervising departments in hospitals or in manufacturing as product developers. Those in management may oversee large or small operations, do budgets, hire, train and direct others.

When writing with questions or other inquiries, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with adequate postage to cover mailings. Sophia Mikos-Schild, RN, EdD, CNOR P.O. Box 575 Mundelein, IL 60060

Getting Training A lab technologist career requires that you complete at least a bachelor degree, majoring in medical technology or life sciences.

Employment and Working Conditions Most lab personnel will work in hospitals, outpatient care facilities, physician's offices, colleges and for the government. Those with licenses and registration will

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Get out of the HEAT & Make COOL CASH!
We are hiring West Valley Area teachers for the 2008-09 school year. 12:15-4pm in Girls Parochial school 773-582-5378.

443- Seasonal Positions
Clerical Application Specialist
Needed for NW side food company for 4-6 weeks beginning late August through October. Must have excellent communication and checking accuracy of school lunch meal applications.

445- Help Wanted - Part Time
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We are hiring West Valley Area teachers for the 2008-09 school year. 12:15-4pm in Girls Parochial school 773-582-5378.

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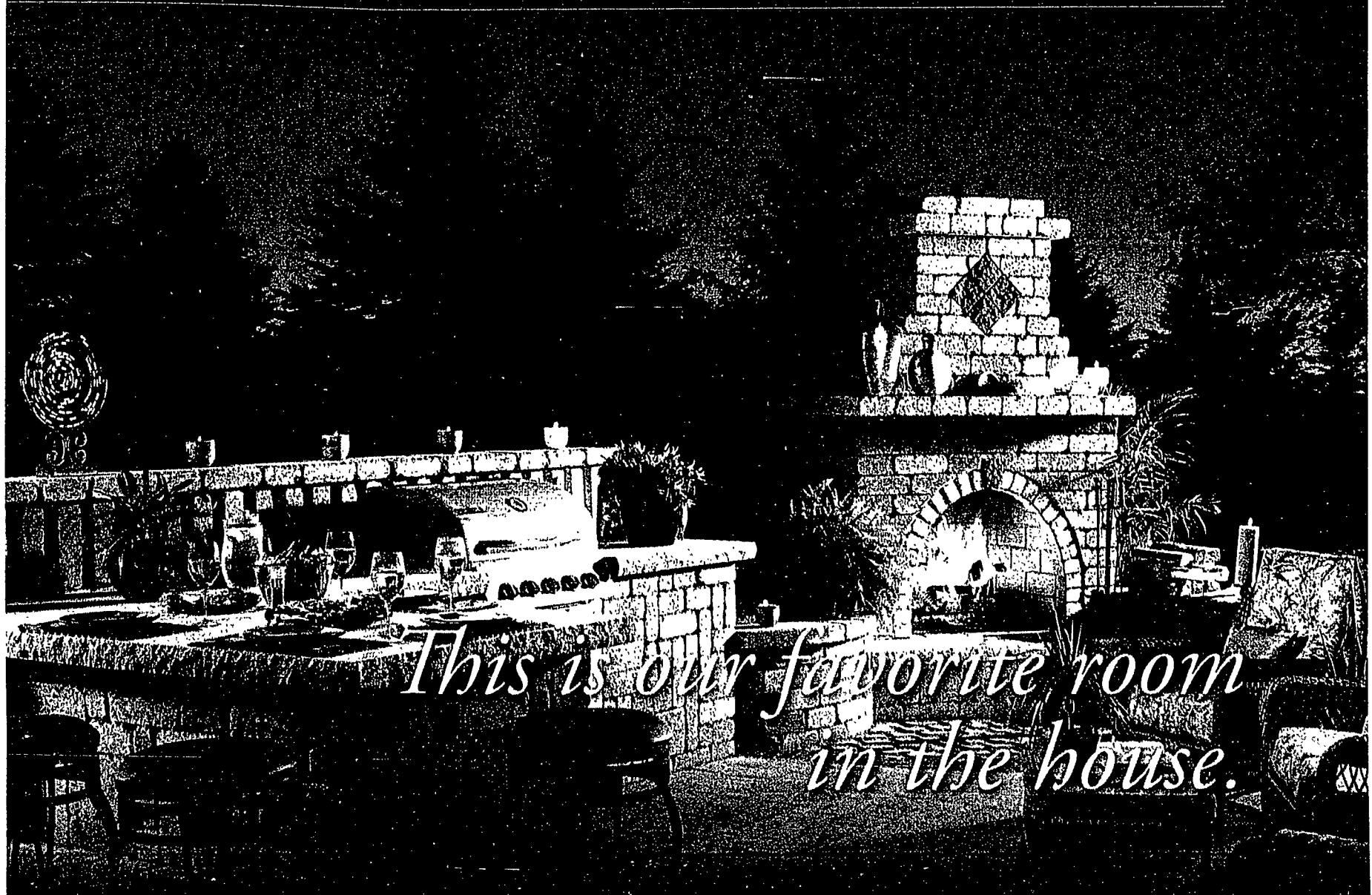
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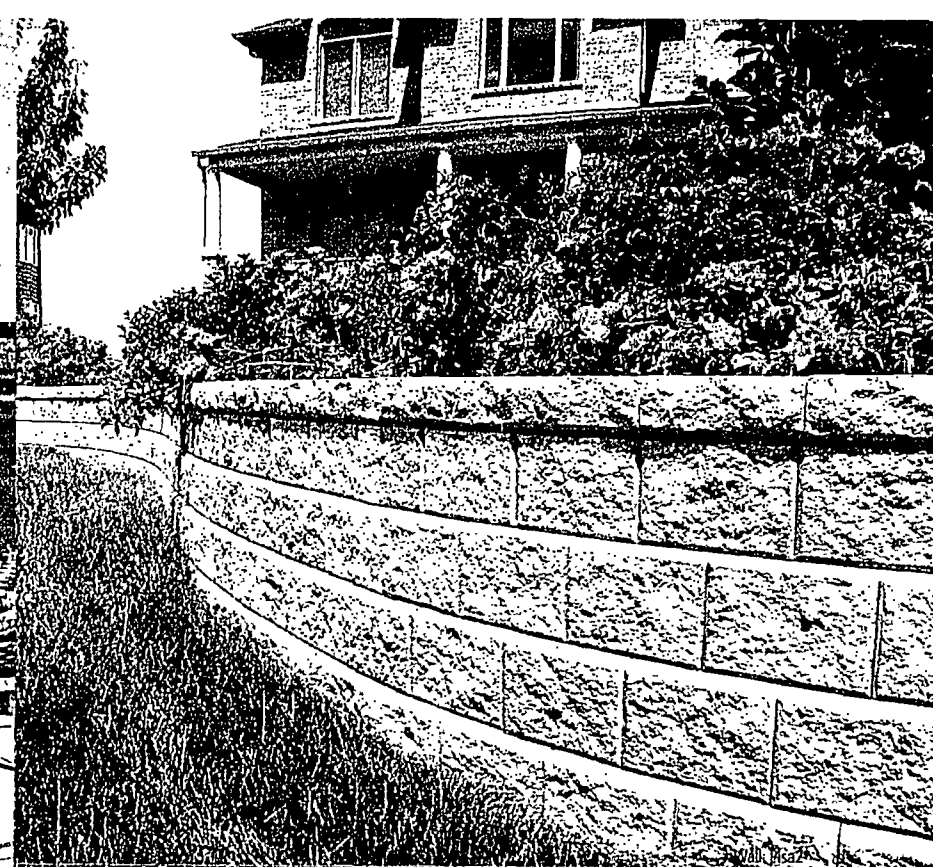
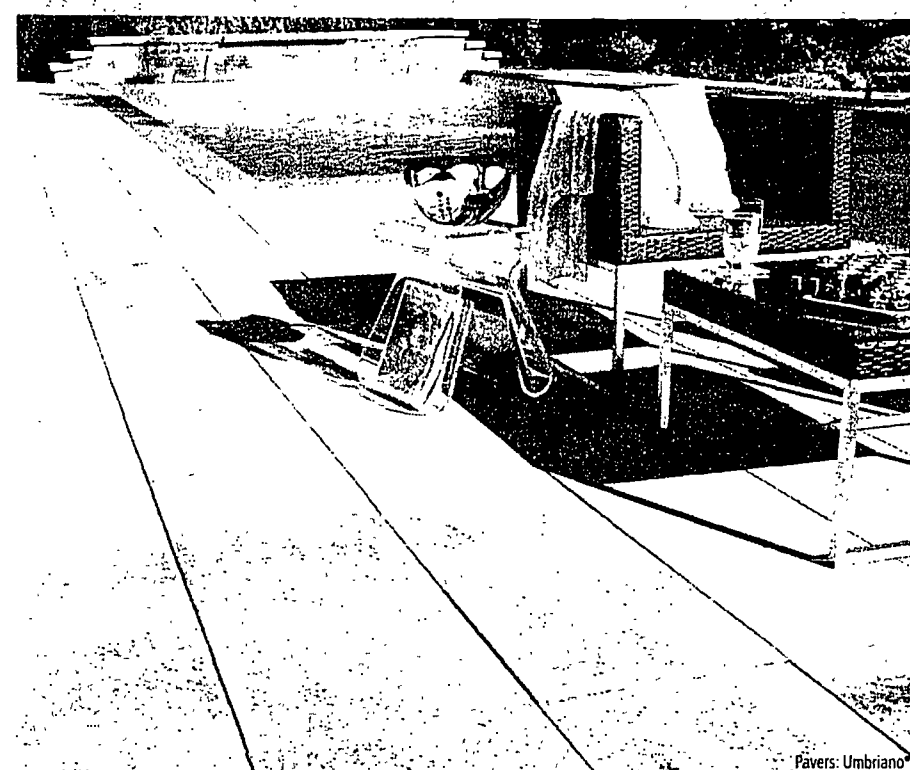


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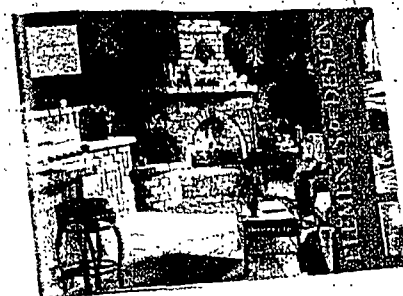


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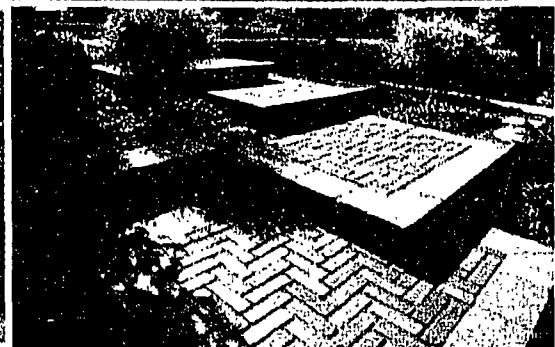
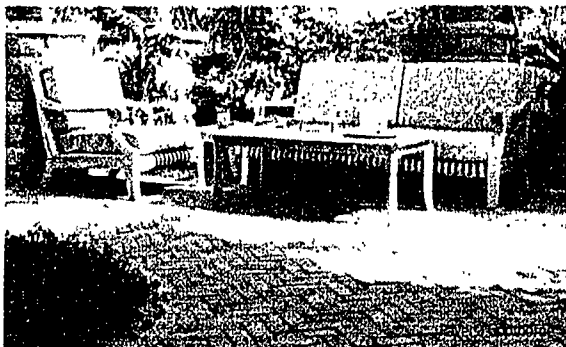
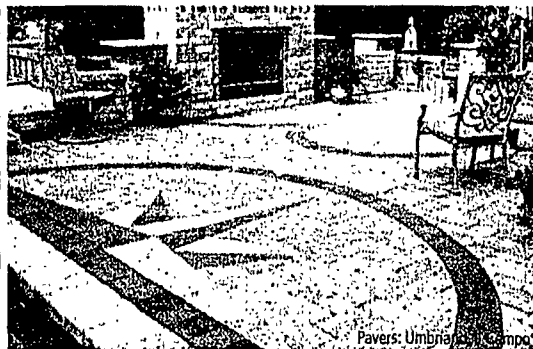
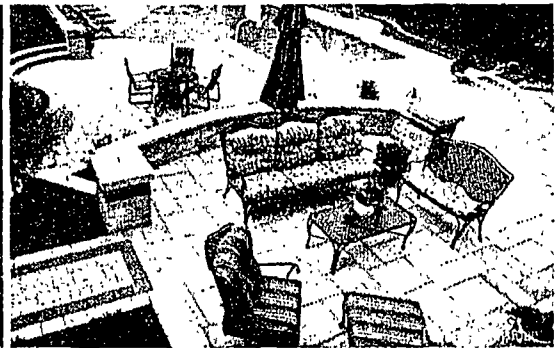
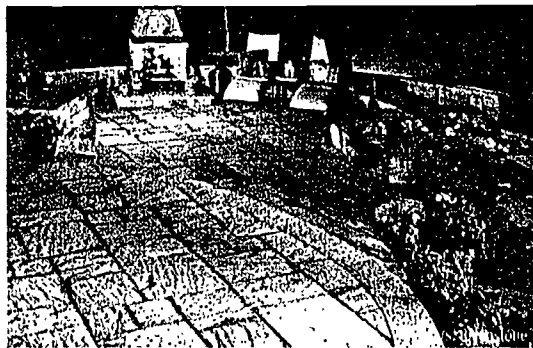
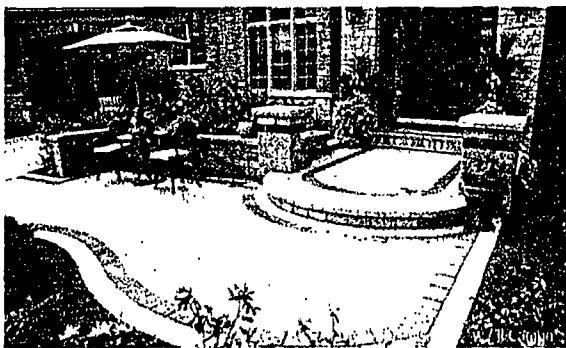
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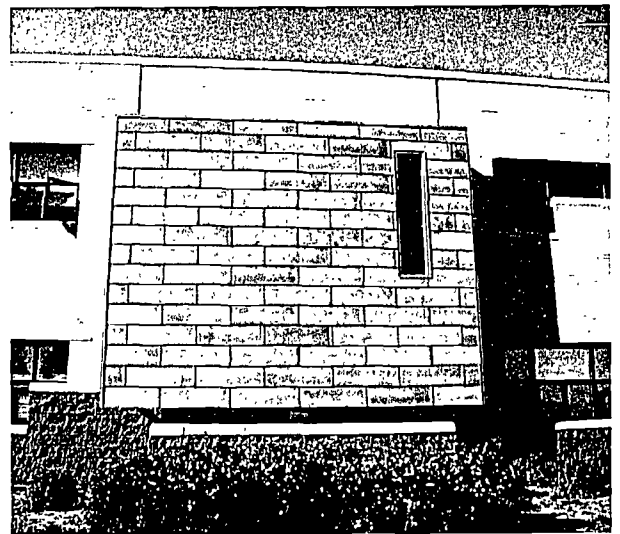
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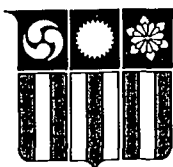
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GM may try to shed brands, but market is tough

BY TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. is reviewing its brands and may try to jettison some to raise money as it burns through cash at an alarming rate.

But industry analysts say buyer interest in the brands most likely to be sold — Buick, Hummer, Saab and Saturn — may be low due to a U.S. sales downturn brought on by high gasoline prices and a slow economy.

Also, analysts say, there are individual problems with some of GM's weaker nameplates.

GM, which has eight brands, announced last month that it was reviewing Hummer for possible sale. Last week the company said that other nameplates are under review.

But a person familiar with GM's internal discussions says brands other than Hummer are being studied. The person wanted to remain anonymous because no decisions have been made.

GM, the person said, also is considering wider white-collar job cuts and bringing more small cars to the United States from elsewhere in the world to deal with the sales slump a huge market shift from trucks and sport utility vehicles to cars and crossovers.

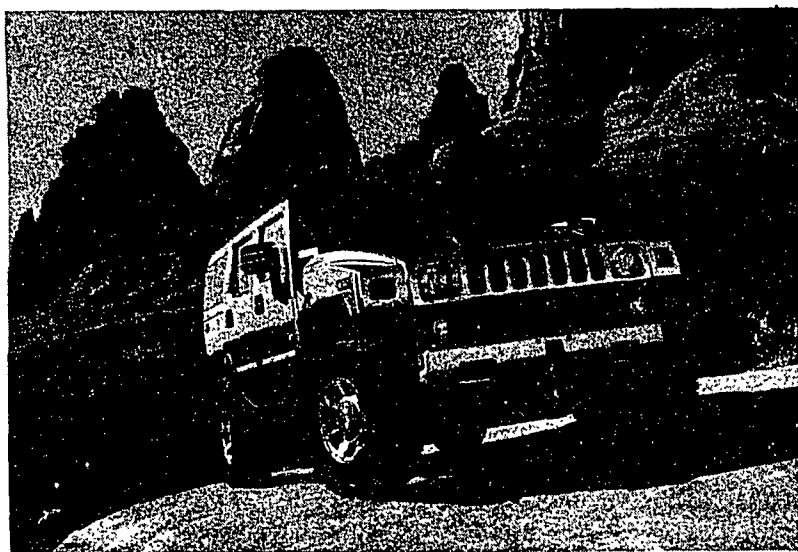
David Healy, an auto analyst with Burnham Securities, said GM has enough money to make it through this year but may need more cash in 2009. The automaker, he said, has ways to raise money other than selling brands.

While Hummer is unique in terms of engineering and manufacturing and could be sold, other brands share vehicle underpinnings and manufacturing and are so integrated it would be tough to sever them, Healy said.

He questioned whether there would be any buyers in the midst of a U.S. economic downturn.

Hummer might be attractive to a Russian or Indian automaker for its U.S. dealership network, said Mark Warnsman, an analyst with Calyon Securities.

Saturn could be of interest to another



automaker that doesn't have a mainstream brand and a luxury automaker might have the expertise to revive Sweden's Saab, analysts said. Buick might be a tougher sell, they said.

Buick and Saturn continue to struggle despite having revamped model lineups and some of GM's best vehicles, said Tom Libby, senior director of industry analysis for J.D. Power and Associates.

Saturn, born in 1990 as GM's small-car answer to the Japanese automakers, was remade over the past three years with more upscale models, but sales this year are down nearly 19 percent.

"Saturn, to me, it's got this identity problem," Libby said. "It's not clear what it is. That's not going to go away with a new owner."

Saturn General Manager Jill Lajdzik told reporters after a recent Habitat for Humanity event in Detroit that a potential sale of Saturn is "not in the cards."

Lajdzik said Saturn sales were actually up 9 percent in June excluding the Ion small car that was discontinued last year.

Warnsman said GM already is consolidating brands by reducing the number of models and putting two or three brands into separate marketing operations.

Healy said GM probably will have to make further blue-collar job cuts as the market continues to decline. The company announced last month it would close four truck and sport utility vehicle plants and boost production of several existing car models. Its sales are down 16.3 percent this year.

Further job cuts could be considered by GM's board of directors when it meets in early August according to a recent report in the Wall Street Journal.

GM spokeswoman Renee Rashid-Merem said Hummer is the only brand being discussed for possible sale. She would not comment on job cuts but said the company has made it clear that action would be taken if the U.S. auto market worsened.

JPMorgan analyst Himanshu Patel last week predicted GM will burn through \$18 billion in 2008 and 2009 as it struggles with depressed U.S. sales.

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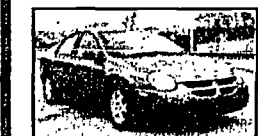


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autoGRAPH

Tire-wear woes

Worn-out tires often tell the tale of neglect or a misaligned suspension. If your tires show similar signs to those in this illustration, it's not only time to change the tires, but you'll know why they wore out in the first place. The following images show how the tires appear once the air has been removed.



New tire

To get maximum tread life, performance and safety from your new tires, be sure your vehicle's front end is properly aligned, the recommended air pressure in the tires is maintained and that the tires are 'balanced' when they're installed.



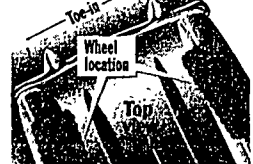
Camber wear

Camber is the amount, in degrees, the front wheels are tilted inward or outward at the top. A small amount of camber is normal. Too much leads to premature tire wear.



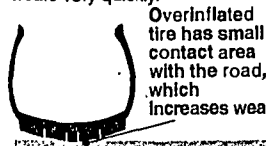
Toe-in or toe-out wear

Toe-in is the amount, in degrees, the front wheels are pointed toward each other. Some toe-in is normal. Too much causes a high degree of contact angle (scuff) and tire wear.



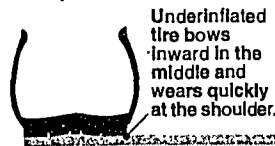
Overinflated

Too much air pressure pushes the center of the tire outward, causing it to be rounder across the face. The roundness means a very thin band of tread is actually in contact with the road, which wears very quickly.



Underinflated

Too little air pressure allows the face of the tire to bow inward under the weight of the vehicle. This causes wear at the shoulders where the stiffness of the sidewalls does not allow the tire to 'give' evenly across the face.



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2009 HYUNDAI GENESIS

ENGINE: 290-horsepower 3.8-liter V-6; 375-horsepower (with premium fuel) 4.6-liter V-8

TRANSMISSION: six-speed automatic

BASE PRICE: \$33,000 (V-6); \$38,000 (V-8)

FUEL ECONOMY: 18 city/27 highway (V-6); 17 city/25 highway (V-8)

WEB SITE: www.hyundaiusa.com



by **JILL CIMINILLO**
SearchChicagoAutos Editor
jciminillo@suntimes.com

It was a sunny day and the hot dry heat of the desert radiated off the black pavement at the Buttonwillow Raceway Park in Buttonwillow, Calif. A pearly white BMW 7-Series lined up next to the cone, with the journalist behind the wheel revving the engine. I hopped into the driver's seat of the car to the left of the 7, hooked my seat belt and toed the starting line.

I watched the gray-haired man in front of me raise his arms, and I felt a rivulet of sweat drip down my back. From the heat, yes, but also from anticipation.

I had never drag raced before and here I was pitted against a BMW. In a Hyundai.

I was focused on the man in front of me, left foot on the brake, right foot hitting the gas pedal, bringing the tachometer up to 1,500 rpm.

His hands dropped, and I simultaneously took my left foot off the brake and jammed my right foot on the accelerator. Pedal to the floor, I beelined for the finish line. Halfway through the quarter-mile stretch, I spared a quick glance at the white car next to me and I was stunned. I was ahead of the BMW by about 2 feet and the gap was curiously widening.

I won my first drag race while driving an all-new 2009 Hyundai Genesis, which has a 0-to-60-mph time of 5.7 seconds.

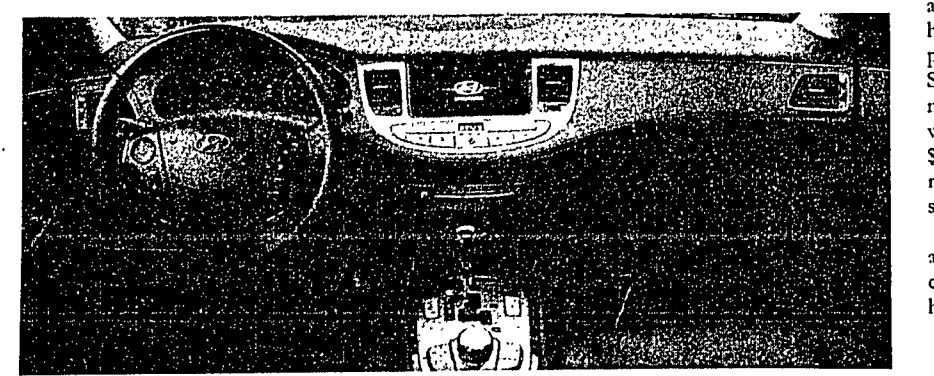
New for 2009, Hyundai introduces the full-size, rear-wheel-drive Genesis as a kind of halo

All-new 2009 Genesis packs a powerful punch

car with a base price of \$33,000. But, in true Hyundai form, that base price gets you a whole lot of goods. From leather seating surfaces to front and rear side-curtain airbags, the Genesis is packed with standard luxury and safety features.

Base engine in the Genesis is a 3.8-liter V-6 that delivers 290 horsepower. To upgrade to the 4.6-liter V-8 engine, you'll tack on \$5,000 to the price tag, but you'll also add some additional standard items such as ultra-premium leather seats, power sunroof, tilt-and-telescoping steering wheel and a Lexicon 14-speaker surround-sound audio system.

During the press preview, which included more than 300 miles of street driving as well as a couple hours of track time, we had the opportunity to drive both the V-8 and the V-6 Genesis. My driving partner and I grabbed a fully loaded V-8 model for the first leg of the road trip. From twisty-turny mountain roads to desert straight-aways, the V-8 was absolutely brilliant. Accelerating up hills, passing at high elevations and maintaining constant highway speeds were a breeze.



My partner and I were both incredibly impressed with the road manners and performance of the V-8 model.

On the way back from the track, we grabbed a V-6 and we were no less impressed. Sure, there was a little more effort required to pass or accelerate up hills, but for a V-6, it did a darn good job. And, since it's a little bit lighter, it was a little easier to fling the V-6 model around the twisty-turny bits.

While the ride and handling of the Genesis are multifaceted and complex, its design is a study in simplicity. The exterior of the Genesis isn't radical. It's actually conservative with long, sleek lines. The turn signals on the side mirrors and bedazzling taillights give an upscale feel, but the most eye-catching feature on the Genesis has to be the grille. It's an attractive chrome double waterfall and Hyundai badging is noticeably absent.

The interior, on several levels, is the real stunner, though. Both test vehicles had the two-tone saddle-and-black interior that reeks of high-end luxury. All of the touch points were solid and attractive and the cockpit was well configured.

The standard audio interface is simple yet attractive and most of the controls on the center stack are within easy reach. The only dial I had difficulty reaching was the tuning dial, which is a lot closer to the front passenger than the driver.

The center stack is transformed when you upgrade to the technology package, which includes the 17-speaker Lexicon discrete audio system, DVD navigation and rear backup camera. The knob that controls the upgraded package looks frighteningly like the knob that goes with the oft-hated BMW iDrive system. So, it was with much curiosity that my partner and I spent some quality time in the parking lot tapping around the system.

BMW should take notes. The Hyundai system is phenomenal. Rather than peeling through layers of screens to get where you want to go, there are clearly labeled buttons surrounding the knob that cut out two or three layers of distracting info screens.

Hyundai opted to keep the pricing and packaging simple on the new Genesis. The V-6 model has three main packages: premium (\$2,000), premium plus (\$3,000) and technology (\$4,000). Since the premium plus package includes the premium package, a completely decked out model will top out at \$40,000. The V-8, which starts at \$38,000, only has one package available: technology (\$4,000). Thus the top-of-the-line, fully stocked Genesis will cost \$42,000.

I know there are naysayers who are ts-k-tsking at a \$40,000 Hyundai. But I think Hyundai has completely hit the mark with this car. So, all I have to say is: Drive it. You'll see.



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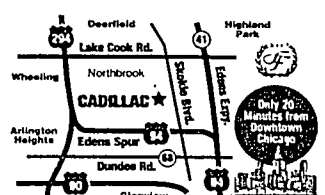
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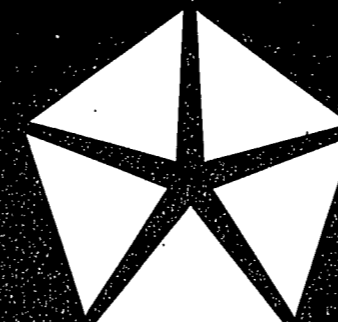
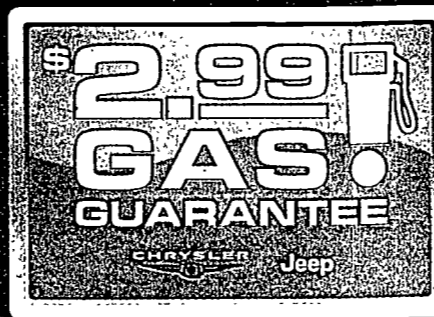
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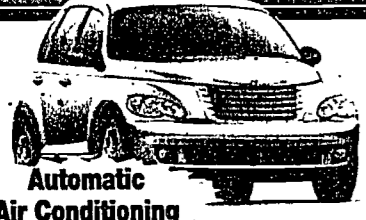

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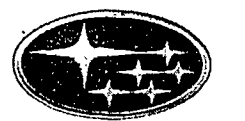
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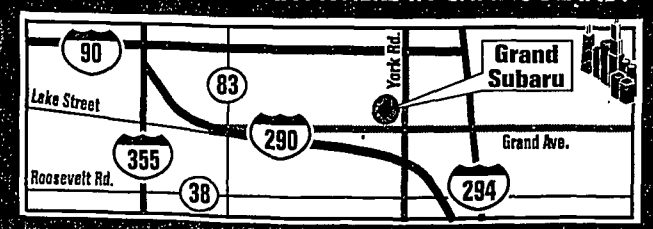
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94 PONTIAC SUNBIRD LE 4dr. pw, pl, ac, cassette, #180731A	\$1,950
96 CHEVY CORSICA pw, pl, cruise, am/fm, cassette, #280453B	\$2,495
94 ISUZU RODEO 6 cyl., auto, ac, pw, pl, rear defrost, #10246A	\$2,950
96 VW PASSAT GLX 4dr. pw, pl, ac, leather buckets, sunroof, #271038B	\$4,650
00 CHEVY BLAZER LT 4X4 4dr. pw, pl, pwr buckets, rear ac, sunroof, #10352B	\$4,950
01 OLDSMOBILE AURORA 6 cyl., pw, pl, pwr lthr buckets, sunroof, alloys, #10398B	\$4,950
99 FORD CONVERSION VAN pw, pl, power buckets, rear ac, cd, #380003A	\$5,650
05 CHEVY AVEO LS 4dr. 4 cyl., 5-spd, ac, am/fm, #171061C	\$8,950
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03 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 plow, pl, pwr steering, bedliner, cd, tow pkg, #280892A	\$10,950
02 CHEVY CARGO VAN 6 cyl., auto, ac, cassette, buckets, #10300A	\$10,950
05 CHEVY MALIBU CLASSIC pw, pl, power seal, 4 cyl., alloy wheels, #180637A	\$11,750
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05 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD pw, pl, pwr lthr buckets, rear ac, tow pkg, #10451A	\$14,850
03 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 pw, pl, ac, cruise, bedliner, cap, tow pkg, #280538A	\$14,950
07 FORD TAURUS pw, pl, power bucket, cd, 1 owner, #10340A	\$14,950
02 CHEVY SILVERADO LT 4X4 remote start, heated leather, tow pkg, #280086A	\$15,395
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07 KIA SPORTAGE LX pw, pl, ac, cd, alloy wheels, #10465A	\$15,950
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07 FORD MUSTANG COUPE pw, pl, power buckets, auto, cd, alloys, #10467A	\$17,950
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06 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4 pw, pl, power buckets, 1 owner, #10363A	\$18,950
07 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING pw, pl, pwr leather seats, cd, alloy wheels, #10399A	\$18,950
03 GMC YUKON SUBURBAN SLT 4X4 1/4t/dvd, sunroof, tow pkg, #270214A	\$18,950
08 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX pw, pl, power buckets, alloys, 1 owner, #10382A	\$18,995
07 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER 4X4 pw, pl, cd, buckets, sunroof, alloy wheels, #10477A	\$19,975
02 CHEVY CORVETTE COUPE auto, loaded, leather, #10374B	\$24,995
08 CHEVY TAHOE LT 4X4 remote start, rear ac, full power, 1 owner, #10363A	\$34,950



Government to improve car crash test program for 2010 model year

BY KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attention car shoppers: The government is upgrading its crash test program to offer better information about vehicle safety.

The Bush administration outlined changes last week to the government's safety ratings, which grade new vehicles on a scale of up to five stars.

The new program will continue to assess passenger cars, pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans on the five-star scale but will add an overall safety rating that combines scores from several crash tests.

The new system, which will start in the 2010 model year, also will include new front-end tests and a test in which the vehicle strikes a pole sideways to simulate the wrapping of a vehicle around a tree. Female crash test dummies will be used to represent women and large children.

"We're trading in the old program for a newer, more advanced model," said Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, who unveiled the changes at a Honda dealership in Vienna, Va.

The consumer program, started in 1979, has helped spur interest in safety equipment such as side-impact air bags and anti-rollover technology. But some auto safety advocates contend that most vehicles earn four or five stars on the tests, making it difficult for consumers to compare safety features.

In 1979, less than 30 percent of the tested vehicles received four or five stars, according to Peters. This year, more than 97 percent of the vehicles earned those high scores, she said.

Nicole Nason, who leads the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which developed the new testing program, said she expects fewer vehicles will earn five stars under the system, but the agency did not have a precise estimate.

Peters said the overall safety rating would combine results from front-end, side and rollover tests, taking out the "guess work" of comparing scores for different makes and models.

The new ratings will take into account a broad range of technologies to prevent crashes, letting car shoppers know whether electronic stability control, lane departure and forward collision warning systems are optional or standard features on a vehicle.

For the first time, the ratings will factor in the ability of vehicles to guard against leg injuries in head-on collisions.

Automakers and suppliers have pushed for the changes to reflect the benefits of electronic stability control and anti-rollover technology, which the government is considering requiring on all new vehicles beginning in 2012.

Wade Newton, a spokesman for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, which represents General Motors Corp., Toyota Motor Corp., Ford Motor Co. and others, said, "safety is our top priority so we certainly understand the importance of getting consumers relevant information."

Joan Claybrook, president of Public Citizen, a watchdog group, said the changes offered some improvements, but the agency should have included test ratings for rear crashes, child restraints and a rollover test conducted while the vehicle is in motion. During the current government rollover test, the vehicle is stationary.

Claybrook, who led NHTSA in the late 1970s when the program was established, has also pushed for easier to understand school letter grades, such as A, B, C, D and F.

"It's still a very rough guide and we think it still needs to be substantially updated," she said.

autoCROSS

ACROSS

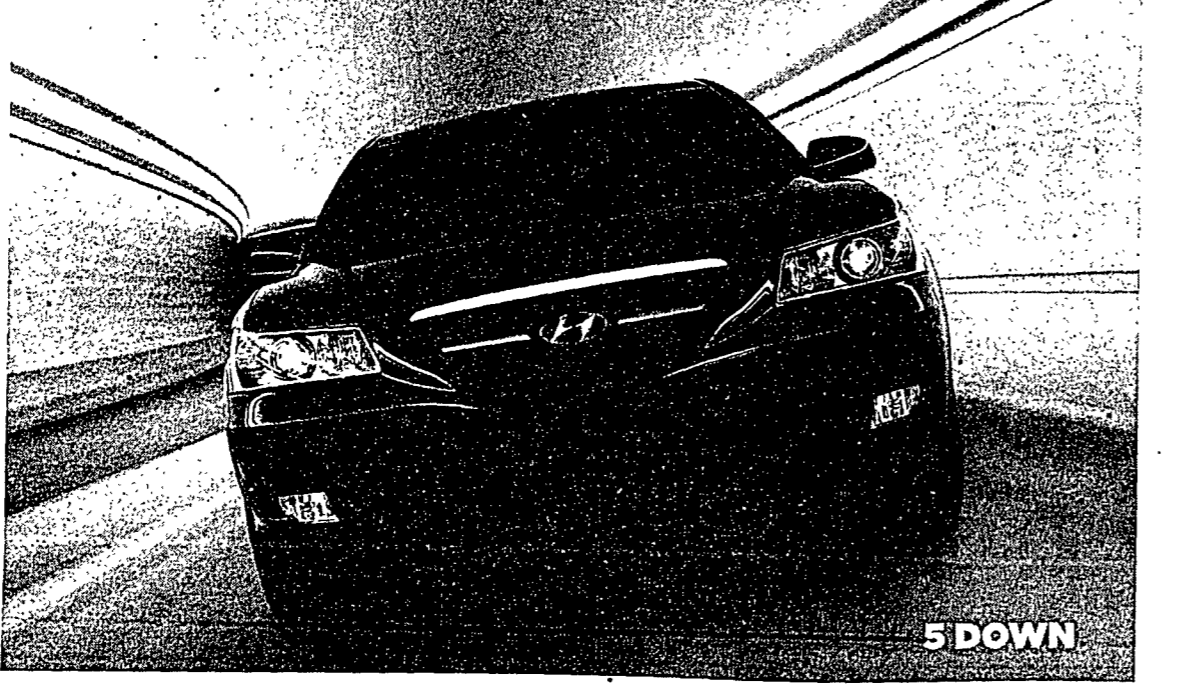
1. Oft illegal 180-degree maneuver
3. Fight slang or Model A seat
8. FWD Olds
10. '70s AMC compact
11. High-performance Taurus
15. Inline motor term
16. VW camper
17. Strip a car for parts (slang)
20. Doc's ride
24. Pre-alternator
25. Sold as "The Racer's Edge"
26. Subaru or Porsche motor term
27. Common to "R" model Jags
32. Roth's rodent
37. Brake-heat problem
39. Buick automatic
41. Engine adjustment
43. Fuel-flow malady
44. a.k.a. spoiler
45. "Beep-Beep!" brand
46. Roof style or actor Martin
47. Bridge problem in winter
48. Mirror hang-up

DOWN

2. a.k.a. plates
4. Standard gearbox
5. A musical Hyundai
6. Chevy that's as much car as truck
7. Traction or cruise
9. Horsepower meter
12. Manta or Kadett
13. Bridges played this automaker
14. Bentley sedan
15. Off-road protector
18. A humorous dragster?
19. Crockett's ride in Miami Vice
21. Italian motorway
22. Tri-carb 440
23. Lotus land
24. Unmarked police car (slang)
28. Concours d'Elegance
29. Beverage containment
30. Extends tire life
31. Stallone's racing movie
33. Also called axle tramp
34. Van type
35. Bought by Ford in 1922
36. Battery additive, once
38. Merged with Nash in 1954
40. GM founder
42. Farm gas
44. Q7 maker

ANSWERS

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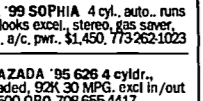
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Piped. Lots Of Chrome. Exc.
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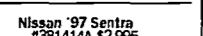
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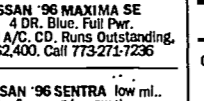
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- T- 6 CUSTOM MODIFIED
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- T- 26 LIMOUSINES

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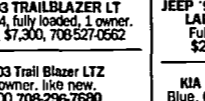
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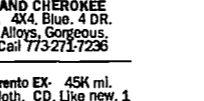
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6 IN STOCK

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- Sentry Theft Deterrent System
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- Tire Pressure Monitoring System
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- Sliding Armrest with Cell Phone Holder
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- Rear Spoiler
- Solar Control Glass
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- Variable Interm. Wipers
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- 2.7 Liter V-6

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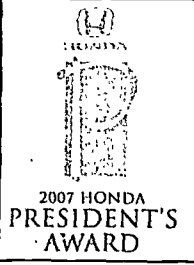
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New Car Buyers Guide

Acura	Buick	Cadillac (con't)	Chevrolet (cont'd)
JOE RIZZA ACURA 8150 W. 159th Street Orland Park 877-503-7499 rizzacars.com	Grossinger Buick 6900 N. McCormick (Kimball) Lincolnwood 800-775-9843 www.grossinger.com	STEVE FOLEY CADILLAC 100 N. Skokie Blvd. Northbrook 866-372-3654 www.stevefoley.com	JACK PHELAN CHEVY "You Gotta See Jack" 4000 S. Harlem, Lyons 877-206-1111 jackphelan.com
Audi	LOREN BUICK/PONTIAC 1610 Waukegan Road, Glenview 847-729-8900 www.lorenaautogroup.com	Chevrolet	LARRY ROESCH CHEVY 866-235-0505 333 W. Grand Ave., Bensenville www.larryroesch.com
AUDI OF TINLEY PARK 8021 W. 159th St. 866-379-5929 auditinleypark.com	Cadillac	ADVANTAGE CHEVROLET 155 & Route 53, Bolingbrook 888-655-5359 www.advantagechevy.com	PHILLIPS CHEVROLET Rtes. 30 & 45, Frankfort 866-281-0769 www.phillipschevy.com
LAUREL AUDI OF WESTMONT 276 E. Ogden Ave. 866-383-3044 www.laurelaudi.com	AL PIEMONTE CADILLAC 1611 E. Main (North Avenue/Rt. 64) St. Charles 630-513-5353 piemontecadillac.com	ADVANTAGE CHEVROLET LaGrange & Joliet Roads, Countryside Auto Mall 800-961-7609 www.advantagechevy.com	RIZZA CHEVROLET 8200 S. Harlem, Bridgeview, (888) 560-7799 www.rizzachevy.com
BMW	Bill Jacobs Cadillac 2001 W. Jefferson St., Joliet 800-540-0731 www.BillJacobsAuto.com	APPLE CHEVROLET IN TINLEY PARK (708) 429-3000 8585 W. 159th www.applechevy.com	SKYWAY CHEVY 8650 S. Commercial Ave. Chicago 888-496-5471 skywaychevy.com
BILL JACOBS BMW 1564 W. Ogden Ave., Naperville, IL 1-866-516-8015 www.billjacobsbmw.com	Cadillac of Naperville 1507 W. Ogden Ave., Naperville, 630-355-2700 www.napervillecadillac.com	BILL JACOBS CHEVROLET 2001 W. Jefferson St., Joliet 800-507-6841 www.BillJacobsAuto.com	SUNRISE CHEVROLET 147th & Cicero Sunrisedeals.com (866) 892-0836
BMW OF ORLAND PARK 8470 159th St. Orland Park, 888-500-2369 bmwop.com	Frank Shirey Cadillac 10125 S. Cicero Oak Lawn, IL 1-800-DEVILLE www.shireycadillac.com Ext. Service Hrs: Evenings til 8pm, Fri & Sat til 5pm CERT CAR CTR. 108th & CENTRAL, Oak Lawn, IL	BILL KAY CHEVROLET 601 Ogden & I-355 Downers Grv./Lisle 630-968-2900 billkaychevrolet.com	Chrysler
ELMHURST BMW 466 W. Lake St., Elmhurst 888- 287-6555 www.elmhurstbmw.com	GROSSINGER CADILLAC 6900 N. McCormick Lincolnwood 800-775-9843 www.grossinger.com	BREDEMANN CHEVROLET 1401 W. Dempster St. Park Ridge 847-698-1234 Next to Lutheran General Hospital www.bredemann.com	ADVANTAGE CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE 77 Rand Rd., Des Plaines 888-504-5048 www.advantagecjcd.com
FIELDS BMW NORTFIELD 700 Frontage Rd. 866-401-7678 www.fieldsauto.com	GROSSINGER CITY CADILLAC 1241 N. Wells Chicago 312-379-5555 www.grossingercitycadillac.com	CURRIE MOTORS CHEVY FOREST PARK 7901 W. Roosevelt Rd., Forest Park 888-294-3409	Bill Kay Downers Grove Chrysler 2100 Ogden Ave. www.billkaychrysler.info 866-514-5555
LAUREL BMW OF WESTMONT 430 E. Ogden Ave. 866-385-9527 bmwofwestmont.com	HERITAGE CADILLAC 303 W. Roosevelt rd., Lombard 630-629-3300 www.heritagecadillac.com	GROSSINGER CHEVROLET 151 E. Lake Cook Rd. Palatine 877-359-2438 www.grossingerchevy.com	FIELDS CHRYSLER 670 Frontage Road, Northfield, IL 60093 866-419-3385 www.fieldsauto.com
PATRICK BMW 700 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg 877-749-9921 www.patrickbmw.com	PATRICK CADILLAC 526 Mall Dr., Schaumburg 877-749-9921 www.patrickcadillac.com	HOSKINS CHEVROLET 175 N. Arlington Hts Rd., Elk Grove Village 847-439-0900 www.hoskinschevrolet.com	GREGORY CHRYSLER-JEEP 130 Cedar Ave., Lake Villa 800-770-6582 Mancarl Chrysler-Jeep In Oaklawn 4630 W. 95th St. 1-708-423-0910

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ZEIGLER CHRYSLER/DODGE/JEEP 208 W. Golf, Schaumburg 847-882-8400 zdodge.com	PATRICK HYUNDAI 1020 E. Golf Rd. Schaumburg www.patrickcars.com 866-314-4539	BILL JACOBS MINI 1564 W. Ogden Ave., Naperville, IL 1-866-516-8015 www.billjacobsmini.com	BERMAN'S MID CITY SUBARU 4300 W. Irving Pk. Chgo 888-598-7467 subaruchicago.com
Dodge	Hummer	Mitsubishi	EVANSTON SUBARU #1 Subaru Dir in Illinois, 715 Chicago Ave., Evanston 60602 1-888-473-1603
ADVANTAGE CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE 77 Rand Rd., Des Plaines 888-504-5037 www.advantagecjcd.com	HUMMER OF NAPERVILLE 3200 Ogden Ave Lisle (630) 946-1700 www.napervillehummer.com	GRAND MITSUBISHI 303 W. Grand Ave. Bensenville 630-660-3100 GrandMistu.com	GERALD SUBARU 1210 E. Ogden, Naperville 630-355-3900 188 & Orchard Rd, N. Aurora 630-907-0800 www.GeraldSubaru.com
DODGE OF NAPERVILLE 1565 W. Ogden Ave. (630) 355-3410 www.napervilledodge.com	Infiniti	MAX MADSEN MITSUBISHI He's Mad, He's Bad, He's at 3 SALE locations in Countryside 708-469-5050, Downers Grv 630-960-5040 Aurora 630-939-6000 www.MaxMadsen.com	Grand Subaru York Rd. & Grand Ave., Elmhurst, Bensenville www.GrandSubaru.com 630-595-0250
FIELDS DODGE 670 Frontage Rd., Northfield, IL 60093 866-419-3385 www.fieldsauto.com	FIELDS INFINITI 1121 S. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville 847-362-9200 www.fieldsauto.com	SOUTH HOLLAND MITSUBISHI 150 W. 159th St. 708-680-5100 www.southhollandmitsubishi.com	Suzuki
GREGORY DODGE 490 Skokie Valley Rd. Highland Park 800-770-6574	FIELDS INFINITI GLENCOE Tower Rd. & I- 94, Glencoe 866-434-0064 www.fieldsauto.com	Nissan	Grossinger Suzuki 6900 N. McCormick (Kimball) Lincolnwood 800-775-9843 www.grossinger.com
NORWOOD PARK DODGE 800-BUY-DODGE 6333 N. Northwest Hwy. At The Corner Of Harlem & Devon www.norwoodparkdodge.com	Jaguar	AL PIEMONTE NISSAN 401-11 E. North Ave., Northlake (708) 343-3800 www.apnissan.com	JACK PHELAN SUZUKI "You Gotta See Jack" 7050 W. Ogden, Berwyn 888-400-1847
SHERMAN DODGE 7601 N. Cicero Ave., Skokie (847) 982-9500, #1 Dodge Dealer in IL	HOWARD ORLOFF JAGUAR www.orloff.com KENNEDY EXP AT ARMITAGE 888-820-3229	AUTOBARN NISSAN OF EVANSTON 1034 Chicago Ave. 847-475-8200 www.theautobarn.com	Suzuki of Elmhurst 334 W. Grand Ave., Elmhurst 630-532-5600 www.suzukiofelmhurst.com
Ford	JAGUAR ELMHURST 490 W. Lake St. Elmhurst www.jaguarelmhurst.com 888-287-6211	BERMAN'S MID CITY NISSAN 4444 W. Irving Pk. Rd. Chgo. 888-590-8669 midcitynissan.com	Toyota
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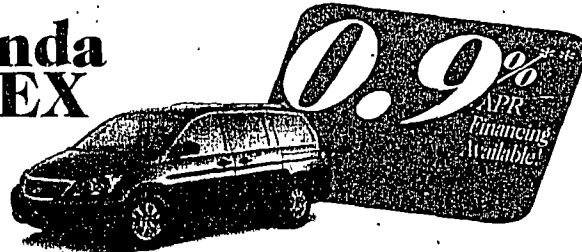
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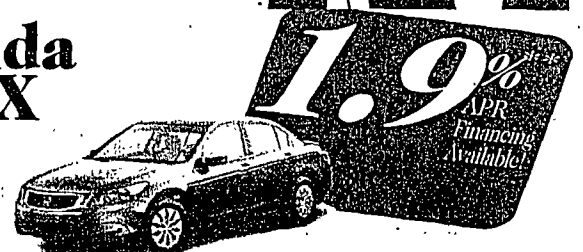


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Today's New Homes

NORTH EDITION ■■■■ JULY 16-18, 2008

Condominium choices abound in booming West Loop

As the West Loop's revival continues to move west from the edge of downtown, a number of housing options are available for buyers who want to be part of this growing neighborhood.

Located in the heart of the West Loop are two brand new high-rise condominium developments — 235 Van Buren and Catalyst. Further west are two trendy new mid-rise developments — CA23 and Mod.

In Greektown, developments include Odyssey Lofts and ONE, a planned new-construction mid-rise. In the Fulton River District are 740 Fulton, a boutique high-rise now offering immediate occupancy and Fulton Place. In River West, on the north end of the West Loop construction is underway on Marquette Row.

Here is a sampling of hot West Loop residential developments starting near the Loop and fanning out to the west and north:

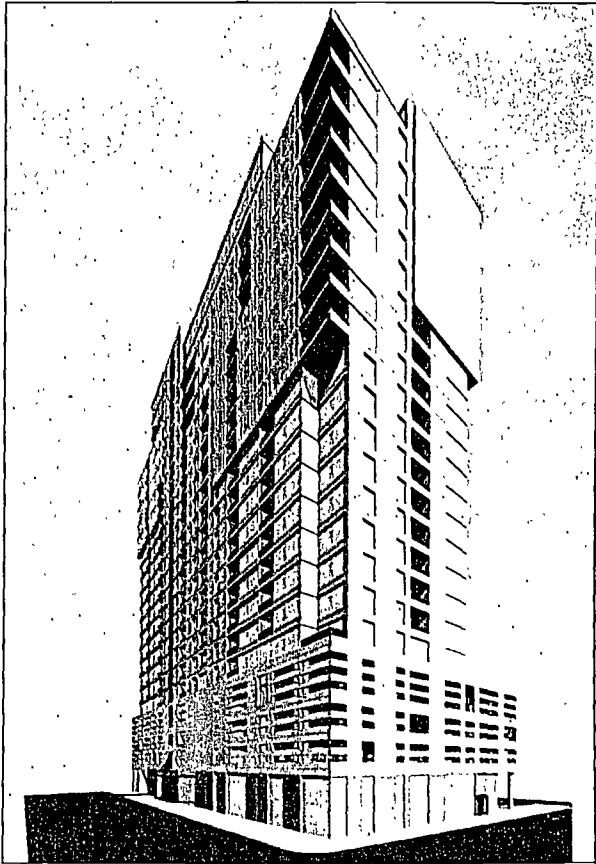
■ 235 Van Buren. Now under

construction, this 46-story high-rise condominium development at 235 Van Buren at the southeast corner of Franklin and Van Buren in the central business district will be one of the tallest new buildings planned in the Loop.

"The 235 Van Buren high-rise will be a modern sculpture of glass, grand atriums and unique balconies geared to revive the heritage of modern architecture in Chicago," said developer Colin Kilinke, president of Chicago-based CMK Development Corp.

Kilinke has enlisted renowned architect Ralph Johnson of Perkins & Will to design the high-rise. The 235 Van Buren's architecture is best described as Ralph Johnson's signature "Normative Modernism," which strongly complements CMK's tradition of modern developments, Kilinke noted.

■■■■ Turn to CHOICES, 3



When complete in 2009, the Catalyst will be a modern eco-sensitive building with high ceilings, open flowing spaces and abundant glass enhanced with an elegant use of color to make the exterior very distinct and attractive.

■■■■ inside ■■■■

Downtown living is easy

Library Tower and 757 Orleans @ Chicago are near completion.

Page 4

A new pilot program could prevent future waves

of predatory lending and mortgage fraud.



Read **Don DeBat**, Page 9

Outdoor living upgrades can be had for \$1 at **Toll Brothers'** three-day sales event.

Page 6

■■■■ online ■■■■

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BOLINGBROOK

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Directions: Take I-55 to Weber Rd. Go north to Redso Dr #110m St. and go west to Livingston Rd. Then south to Francis Scott Key Blvd., and west to sales center.

CRYSTAL LAKE

Bryn Mawr
Single-Family Homes from the mid \$300s
815.477.3200

Directions: Take I-90 W to Rt. 47 N to Rt. 176. Turn right and proceed to sales center on left.

ELGIN

Cedar Grove/Shadow Hill
Single-Family Homes from upper \$290s
847.697.2999

Townhomes from the \$200s
847.608.5300

Directions: Take I-90 W to Randall Rd. Go south, then take Rt. 20 W. Head south on Healy Rd. to sales center.

Tuscan Woods

Single-Family Homes from the upper \$290s
847.717.0077

Directions: Take I-90 W to Randall Rd. Head south to Highland Ave., and then east to sales center.

GILBERTS

Gilberts Town Center
Single-Family Homes from the upper \$200s
847.844.8800

Townhomes from the low \$200s
847.551.3399

Directions: Take I-90 W to Randall Rd. Go north to Rt. 72. Proceed west for 2 miles to sales center.

HOFFMAN ESTATES

Beacon Pointe
Single-Family Homes from the upper \$390s
847.214.8493

Directions: Take Rt. 59 to Stone Factory Rd. Proceed west to Essex Dr., then north to sales center.

HUNTLEY

Talamore
Single-Family Homes from the upper \$200s
847.515.1166

Townhomes from the mid \$100s
847.669.8888

Directions: Take I-90 W to Rt. 47 N. Sales center is 1/4 mile north of Reed Rd. on the left.

MONTGOMERY

Blackberry Crossing West
Single-Family Homes from the low \$200s
630.897.3800

Directions: Take I-58 W to Orchard Rd. S. Turn right at Rt. 30 and head west to Gordon Rd. Turn left on Gordon Rd. and head south to sales center.

PLANO

Ryland Homes at Lakewood Springs Townhomes
Townhomes from the mid \$100s
630.552.0400

Directions: Take I-68 W to Rt. 56 W (Sugar Grove exit). Then take Rt. 47 S to Rt. 134 W. Proceed 0.5 miles west to Mitchell Rd., turn left to Kilds St., and then turn left to Marston St. Sales center is on left.

ROUND LAKE

Emerald Bay
Townhomes from the upper \$100s
847.546.5700

Directions: Take Rt. 5912 N to Rt. 120 E. past Wilson Rd. to sales center.

ST. CHARLES

Reserve of St. Charles
Single-Family Homes from the upper \$400s
630.444.1570

Directions: Take I-90 W and exit Rt. 31 S. Go 8 miles to Reserve Dr. (1/2 mile south of Silver Glen Rd.), and then west to sales center.

VOLO

Lancaster Falls
Single-Family Homes from the mid \$200s
847.207.1600

Directions: Take Rt. 5912 N to Rt. 120 E to Fen Lake Rd. Turn south to sales center.

All Sales Centers Open

Mon 12pm-6pm
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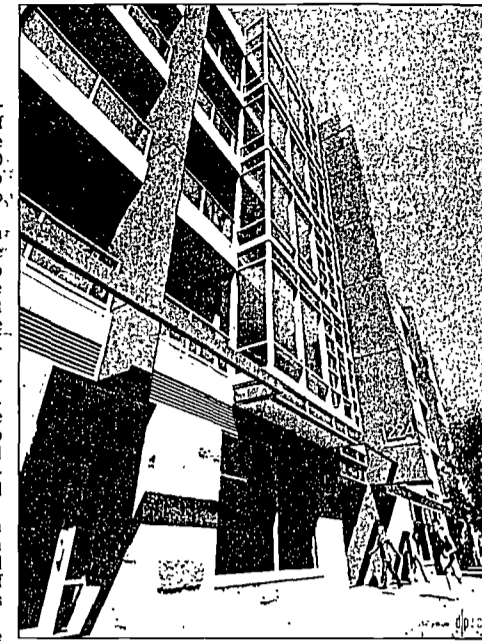
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Choices

FROM PAGE 1



Mod features two 5-story buildings developed by Stillpoint Development, The Pickus Companies and Castlebar Enterprises, Inc.

Plans for high-rise condominium call for the construction of 714 condos. Buyers may choose from among more than 130 unique floor plans with one to three bedrooms and one to three baths.

Base prices range from \$199,900 for the most affordable studio with 522 square feet to \$449,900 for the most expensive two-bedroom, two-bath layout with 1,292 square feet. Twelve penthouses are also available, base priced from \$339,900.

The sales center and a vignette model, located at 405 S. Wells, are now open next to the construction site, according to Scott Hoskins, president and managing broker for CMK Realty, the exclusive sales and marketing agent.

Initial sales at 235 Van Buren have been brisk, with more than 400 units already sold, reported Gail Lissner, vice president of Appraisal Research Counselors Ltd.

"The panoramic views the city skyline, parks, the Chicago River and Lake Michigan from balconies and terraces at 235 Van Buren will be breathtaking, and luxury will be standard in every residence," Kilnuk said. "There are stainless steel appliance packages, oak wood flooring, granite kitchen countertops, 10-foot ceilings, and floor-to-ceiling windows."

More than 520 heated indoor parking spaces are priced from \$31,900 to \$36,900 and 50 tandem spaces priced from \$51,900 to \$56,900.

The sales center and vignette model for 235 Van Buren are located at 405 S. Wells St. The sales center, which features a scale model of the building and available selections and options, is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information on 235 Van Buren, contact CMK Realty at (312) 376-0600, or visit www.235vanburen.com.

CA23. One of the West Loop's newest condominiums, CA23 is targeted to urban buyers who are seeking something different in the downtown living experience, according to developer Geoff Ruttenberg.

Now under construction, CA23's twin five-story buildings, designed by Fitzgerald & Associates, feature a contemporary blend of materials such as limestone, steel and glass.

A massive landscaped courtyard that serves a "sanctuary from the urban setting" connects the buildings, said Ruttenberg, president and CEO of The Brixton Group, Ltd.

"Structural steel work now is underway, and delivery of the first 24 residences is planned for late September of 2008," said Ruttenberg.

Eighteen units have been pre-sold, according to Melinda Jakovich of Coldwell Banker, the exclusive sales and marketing agent. Current prices range from \$650,000 to \$1.65 million.

Translation of the CA23 name is simple—the "C" stands for Carpenter Street, the "A" represents Aberdeen Street, and the actual project address is 23 N. Aberdeen.

What makes CA23 name special? The innovative \$35-million development is exceptional from its contemporary-style architecture and light-filled floor plans to the creative site plan that tucks the 48-unit development on a 36,000-square-foot through-lot between Carpenter and Aberdeen streets in the heart of the West Loop.

"We're embracing a rare opportunity in the West Loop to provide residents with large, flats—no more stairs. One-level living at CA23 combines luxury and sophistication," said Ruttenberg.

CA23 offers enormous floor plans boasting approximately 2,000 to 4,000 square feet of living space on one floor. Each residence will feature private elevator access to the unit, two private balconies and ceiling heights between 11 feet and 18 feet. The building also features a stunning centrally located atrium.

The living room, dining area

and gourmet kitchen spaces in the CA23 model are open and flowing, featuring 11-foot to 18-foot ceilings. A balcony opens off the living room.

The kitchen features custom crafted cabinetry specifically designed for CA23, limestone countertops and surrounds, and polished chrome fixtures. Appliances include built-in, top-of-the-line stainless-steel range, hood, drawer dishwasher and refrigerator from Fisher & Paykel/DCS and a microwave drawer from Sharp.

The private master bedroom suite features a generous walk-in closet and floor-to-ceiling windows. A second nearly 5-by-18-foot balcony opens off the master bedroom.

The spa-like master bathroom is complete with two floating vanities separated by a linen closet. The oversized shower is surrounded by natural stone and equipped with several body sprayers. The bath showcases polished chrome fixtures, a soaking tub, natural stone tiles and plumbing fixtures by Grohe, Hansgrohe and Toto.

Heightening the luxury element will be private elevator access to each unit and approximately 25 by 27 feet of private landscaped yards for select units.

The CA23 model condominium at 20 N. Carpenter is open for viewing Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m., or by appointment. For more information about CA23, call (312) 204-5067, or visit the Web sites at www.ca23westloop.com and www.thebrixtongroup.com.

Mod consists of a 56-unit building at 1222 W. Madison and a 36-unit property next door at 1224 W. Madison, said Charles Huzenits, principal in Jameson Realty Group, the exclusive sales and marketing agent.

The contemporary glass and steel buildings, designed by architects Sullivan, Goulette & Wilson, showcase 10-foot-high finished ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows and polished concrete floors. European kitchens



"CA23 is such an innovative development we felt it needed an edgy, urban-oriented name that captures the vitality of the city," said developer Geoff Ruttenberg.

feature teak cabinets and quartz countertops. The development features a fitness center with a yoga loft.

Pre-construction prices on one-bedroom, one-bath and two-bedroom, two-bath residences with 860 to 1,411 square feet of space range from \$284,900 to \$499,900. Sales already have surpassed the 45-percent mark at Mod.

The sales center for Mod at 1131 W. Madison is open Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call (312) 455-9200, or visit www.modcondoschicago.com.

Odyssey Lofts. Buyers are choosing a blend of old and new loft construction at Odyssey Lofts, a luxury adaptive-reuse loft development at 775 W. Jackson Blvd., just east of Halsted Avenue in the heart of the West Loop's Greek Town neighborhood.

The 70-unit classic timber-beam loft building features six floors of fully restored condominiums topped with two floors of new construction 3-bedroom penthouse residences, said developer David T. Wallach, principal of W. Developments, LLC.

"This is a very unique building with its brick facade, exposed timber-beam construction

More than 70 percent of the units have been sold, according to The Thrush Companies, the developer. The remaining homes afford buyers a broad spectrum of choices and include one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, with and without dens, plus two penthouses.

A luxury two-bedroom-plus-den, two-bedroom model is open for viewing.

The residence-mix includes one-bedrooms priced from \$299,400, one-bedroom-plus-den units from \$335,000, and two-bedroom, two-bath units, with and without dens, priced from \$347,000. Penthouses are priced from \$770,000, and the price of every residence includes heated deeded garage parking.

740 Fulton's amenities include a private fitness center, a business center with wireless high-speed Internet hub, and door attendant and concierge service.

The 740 Fulton sales center is located in the building lobby, and it is open every day from noon to 6 p.m. Call (312) 902-1200 for more information, or visit online at www.thrush.com.

Marquette Row. Construction is moving rapidly ahead at the 45-unit Marquette Row development located at 675-693 North Peoria in the River West district, bounded by Hubbard Street, the Kennedy Expressway, Augusta Boulevard and the North Branch of the Chicago River.

Co-developers Stillpoint Development and Castlebar Enterprises are building five intimate residential buildings, each with eight units offering large simplexes with 2-bedrooms and one or two baths and three-bedroom, two-bath duplexes. Prices range from \$329,900 to \$479,900.

A furnished model is open on Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Marquette Row. For more information, please call Jameson Realty Group at (312) 751-0300, or visit online at www.jameson.com.

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PEARSON ON THE PARK 222 E. Pearson \$360,900-\$533,900 Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm	LOWE STREET HOMES 3851 S. Lowe \$669,900 Open Sun 12:30-2pm	50 E. CHESTNUT \$2,871,900-\$3,564,900 Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm
5010 W. LAWRENCE \$389,900-\$459,900 Open Sat & Sun 1:30-4pm	ANDERSONVILLE PLACE 4835 N. Ashland \$232,900-\$239,900 Open Sun 10:30am-12:30pm	2105 W. CONCORD \$529,900 Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm
ECO18 1818 S. Wabash \$269,900-\$649,900 Open Tues-Thurs 1-5pm Sat & Sun 12-4pm	MARQUETTE ROW 675 N. Peoria \$329,900-\$479,900 Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm	2916 W. BERTEAU CONDOMINIUMS \$249,900
MOD 1222 W. Madison \$284,900-\$479,900 Open Sat & Sun 11am-4pm	33RD STREET SQUARE 510 W. 33rd \$559,900-\$675,000 Open Sun 2-4pm	WINTHROP TERRACE 4936 N. Winthrop \$205,900
3255 N. PAULINA \$574,900-\$699,900 Open Sat & Sun 1-4pm	CLARK 36 4860 N. Clark \$379,000-\$479,000 Open Sat & Sun 12-3pm	154 W. HUBBARD \$799,900
THE YELLOWSTONE 1667 W. Farwell \$209,900-\$349,900 Open Sat/Sun 1-4	CHASE PARK COMMONS 4717 N. Clark \$399,900-\$427,900 Open Sun 1-3pm	3016 W. BELLE PLAINE \$214,900
THE FLATS ON FULTON 2909 W. Fulton \$189,900-\$239,900 Open Sun 11am-1pm	GROVE ON GREENLEAF 1358 W. Greenleaf \$179,900-\$218,900 Open Sun 1-4pm	NORTH BEACH LOFTS 1225 W. Morse \$289,900-\$299,900
	ODYSSEY LOFTS 775 W. Jackson \$244,900-\$639,900	

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SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

CMK DEVELOPMENT CORP.

CMK's 235 Van Buren high-rise goes up in Financial District

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

A contemporary-style skyscraper with sleek gray-tinted glass windows and cantilevered balconies will be a new landmark on the Chicago skyline when the 235 Van Buren condominium building is completed in the Financial District on the southern edge of Chicago's Loop.

Developer Colin Kihinke, president of Chicago-based CMK Development Corp., has enlisted renowned architect Ralph Johnson of Perkins & Will to design the high-rise, which will be one of the tallest new buildings planned downtown.

The 46-story high-rise, under construction on the southeast corner of Franklin and Van Buren, will be a modern sculpture of glass, grand atriums and unique balconies geared to revive the heritage of modern architecture in Chicago.

When complete, 235 Van Buren will be a contemporary-style building showcasing a glass exterior with unique atrium residences, a stunningly designed parking structure, a sculptured rooftop and commercial space.

"The building sits on a prime site, as a threshold to the city from the Eisenhower Expressway," said Byron Schabel, project architect from Perkins & Will.

"The facade is like a kinetic billboard of active balconies and will be one of the first things people see upon entering the city from the expressway," he said.

Plans for the development call for the construction of 714 condominiums. Buyers may choose from among more than 130 floor plans with one to three bedrooms and one to three baths.

Base prices range from \$199,900 for the most affordable studio with 522 square feet to \$449,900 for the most expensive two-bedroom, two-bath layout with 1,292 square feet. Twelve penthouses are also available, base priced from \$339,900.

The sales center and a vignette model, at 405 S. Wells, are open next to the construction site, according to Scott Hoskins, president and managing broker for CMK Realty, the exclusive sales and marketing agent.

Initial sales at 235 Van Buren have been brisk, with more than 400 units already sold, reported Gail Lissner, vice president of Appraisal Research Counselors Ltd.

"Construction now is under way on the vacant site following the demolition of two small adjacent properties," Hoskins said. "The first units will be available for occupancy in early to mid-2009."

One of the interesting architectural features is "the playful distribution of the cantilevered balconies, which read as shiny boxes hanging from gray-tinted glass," Schabel said.

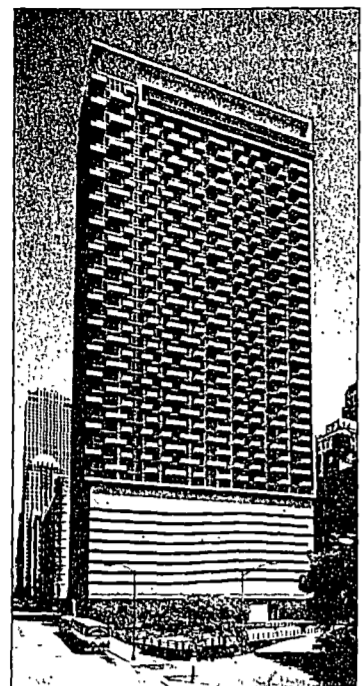
"It relieves the overall mass of the facade and expresses the individuality of the units. The pattern of the strip windows helps further reduce the scale and enlivens the facade. The floor-to-ceiling windows will be breathtaking," Kihinke said.

Schabel said the windows "will provide a modern facade as well as offer panoramic views from the inside of the residences."

Nearly all of the floor plans will offer balconies and terraces with spectacular views, Sears Tower and the city skyline, parks, the Chicago River and Lake Michigan.

The 235 Van Buren's architecture is best described as Ralph Johnson's signature Normative Modernism, which strongly complements CMK's tradition of modern developments, Kihinke noted.

"Many new downtown Chicago condominium buildings are generic, not personalized," Johnson said. "This building is very different, in many respects, from the current crop of high-rises going up in the city in that it's a sculpture - none



The cantilevered balconies of 235 Van Buren will give the building a unique look.

To visit this community

The sales center, which showcases a scale model of the building and available selections and options, is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, contact CMK Realty at (312) 376-0600 or visit www.235vanburen.com.

of the design is an afterthought."

Johnson took the building's mass and broke it down by addressing the corner's diagonal composition.

"It has a sculptural dynamic with the balconies spinning off of the building's column in a fashion similar to a pinwheel," he said.

Luxury will be standard in every residence at 235 Van Buren, Kihinke said.

"These are unique floor plans that design around the sculptural elements of the building and engage the oversized balconies," he said.

Buyers also will enjoy building luxuries such as a dog run, a 24-hour doorman and six high-speed elevators.

Some of the other standard features include a secured telephone entry intercom system with video monitor, thermal-pane aluminum framed windows and a dramatic lobby with 25-foot-tall ceiling and accented with slate, stainless-steel and imported woods.

"The lobby, with its tall ceilings and full-height glass walls, also provides dramatic views to the surrounding high-rises, including the Sears Tower," Schabel said.

Kihinke noted that with more than 100 floor plans, every buyer will be sure to find something that will fit his or her lifestyles.

There also will be 522 secure indoor parking spaces priced from \$31,900 to \$36,900 and 50 tandem spaces, priced from \$51,900 to \$56,900.

Buyers at 235 Van Buren also will not only enjoy the condominium's Loop location, but also the neighborhood's prime location offers instant access to the West Loop's Restaurant Row and Greek Town's restaurant district.

An inside job: Interior work begins at R+D659 in West Loop

SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP

Excitement is mounting as the final floor of the 237-unit R+D659 condominium building in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood is topped out. Dominic Adducci, managing director at Mesirov Financial Real Estate, describes topping out as the completion of the structural phase of the building.

"We placed the last slab of concrete on the top floor of the building on June 11," he says. "Disassembling of the tower crane will follow and workers are already transitioning to interior work."

"We fought through really tough winter conditions, so the fact that we completed the structural work ahead of schedule is a great achievement," Adducci says. "We're looking forward to continued progress toward the delivery of this quality building."

R+D659, a 17-story building at the northeast corner of Randolph and Des Plaines streets, will offer condominiums and penthouses ranging from 655 square feet to more than 1,600

To visit this community

The R+D659 sales center and decorated model are now open at 626 W. Randolph. Sales hours are noon to 6 p.m. weekdays and noon to 5 p.m. weekends. For more information, call (312) 474-0659 or visit www.RD659.com.

square feet. Sales are moving quickly, but a good selection of floor plans remains. Prices on unsold units range from the upper \$200,000s to the \$700,000s.

"We'll now focus on completing some of the highlights of the building, including the swimming pool, sun deck, resident-only lounge and fitness center," Adducci adds. The lounge will feature a flat-screen TV with surround sound, a bar, pool table, kitchen and dining area. Besides the swimming pool and landscaped sun deck,

other outdoor amenities will include a Japanese-style garden and a grill area. The building's environmentally friendly green deck will provide an al fresco option to residents.

The residences themselves are starting to take shape as well, Adducci says. "Drywall and cabinet installation is under way, so we're expecting rapid interior progress."

Once completed, the unique open floor plans will be evident and installation of the finishes will begin. Those include sleek European-style cabinetry in the kitchen and bath, granite kitchen countertops, stainless-steel appliances and wood flooring in the living spaces. Condo plans feature 9-foot ceilings; penthouses have 12-foot ceilings.

The surrounding West Loop neighborhood is home to several art galleries, renowned restaurants and ample nightlife. The building is also only a few blocks from expressways, the Ogilvie Transportation Center and CTA buses and the Green Line, providing easy access to downtown and the rest of the city.

2008 Cavalcade will feature spectacular dream homes

The 2008 Cavalcade of Homes is under way at Stewart Ridge in Plainfield, a Fry Properties community, through Saturday. This year marks the 50th year of Cavalcades, Illinois' largest show.

"NIHBA is excited about the upcoming show, especially since it's our 50th year of Cavalcades," said Frank Bogdan, Cavalcade chairman, for the sponsoring Northern Illinois Home Builders Association (NIHBA). "Whether attendees are in the market for a new home or not, the Cavalcade provides such a unique avenue for participating builders to communicate and display new and inventive designs and building techniques available in today's market."

The 2008 show features state-of-the-art style including home design, landscaping, interior design, home technology and much more. This year the show will also focus on tips to "green your home." The builders have included many green features in this year's model homes.

The homes in this year's show are the cumulative effort of a wide range of professionals in the residential construction industry. This year the show features five builders that have never previously been showcased in a Cavalcade, along with an eight-year veteran. The builders are Christy Homes; Crismson Design & Construction, Inc.; DJK Custom Homes, Inc.; Fry Properties, Inc.; James Scott Custom Builders; and St. Thomas Homes. Both Fry Properties and Christy Homes will feature two homes in the show.

You'll enjoy eight fully furnished Cavalcade Homes which feature the latest building and decorating trends. The designs will dazzle visitors with such features as spas on the patio, kitchens that are the gourmet cook's delight and the Dreamiest Little Girl's Sweet Shop Bedroom. Those up for a quick round of golf can just tee-up at the Indoor Golf Simulator for a quick 18. Technology reigns supreme with whole-house audio systems including an iPod dock to access your personal music library from any room in the house. Lighting automation systems control the environment 24/7. High definition is the name of the game with plasma display walls, and Blu-ray surround sound systems.

Don't forget to look up as you walk through these beautiful models. Coffered, barrel, faux copper, vaulted, tray, tongue and groove ceilings abound. There are phenomenal ceiling treatments in every home.

The Plainfield location is yet another perk of the show. The village offers shopping, dining, entertainment plus small-town comfort with big city benefits.

The Cavalcade of Homes is at Stewart Ridge in Plainfield. Stewart Ridge is aptly named for the changes in elevation that offer homeowners stunning westward views. Several lots that will accommodate walk-out and look-out basements grace the ridge area. Dual boulevard entries create an elegant welcome into the subdivision.

Stewart Ridge is in the Oswego School District and is near the newly opened Oswego East High School. Biking and walking trails connect the subdivision to adjacent developments to the south. The Oswego Park District plans a community park for families to enjoy.

The community offers a host of attractive lifestyle amenities. In addition to schools, churches and the nearby Edward Hospital Immediate Care facility, the area boasts extensive retail opportunities, numerous parks, the new Oswego Park District Aquatic Center, the Plainfield Park District's nearby Bridle Trail, Normantown Trails Equestrian Center and quaint downtown Plainfield.

Situated at Heggs Road, between 119th and 127th Streets just 1 mile west of Route 30, Stewart Ridge has all of the above amenities to offer and more. This location affords residents easy access to Route 59, the Westfield Fox Valley Mall area, and Interstate 55. Coming soon a few miles away on Route 59 and 119th Street is the Life Style Center, which will feature Von Maur Department Store and others.

The Cavalcade runs through July 20. Gates open daily at 10 a.m. The show closes at 8 p.m. on Saturday through Wednesday with extended hours to 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Tickets are \$12 for adults, with children under 12 admitted free. Additional information, drive out directions and a discount coupon are available by visiting the Web site at www.CavalcadeofHomes.com.

CHICAGO LIVING

New communities expand downtown living options

By Marcy Marro
SPECIAL TO PIONEER PRESS

Living downtown just got easier with these two communities that are almost near completion.

Library Tower
Lentor will start welcoming its first residents to Library Tower, a 17-story development of 184 loft-style condominiums in Printers Row. First move-ins are under way, with an official grand opening on July 26.

Library Tower includes one- to three-bedroom homes with one to 2½ baths, ranging in size from 905 to 2,130 square feet, priced from the high \$200s to the mid-\$800s with indoor parking available for \$40,000 per space. A few

early-delivery homes include parking for \$20,000 per space. Building amenities include a 24-hour door attendant, fitness facility, business center, resident theatre, hospitality room and a common roof deck with a kitchenette and four gas grills.

Library Tower's Welcome Home Center is located at 511 S. Plymouth. Sales hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information, call (312) 386-9427 or visit www.librarytower.com.

757 Orleans @ Chicago
Construction is almost complete at 757 Orleans @ Chicago, a mid-rise building of 198 condominium residences in River North offered by The Gammone Group.

Buyers can choose from 11

impressive designs, each providing up to three bedrooms and two baths, and a spacious terrace or balcony. Indoor parking will be available starting at \$35,000 per space. Sizes span from 644 to 1,325 square feet. Base prices range from the mid \$200s to the upper \$700s.

Buyers can receive special discounts good toward closing costs or the upgrades of their choice. For full details, consult a sales professional on site.

The 757 Orleans @ Chicago model/sales center is at Orleans and Superior. Hours are Monday and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday 1 to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. (closed Wednesday and Thursday). Call (312) 943-8700 or visit www.757orleanschicago.com.

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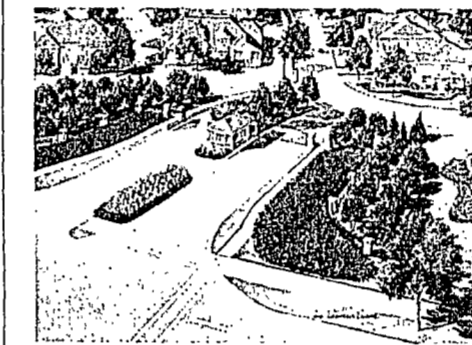
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TOLL BROTHERS Outdoor features showcased at weekend sales event

In this current housing market, buyers know they are in the driver's seat and they are demanding more value and a new home that is move-in ready. To answer that demand, national home builder Toll Brothers is rolling out a sales event that gives buyers just that - unprecedented value and a home complete with the outdoor enhancements buyers would typically add after they move in to a new construction home.

The Toll Brothers Great Outdoors Sales Event takes place for three days only, Friday, July 18 through Sunday, July 20. Buyers who make a deposit on a home during the event will receive select outdoor living upgrades such as a spacious sunroom or screened porch addition, a deck or patio, fire pit or built-in barbecue, and landscaping enhancements for \$1. The incentives vary development by development, but typically are valued from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

"We are catering to the buyer's market," stated Andy Stern, senior vice president of Toll Brothers' Illinois Division. "And, right now, smart buyers are reaping the rewards and we can't stress enough that there has never been a better time to buy new construction in Chicagoland."

In addition to the sales event, each participating Toll Brothers community is hosting family-fun activities from 10 a.m. to 5 Saturday and Sunday, such as putting contests, caricature artists, and bounce houses, as well as guest chefs grilling traditional barbecue, plus refreshments and treats. Buyers ready to make a move should take a look at one of Toll Brothers' seven communities in Hawthorn Woods, Elgin, Bloomingdale, Morton Grove, Glenview, North Aurora, and South Barrington. Single-family residences and condominiums are base-priced from the upper \$200,000s to the upper \$600,000s. The company offers several programs to help potential buyers sell their current home including home staging services and extended build times as well as attractive mortgage programs through their in-house mortgage arm, TBI Mortgage. "For anyone debating between buying a new or used home, this offer makes that decision easy," says Stern. Toll Brothers, a Fortune 500 company, is the only publicly traded national home building company to have won all three of the industry's highest honors: America's Best Builder from the National Association of Home Builders, the National Housing Quality Award and National Builder of the Year.

Find out more

Visit any Toll Brothers sales center in Illinois from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For maps and directions, visit TollBrothers.com/Illinois.



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Still want more? Cross the road to 61 miles of hiking, biking and picnicking on the I&M Canal Trail. Tee it up at four fine area golf courses. Or sample Ottawa's long list of entertainment venues and historic sights. Of course, the best sights of all are the incredible marina, river and nature vistas that come standard with every stunning new vacation home at Heritage Harbor Ottawa.

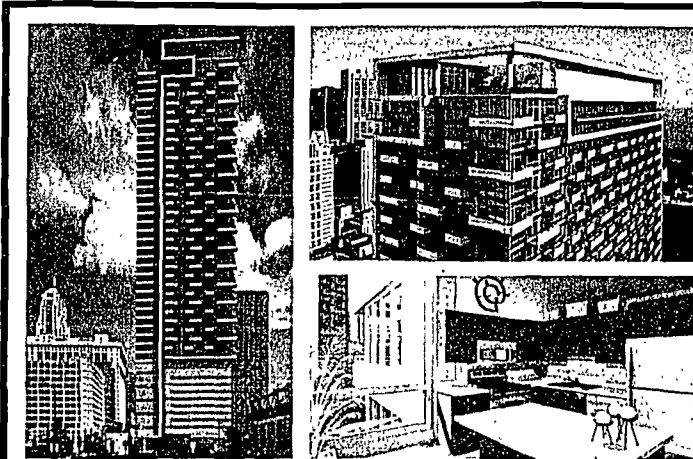
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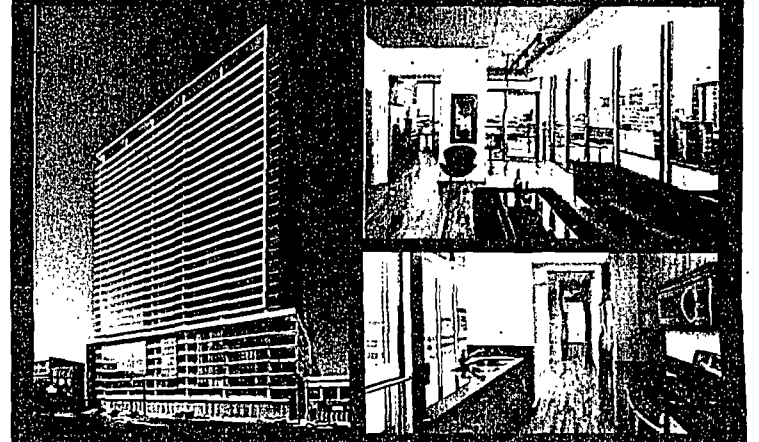
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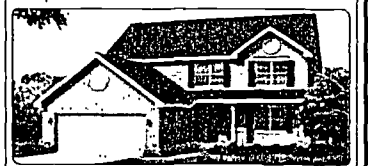
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All Lakewood communities are open daily 10-5. For information 24 hours a day: 1-800-477-8585. Visit our website for floorplans, complete information and free financial homebuying analysis. www.lakewoodhomes.com

Sales booming at Roosevelt Square

RELATED MIDWEST

Slow housing market in Chicago? Not at Roosevelt Square, where phase I is sold out and phase II sales are going strong. A unique property that combines urban living with an authentic Chicago neighborhood, singles, families and empty nesters are proud to call this their home. Welcome to Roosevelt Square.

This growing neighborhood located roughly between Taylor Street and Roosevelt Road just east of the University of Illinois at Chicago campus, has everything you would expect from a city neighborhood, including several gourmet grocery stores and coffee shops, banks and florists as well as some of Chicago's finest restaurants. In fact, the neighborhood sits just steps from Chicago's Little Italy and is a short cab ride from Greektown. Nearby, Fosco Park offers Chicago Park District programs for families and young children.

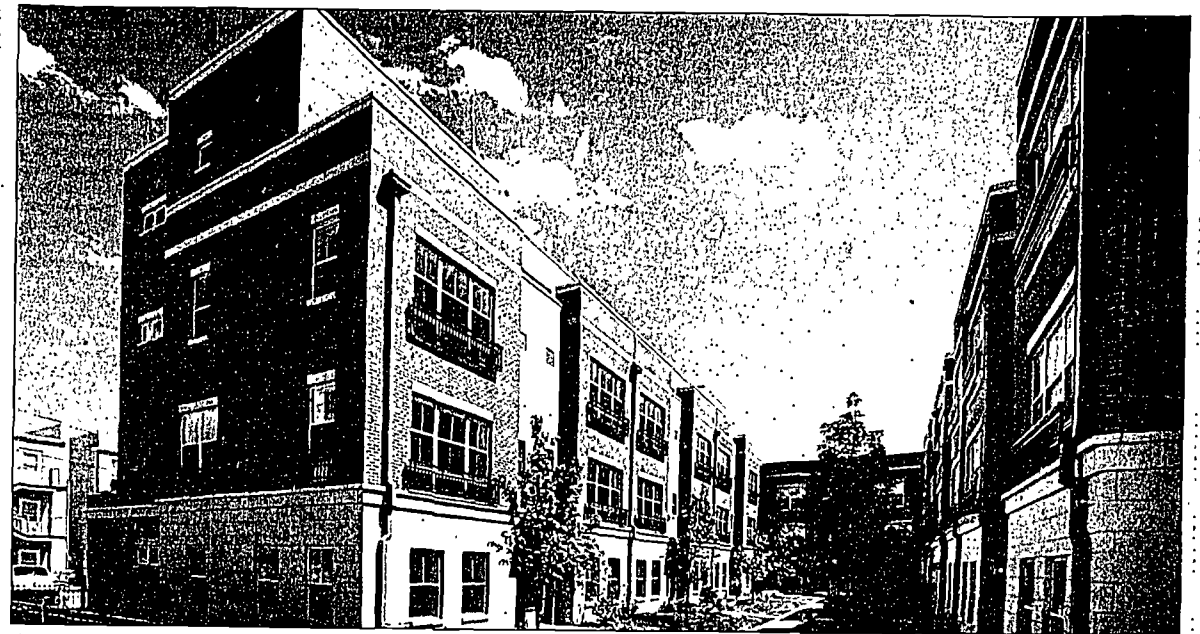
One reason this development is selling in today's market is obviously the location. Another, however, is the quality and reputation of the developer, Related Midwest, a progressive leader in the development of award-winning real estate properties in Chicago. A key to Related's success has come from their team's ability, and willingness, to understand the people in the surrounding community.

"Related has gone above and beyond its requirements to involve the community in the planning and development. This tapped the deep sense of pride people have for their neighborhood and its transformation," said Homer Lyons, vice president, West Side Transformation.

This type of collaboration has given Roosevelt Square authenticity, making it more than a development.

"We listened to community leaders, residents, and neighbors. As a result, they all have taken a certain ownership in Roosevelt Square's success, which has been an important factor in making Roosevelt Square what it is today," said Curt Bailey, president, Related Midwest.

Roosevelt Square is city living the way you imagined, convenient, affordable and ecologically smart. From the countless beautiful parks outside, to the



The solidly built brick and masonry homes designed in classic Chicago architectural style, mixed with store fronts and green spaces, make Roosevelt Square authentically Chicago.

energy efficient appliances and design elements inside, residents can put down their car keys and walk, bike or take public transportation. It's green city living at its finest.

More than 400 units quickly sold in phase I of Roosevelt Square, and sales of phase II are progressing well. Homes in phase II include apartments, condos, town homes and single-family homes all with private outdoor space such as private backyards, outdoor decks and garden courtyards.

"We are not just about giving someone a place to live, but we want to help them build a life in this community," said Bailey. "That's what Roosevelt

Square is all about."

Roosevelt Square: a breakdown of the housing options

- Town Homes: Four models range from 1800 to 2900 square feet. Each one features luxury finishes, garage parking, private balconies and rooftop decks.
- Condos: Six- and 12-story condos named after Chicago's historic parks will be located on Roosevelt Road, Grenshaw, Washburne and 13th Streets. Each two-bedroom condo includes a designated parking space.
- Flats within five-story elevator buildings: Two 45-unit condo buildings are

located on Roosevelt Road between Racine and Loomis. These homes feature a fitness center and heated indoor parking.

- Designated parking space for each home.
- Services, amenities and nearby attractions
 - Dominick's, Whole Foods, Jewel and Best Buy all nearby
 - Branches of a number of area banks, a Walgreen's, dry cleaners, florists, bakeries, a hardware store and all of the other services you expect from a city neighborhood are just minutes away
 - Fosco Park, a newly constructed Chi-

ago Park district facility offering a wide range of amenities and programming is within easy walking distance as is Arrigo Park and Sheridan Park, where families and young children can meet their new neighbors in a friendly setting

- Located just steps from Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood and a short cab ride from Greektown
- Starbuck's, Pompeii Bakery and Sweet Maple Cafe are all within walking distance
- Convenient commutes via public transportation to work, school or the vast shopping and cultural events of Chicago.

Cook County borrowers now protected against future home-loan fraud

With "Operation Malicious Mortgage" in full swing, predatory lenders are now focused in the crosshairs of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, government sources say.

The national investigation of mortgage-fraud schemes—the culmination of substantial coordinated efforts in recent months to identify, arrest and prosecute mortgage fraud violators throughout the United States—so far has led to charges being filed against more than 400 defendants.

The FBI estimates that about \$1 billion in losses were inflicted by the mortgage fraud schemes employed in these cases.

Locally, Illinois Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan is suing mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corp. for fraud. The civil lawsuit, filed in Cook County Circuit Court, alleges that Countrywide violated the state's consumer protection statutes by making unaffordable loans and failing to give adequate disclosures to borrowers.

So those greedy predatory lenders—the jackals that caused much of the subprime mortgage crisis in Cook County and across the nation—caused thousands of foreclosures and helped create the current real estate recession. Many may soon be doing time in jail.

With the real estate market left in ashes, experts say it may take years for some city neighborhoods and suburbs to recover. But what protection do borrowers have against a future wave of mortgage fraud?

Hopefully, a new Illinois law may help. Under the Predatory Lending Database Pilot Pro-



gram, borrowers applying for a mortgage on 1-to-4-unit owner-occupied residential property in Cook County will be assisted in understanding the terms and conditions of their loan.

"Every mortgage recorded on or after July 1, 2008 in Cook County must have either a Certificate of Mortgage Compliance or a Certificate of Mortgage Exemption attached to it," said attorney Arden K. Miner, senior manager underwriting/escrow for Attorney's Title Guaranty Fund, Inc.

"The mortgage will not be recordable without the certificate."

The purpose of the program is to reduce predatory lending practices by assisting the borrower in understanding the terms and conditions of the loan for which he or she has applied. The law, which does not apply to loans on property outside of Cook County, does not prohibit any type of loan, such as adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs).

Non-owner occupied property, commercial real estate, residential property containing more than four units and government property is exempt from the law.

As part of the program, mandatory housing counseling by a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) certified agency is required in a purchase transaction involving

first-time home buyers, or if the borrower is refinancing a primary residence.

Borrower counseling also is required if the mortgage permits interest-only payments, if the loan may result in negative amortization, or the total points and fees payable by the borrower or before the closing exceed 5 percent of the loan amount.

Counseling also is required if the loan is an ARM that allows adjustments of the interest rate in the first three years, or if the loan includes a prepayment penalty. If counseling is required, the borrower will be notified and given a list of all participating counseling agencies.

Mortgage closers and title companies will generate the certificate of compliance or exemption at closing and be required to enter the information into an online database maintained by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

At the closing, the \$200 fee for a Certificate of Mortgage Compliance, or the \$100 fee for a Certificate of Mortgage Exemption will be split equally between the title company and either the independent closer or the member closing firm and added to title insurance charges.

The Home Front, Don DeBat's weekly real estate column syndicated by DeBat Media Services, unravels the complexities of home buying, mortgage shopping, homeownership, renting, building, renovation and remodeling. For more home-buying information visit his Web site at: www.dondebat.net.

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Urban and suburban lofts attract trendy homebuyers

By Marcy Marro
SPECIAL TO PIONEER PRESS

In Paris during the 1800s, artists needed spaces with high ceilings to accommodate the large canvases that were popular during the period. In order to save money these starving artists also lived in their workspaces, and thus, loft-living was born. This trend continued in America well into the 20th century when urban manufacturing centers with abandoned warehouses became home to loft pioneers needing space to live and work.

Today, the high ceilings, open floor plans and the urban styling of exposed brick, duct-work and concrete ceilings of loft-style living can be found among both suburban and city developments.

Front Street Lofts

The Front Street Lofts in Lemont is a new-construction community of 82 residences by Marquette Companies. The community is a part of the Lemont Downtown Redevelopment, a \$250-million four-phase initiative that will offer residences, retail and restaurants along the suburb's historic I&M Canal. The initiative is through a public/private partnership between Marquette Companies and the Village of Lemont.

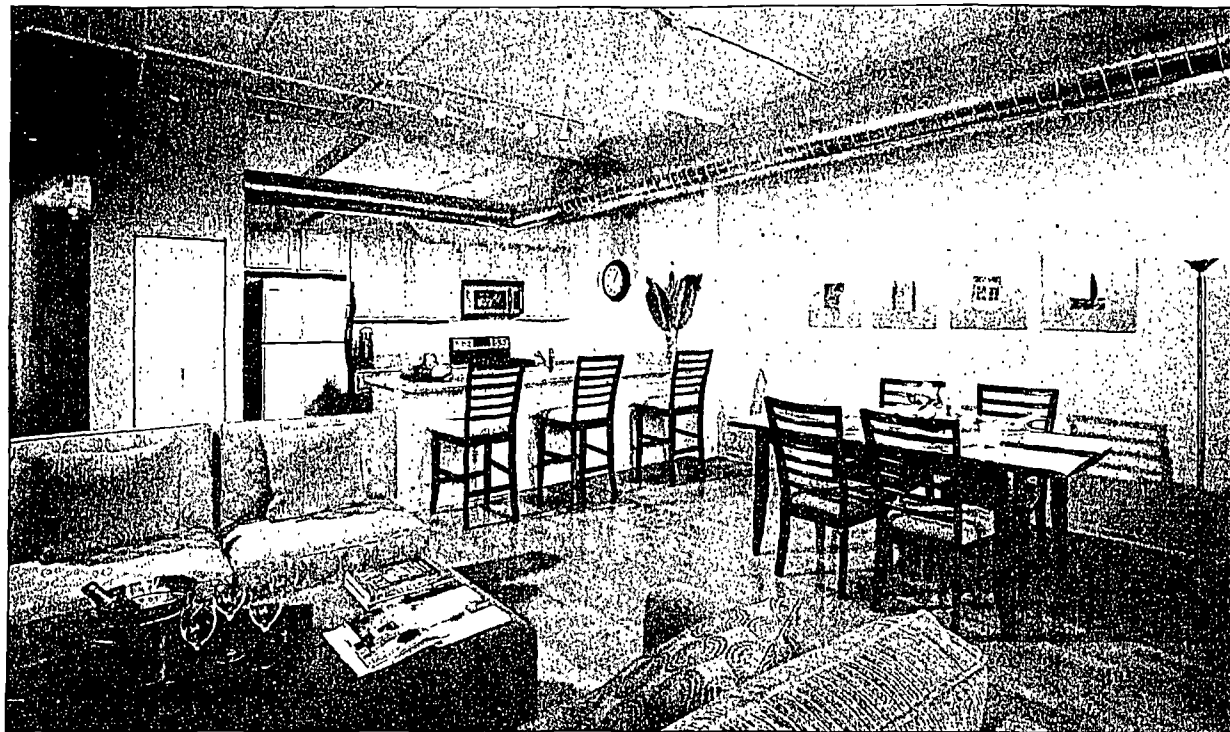
Located on the newly created Front Street along the I&M Canal in downtown Lemont, The Front Street Lofts consists of four five-story buildings, 24,000 square feet of retail space and a 262-car parking structure. Lofts measure 863 to 2,232 square feet and include studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom designs with one to two-and-a-half baths. Base prices range from the low \$200s to the upper \$400s, and include one parking space. First move-ins at The Front Street Lofts are scheduled for this summer.

Coinciding with the first move-ins will be the grand opening of The Front Street Lofts' 262-car parking structure, the first parking garage in downtown Lemont. And later this year, two of the retail spaces in The Front Street Lofts will open - Front Street Cantina restaurant and My English Garden Café.

For more information on The Front Street Lofts, call (630) 243-6162 or visit www.lemontlofts.com.

McKinley Park Lofts

Loft condominiums are not commonplace in the historic



To complement its urban design, each McKinley Park home is enhanced with a standard package of designer finishes, including granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and hardwood flooring.

McKinley Park neighborhood on Chicago's southwest side. However, McKinley Park Lofts, a 163-unit authentic loft conversion by The Habitat Company, is infusing the area with modernity. Located across the street from McKinley Park and ten minutes from the Loop, McKinley Park Lofts blends authentic loft design and upscale finishes with the charm of one of the city's most historic neighborhoods.

With prices starting in the \$180,000s, McKinley Park Lofts also offers buyers the opportunity to own a new home with designer finishes at an affordable price.

McKinley Park Lofts is located at 2323 W. Pershing Rd. The lofts measure 885 square feet to 1,540 square feet and feature one to three bedrooms, one to two baths, and one parking space in a controlled-access lot, per plan. Base prices range from the \$180,000s to the \$330,000s.

For more information on McKinley Park Lofts call (773) 523-2323 or visit www.mckinleyparklofts.com.

Lexington Park

There's a selection of one-bedroom loft units available for quick occupancy at Lexington Park, a seven-story loft building adjoined by a 35-story new-construction high-rise condominium development in the South Loop.

Initial occupancy in Lexington Park's 36-unit loft building is scheduled for the winter of 2008 and the 297-unit high-rise is scheduled for spring of 2009. Prices range from \$227,900 for the most affordable one-bedroom unit to \$727,900 for the top-of-the-line three-bedroom penthouse.

During the grand opening of Phase II at Lexington Park, the developer is offering a \$10,000 incentive toward price of home or upgrades. Additionally, loft purchasers may buy a parking space for \$17,450—a 50-percent discount for a very limited time. Lofts feature 728 to 1,212 square feet of space and range in price from \$250,900 to \$365,900.

Buyers interested in Tower residences may choose from a selection of one-bedroom, one-

bedroom-plus den or bonus room, and two-bedroom and two-bedroom-plus den layouts with one or two baths. Tower residences showcase 656 to 1,346 square feet and range in price from \$327,900 to \$417,900. Penthouses on floors 32 through 34 feature one-bedroom-plus den and one bath, two-bedroom-plus den and two baths and three bedrooms and two baths. Penthouse living area ranges from 1,068 to 1,645 square feet.

Lexington Park will be the first LEED-certified condominium building in the South Loop, and will showcase a sixth floor 15,000-square-foot green roof terrace featuring native plants, low-voc paints, day lighting and high-efficiency HVAC systems add to LEED certification.

The Lexington Park sales center and model located at 2138 S. Indiana Ave. Sales center hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, please call (312) 842-2202 or visit www.lexingtonparkcondos.com.



The Front Street Lofts is a cornerstone for the \$250 million redevelopment to bring new retail, residential and entertainment to its downtown along the historic I&M Canal.

Interest in urban homeownership fueled by higher gas prices

A recent study of Coldwell Banker sales associates indicates a rising interest in urban living due to the high cost of gasoline. While 96 percent of the 903 sales associates surveyed report that rising gas and oil prices are a concern to their clients, 78 percent report that higher fuel costs are increasing their desire to live in an urban setting.

According to the Coldwell Banker survey, the primary reasons for this interest in urban living are related to work commute and energy-efficient modes of transportation:

- 81 percent cite minimizing the work commute as a reason for the interest in urban living.
- 54 percent agree that access to public

transportation is appealing.

- 75 percent agree that the ability to walk to more places is a positive.
- "Over the last several years, interest in downtown living in Chicago and Milwaukee has boomed," said Fran Broude, president and COO, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "This trend is apparent all over the United

States as more than half of the surveyed sales associates nationally have seen an increased interest in urban living compared to five years ago."

Coldwell Banker sales associates also reported they have seen an 84 percent spike in interest for properties with a home office, as compared to five years ago, indicating a trend towards telecommuting.

While the study found that 64 percent of surveyed sales associates report their clients increasingly look for homes with green amenities that could save on heating, cooling and electricity costs, only 42 percent surveyed believe saving on energy costs are a reason for their client's interest in urban living.

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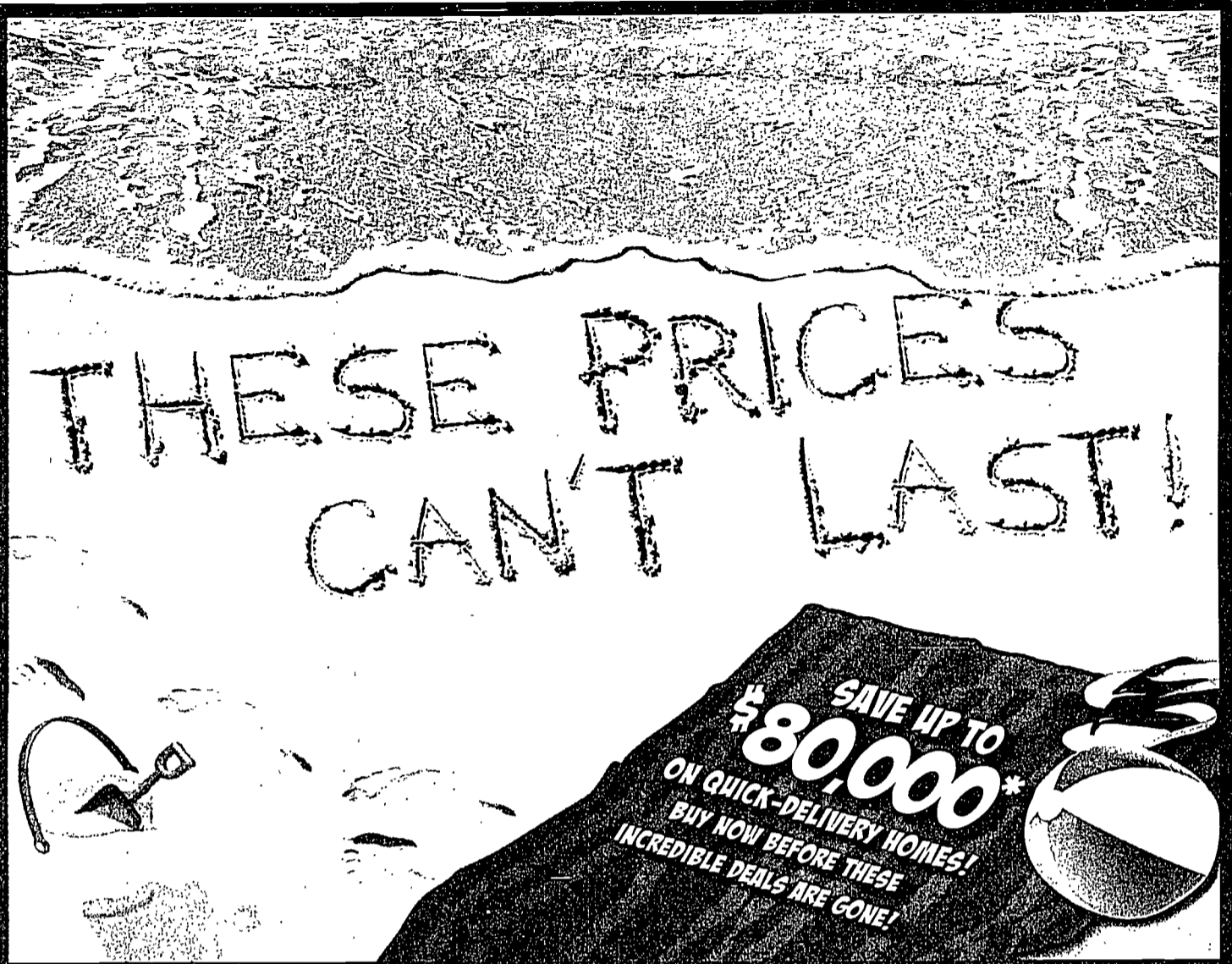
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 Valo, IL (847) 984-4934
The Vista: 4 BR plus den, 2.5 baths, & 2nd-floor family-room. Brkfst.-kitch. w/center island, 42" maple cabinets, stainless steel appls., AC. MBR w/2 huge WIC's & luxury master bath, bsm., 2-car garage.
 951 RICHARD BROWN BLVD.
 .WAS \$315,190
 NOW \$278,190

CAMBRIDGE BLUFFS LUXURY TOWNHOMES
 South Elgin, IL (847) 984-4880
The Oregon: 3 BR, 2.5 baths. Dramatic 2-story foyer. 1st-floor master; luxury master bath with separate shower; extended balcony. Large kitchen with pantry and breakfast area. Walk-out basement with extended patio.
 281 HICKORY LANE
 .WAS \$379,070
 NOW \$265,000

SYMPHONY MEADOWS
 Valo, IL (847) 984-4936
The Wilmington: 2 BR, 2.5 baths. Spacious townhome, filled with extras. 6-panel pine doors and trim; wood floors in kitchen, foyer & powder room; upgraded carpet and pad; upgraded cabinetry; low-e glass windows.
 520 RICHARD J. BROWN BLVD.
 .WAS \$198,840
 NOW \$177,000

CAMBRIDGE LAKES
 Pingree Grove, IL (847) 984-4874
The Hummingbird: 2 BR, 2 baths. Private end unit, beautifully appointed with SS appliances, 42" maple cabinets, gorgeous fixtures and more.
 2215 AURORA DRIVE, UNIT 8
 .WAS \$178,490
 NOW \$158,490
 1-Year FREE Association Dues!

CAMBRIDGE KNOLL ESTATE HOMES
 Libertyville, IL (847) 984-4671
The Paragon: Stunning 4-bedroom home with 3.5 baths, gourmet kitchen with granite and stainless steel commercial appl., dining room w/bunnet pantry, hardwood floors and custom oak staircase.
 629 AMES STREET
 .WAS \$1,086,050
 NOW \$909,000

HEATHERSTONE
 Beach Park, IL (847) 984-4671
The Tuscan: 4 bedrooms plus loft, 2.5 baths. Master suite with cathedral ceiling and luxury bath, full deep-pou basement, sunroom, fireplace.
 39430 N. CASTLEFORD LANE
 .WAS \$379,140
 NOW \$324,140

CAMBRIDGE AT HOLIDAY PARK
 Fox Lake, IL (847) 984-4936
The Santa Fe: 2 BR plus loft, 2.5 baths. End unit with inviting front porch. Master suite with luxury bath, walk-in closet, volume ceiling. Convenient 2nd-floor laundry, 2-car garage.
 601 CRYSTAL SPRINGS COURT
 .WAS \$191,180
 NOW \$149,000

SYMPHONY MEADOWS
 Valo, IL (847) 984-4936
The Belle: Two-story home with 3 BR, 2.5 baths. Colonial trim and 6-panel doors, up-graded carpet and cabinets, ceramic tile flooring in full baths. Beautiful landscaping & 2-car garage.
 494 RICHARD BROWN BLVD.
 .WAS \$219,270
 NOW \$197,999

CARILLON AT CAMBRIDGE LAKES
 Pingree Grove, IL (847) 984-4872
The Greenbriar: Ranch home with 2 master suites, bath with private baths. Den, basement, dining room with bay window.
 948 SCOTTSDALE DRIVE
 .WAS \$350,580
 NOW \$310,580

HEATHERSTONE
 Beach Park, IL (847) 984-4671
The Vista: 4 BR plus loft and den, 2.5 baths. Upgraded exterior with partial brick. Island kitchen with pantry and breakfast area. Master suite with luxury bath; full basement.
 39924 N. ACKWORTH LANE
 .WAS \$305,840
 NOW \$263,840

CAMBRIDGE LAKES
 Pingree Grove, IL (847) 984-4883
The Dartmouth: 3 BR, 2 baths. Spectacular ranch with brick exterior and covered porch. Full basement, luxury master bath with separate seated shower, wet bar, ceramic tile floors. Large open kitchen and family room.
 1168 SHORELINE DRIVE
 .WAS \$396,750
 NOW \$311,750

VILLAS OF CAMBRIDGE LUXURY TOWNHOMES
 Streamwood, IL (847) 984-4880
The Monet: 4 BR, 3.5 baths. Gourmet kitchen with Corian®, SS appliances, 42" maple cabinets. Fireplace, oversized deck, 2-car garage, gorgeous wooded location.
 908 TUSCANY DRIVE
 .WAS \$368,500
 NOW \$293,500

WATER'S EDGE
 Grayslake, IL (847) 984-4936
The Carolina: 2 BR, 3.5 baths, 3-story townhome with glamorous master suite and deluxe bath; walk-out lower level. Boat slips available.
 1838 WATERCOLOR PLACE
 .WAS \$378,080
 NOW \$284,000

CAMBRIDGE LAKES
 Pingree Grove, IL (847) 984-4883
The Dahon: 4 BR, 2.5 baths. Beautiful family home on large corner site. Gorgeous master suite w/luxury bath; beautiful kitchen w/granite & SS. Hardwood floors, fireplace.
 1919 LAKE BLUFF LANE
 .WAS \$405,670
 NOW \$340,670

CAMBRIDGE LAKES
 Pingree Grove, IL (847) 984-4883
The Paramount: 4 BR plus loft & 1st-floor den, 2.5 baths. Over 3,000 sq. ft.! Full walk-out basement & 3-car garage. Extras include oak rails, bay windows, stone fireplace, luxury master bath, 9' 1st-floor ceilings.
 677 CANTERBURY LANE
 .WAS \$399,945
 NOW \$339,945

CAMBRIDGE LAKES TOWNHOMES
 Pingree Grove, IL (847) 984-4882
The Dufferfield: 2 BR plus loft, 2.5 baths. Huge country kitchen, luxury master bath, wood flooring on 1st floor.
 623 YORKSHIRE LANE
 .WAS \$218,170
 NOW \$198,170

CAMBRIDGE LAKES ATTACHED SINGLE-FAMILY
 Pingree Grove, IL (847) 984-4875
The Belle: 2-story home w/3 BR, 2.5 baths. Charming exterior w/front porch, open living area, eat-in kitchen, master suite w/walk-in closet, 2-car garage.
 1101 SPINNAKER STREET
 .WAS \$229,910
 NOW \$179,910



Open daily 10-6, Fri. 12-6.

For more information about all Cambridge communities, call: (847) 984-4479 or visit our website.

BROKERS RECEIVE UP TO 6% COMMISSION FOR JULY SALES! SEE SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR DETAILS.

Available settings and options may vary by community. Must finance through DRI Mortgage. Offer valid on contracts signed from July 1, 2008 through July 31, 2008. Not valid on prior purchases. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Prices subject to change without notice. See sales person for details.

www.MyCambridgeHome.com



Sold by Pioneer Classified

24" Long Human Hair Show Girl Wig, Crab Meat Sticks, Coyote Fur Coat, 32 Variety of Large Healthy Trees, Pianos, Alaskan Bear Hide, Cheesecakes, Baklava, Video Telegrams, Beehive Urns, Louis XVI Armchairs, Muskrat Stroller Coat w/racoon collar, 4 ft Ceramic Tiger, Seaburg 1950s Jukebox, Barn Lumber, White Barber Pedestal Sink, Player Pianos, Buckskin Quarterhorse, Elvis Presley Decanters, 1961 Studebaker, Oriental telephone chest, 1500 lbs Candle Wax, 114 lbs King Richard Sterling Flatware, Log Splitters, 2-one-way tickets to Las Vegas, French Candelabra, Bombay Chest, Steamer Trunk, 60s Life Magazine, 1926 Dodge, 1935 Louis XV Steinway Grand Piano, English Jumping Saddle, Peruvian Guinea Pigs, Lucky Bingo Necklace, Russian Brass Samovar, Butterfly Collection, Long White Mink Scarf, French Legion of Honor Medal, BFKitching 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, Chagall Lithograph, Polar Bear Skin, Spiral Stairs.

We Deliver Results! 847-998-3400



Foreclosure Sales • Real Estate

695- Judicial Sales
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Marketplace

- 700s
Horses.....705
Antiques and Art Goods.....705
Apparel, Furs, Jewelry.....711
Appliances.....712
Appraisers, Auctioneers.....725
Baby Needs.....718
Bargain Basement Items.....719
Books, Magazines, etc.....720
Bridal Needs.....721
Building Supplies.....723
Cameras, Videos.....725
Coins and Stamps.....728
Collectibles.....728
Commercial, Industrial Equipment.....731
Computers, Equipment.....732
Crafts and Craftsman.....733
Conducted House Sales.....734
Garage, Yard, Apt Sales.....735
Flora Markets.....736
Furniture.....737
General Goods.....745
Lawn/Garden Equipment.....748
Medical Equipment.....750
Miscellaneous.....755
Musical Instruments.....756
Office, Store Equipment.....758
Outdoor Furniture.....759
Paints, Stains, etc.....760
Medical Equipment.....750
Miscellaneous.....755
Musical Instruments.....756
Office, Store Equipment.....758
Outdoor Furniture.....759
Paints, Stains, etc.....760

705-Pets
German Short Haired Pointer
Pure breed Pub puppies
Fawn & wks old. 1st shots, paper trained. \$450. 847-903-2629

708- Antiques & Art Items
Anniversary Sale
15% off reg. priced merch.
Antique Emporium
100% dealer participation
FRI. & SAT. 10:30-3:30. 12-5 HERITAGE TRAIL MALL 401 Ridge Road, Wilmette 847-256-6208

718-Baby Needs
BABY ROOM
Natural Oak crib, dresser, changing station, rocker, floor lamp, mattress, w/ Pool bedding, mobile, w/g, table lamp, rug, night-light & much more for \$600.
www.baselenz@scblab.net

726- Cemetery Lots & Crypts
MEMORIAL PARK 2 spec. brick sec. w/stone 2nd spec. \$600/lot. Joanne 847-425-3713

734- House Sales, Conducted
AMISCELLANEA ESTATE SALE
Sat/Sun 7/19 & 7/20 10 AM - 5 PM #5 @ 9AM 2525 W. 21st Place, Chicago 3 Loaded Floors of Collectibles, Books and More. Come Ready To Dip!!!! Info line and pix @ Miscellaneaestatesales.com

734- House Sales, Conducted
TREASURE HUNT
Sun 7/13 10:40-12:30 #3 @ 9:30 448 Greenleaf Lincolnwood From Edens Dr. to Taylor St. to Lincoln, R. on Lincoln to Kosher on R. to Lake to Greenleaf. Lots of items, furniture, antiques, paintings & more!

734- House Sales, Conducted
NATIONAL CITY BANK SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST VIA MERGERS TO MID AMERICA BANK A UNITED STATES CORPORATION
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734- House Sales, Conducted
TREASURE HUNT
Sun 7/13 10:40-12:30 #3 @ 9:30 448 Greenleaf Lincolnwood From Edens Dr. to Taylor St. to Lincoln, R. on Lincoln to Kosher on R. to Lake to Greenleaf. Lots of items, furniture, antiques, paintings & more!

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
LINCOLNWOOD 3930 West Elch. Loads of merchandise, furniture, books, records, toys, lamps, etc. Sun 7/13 10:30-1:30. 12-5 HERITAGE TRAIL MALL 401 Ridge Road, Wilmette 847-256-6208

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
MORTON GROVE 7720 W. Beckwith & 9322 Ozark. Toys, furn. cllts, collectibles, Top 100 records, etc. Sun 7/13 10:30-1:30. 12-5 HERITAGE TRAIL MALL 401 Ridge Road, Wilmette 847-256-6208

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
A JUNE MOON Park Ridge Estate Sale
1957 Ford Mustang, 1957 Lincoln Continental, 1957 Chevrolet, 1957 Oldsmobile, 1957 Buick Wildcat, 1957 Cadillac, 1957 Chevrolet, 1957 Oldsmobile, 1957 Buick Wildcat, 1957 Cadillac

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
Chicago 4575 N. Melville 7/18-7/20 9am-4pm. Large Italian chandelier, new fire for Durango, 2 steel entry doors +screen door, misc. cllts, hshld items, something for everyone!

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
Chicago 5513 N. Canfield Sat & Sun 7/19 & 7/20 9am-4pm. ESTATE SALE! Furn & hshld

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
Edison Park Garage Sale, 700 W. Thaddeus, 7/18-19/4 toys, bikes much misc!!!

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
EVANSTON Lakefront Sale 633 & 637 Sheridan Ave, 7/18-7/20 9am-4pm. 100% dealer participation. Furniture, electronics, boat, camera, off gsp, misc, 1980 MGB, Windsor/Ford, Floor Loom

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
EVANSTON Sat, 7/19, Sun, 7/20, 10am-12pm Sherman (in back alley) lots of stuff

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
PARK RIDGE 2120 Hobartton, July 19 & 20, 9-3pm. 100% of items all now. Hshld, baby, computer, desk, scrapbook, pond pumps

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
PARK RIDGE 718 & 719 9-4pm. Park Ridge Plaza Multi-Family Home. Sun 7/13 10:30-1:30. 12-5 HERITAGE TRAIL MALL 401 Ridge Road, Wilmette 847-256-6208

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
GLENVIEW/TALL TREES 14th ANNUAL SALE
1523 ALDER PLACE FRI. - SAT. 9:00-3:00. OFF LAKEVIEW RD. Antiques/collectibles Household... 1000 Items! Sun 7/13 10:30-1:30. 12-5 HERITAGE TRAIL MALL 401 Ridge Road, Wilmette 847-256-6208

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
SKOKIE 7420 Kenneth, 9am-5pm Sat 7/19 12 - 5 Sun 7/20 10-3-3pm. Two blocks south of Howard St. on Taylor St. to Kenilworth Ave. to the church. Lots of items, furniture, antiques, paintings & more!

735- Garage, Yard House Sales
LINCOLNWOOD 3930 West Elch. Loads of merchandise, furniture, books, records, toys, lamps, etc. Sun 7/13 10:30-1:30. 12-5 HERITAGE TRAIL MALL 401 Ridge Road, Wilmette 847-256-6208

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735- Garage, Yard House Sales
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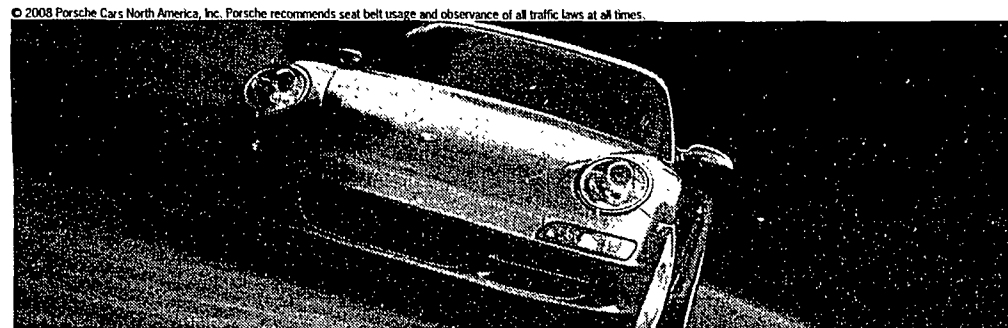
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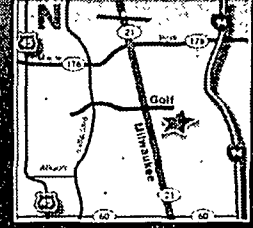
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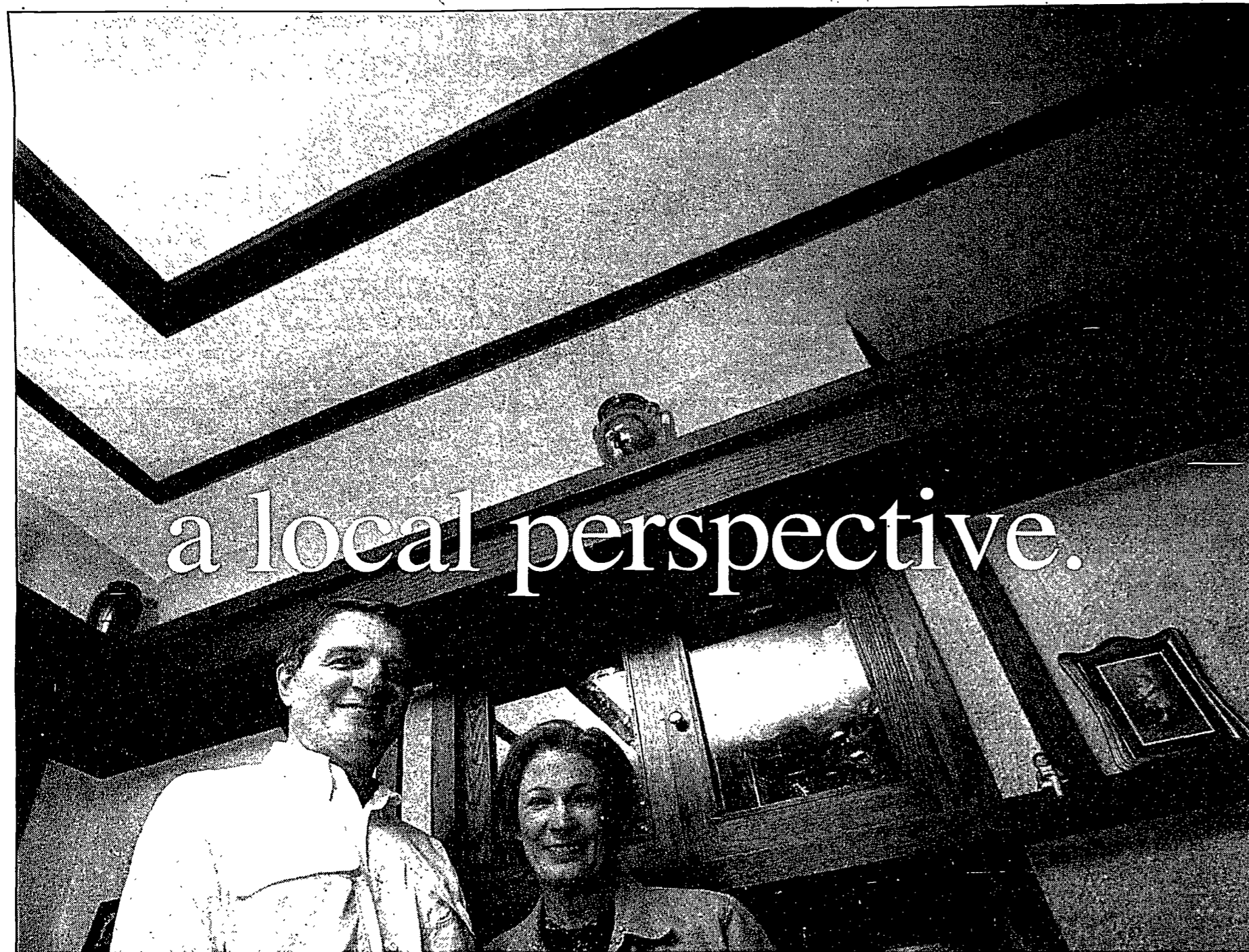
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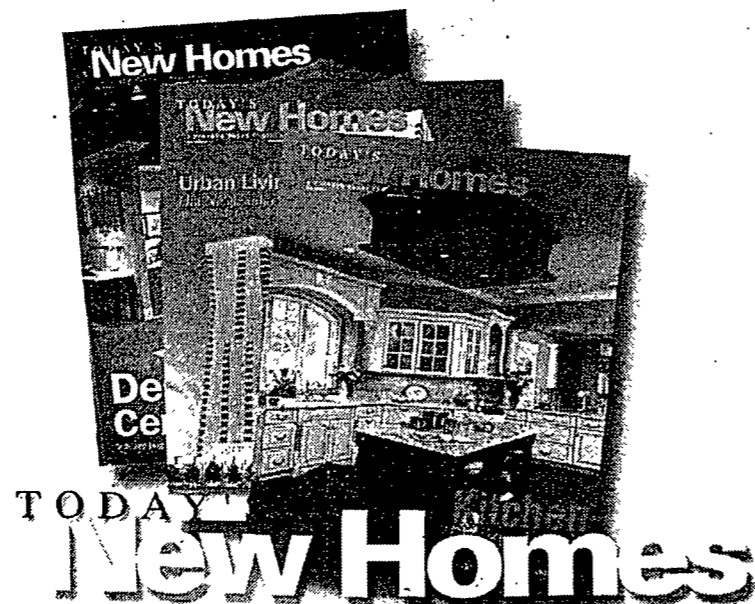
Evanston Griffin House. Photo by Pioneer Press photographer Jason Han.

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Scout councils' merger to broaden opportunities

By RUTH SOLOMON
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Such camping excursions and the famous cookie sales are the main images evoked when most of us think about Girl Scouting.

But what else does it offer today's girls?

That's the question the 95-year-old Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. — the only scouting-type organization that is still limited to girls — is trying to answer as it nears the end of a multi-year effort to revamp the organization nationwide. As part of that effort, the number of regional "councils" nationwide is being reduced, from more than 300 to 109.

On July 1, seven Chicago area "councils" officially became one Chicago-based council that will serve nearly 100,000 girls and 25,000 adult volunteers in four northwest Indiana counties and 10 northern Illinois counties.

Business model

The consolidation mirrors in many ways mergers that have been ongoing for years in the for-profit world, said Sandra Royer, transition vice president of brand and communications for the newly formed Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

"We have always been a business, but I am not sure it's been recognized that way," said Royer.

For the general public, the burning question is what the merger will mean for cookie sales.

For one thing, by 2010



Samantha Kestler, 12, grabs her Blizzard as fellow scouts, Natalie Carloti, 10, (left) and Mandy Elbert, 12, wait for their ice cream. The Girl Scouts enjoyed a game of Bingo and had Blizzards and ice cream July 9 at the Dairy Queen on Elmhurst Road in Des Plaines. The event was part of Girl Scouts Appreciation Week.

the Chicago area council will have to choose between the two bakeries that currently supply it cookies. Girl Scout representatives promise that, no matter what, they will still sell their popular mint and peanut butter sandwich cookies.

Other effects of the consolidation are less certain.

"We still have not gotten a lot of information," Margaret Teich, a Girl Scout adult volunteer from Park Ridge, where 1,000 girls are in scouting, said last month.

Teich said she has seen four consolidations during her 27 years with the Girl Scouts. She predicts this latest one will have little effect on troop activities, but it could give girls more access to facilities throughout the region, including more camps.

A week before the consolidation, Royer acknowledged operational details are "still being worked out now."

Previous set-up

Before July 1, the Chicago area had seven

area "councils" that were independent affiliates of the national Girl Scout organization based in New York. Each council controlled the training of parent volunteer leaders, ran its own camps, and operated its own programs.

The largest of the Chicago-area councils, the Vernon Hills-based Illinois Crossroads Council, had stretched from Oak Park to the Wisconsin border and from Lake Michigan to Hoffman Estates.

Wende Wilson, chief executive officer of Crossroads, opted to step down after the consolidation. "I decided my mission was to move on," Wilson said. The Crossroads location will become a regional office for the new greater Chicago area council, Wilson said.

Rosita Rice, who had been chief operating officer of Crossroads, is the new regional vice president for the Vernon Hills satellite office.

Wilson said she expected the consolidation

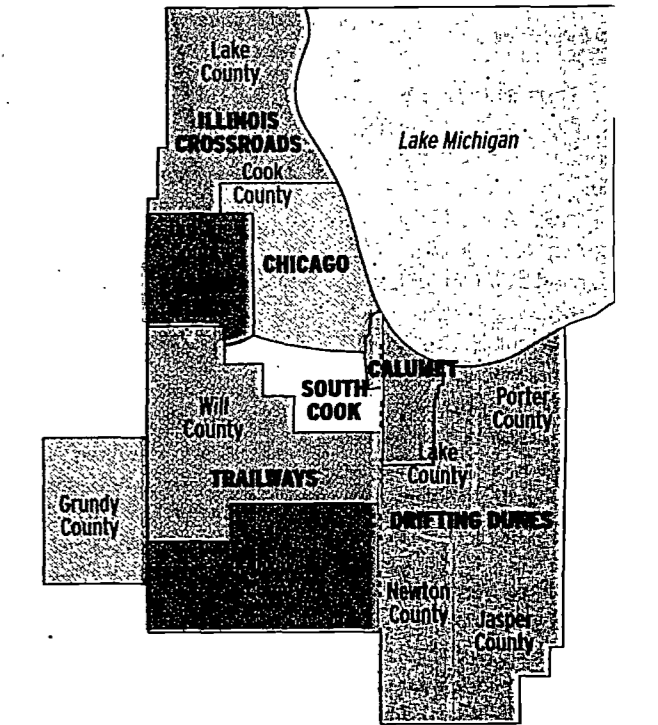
will offer girls a greater variety of programs.

"As soon as we merge, girls will be able to choose among all the other programs (in other councils now merged).

Scouts, PAGE 54

Girl Scouts consolidate

A July 1 consolidation merges seven Chicago area girl scout councils into one new entity — "Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana." The merger affects 100,000 girls and 25,000 adult volunteers.



Source: Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Pioneer Press/LRK

Goal: New Scout image

By RUTH SOLOMON
rsolomon@pioneerlocal.com

The impetus for the July 1 consolidation of Chicago-area Girl Scout councils goes back to 2004. That year, the New York-based Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.'s newly hired chief executive officer, Kathy Cloninger, hired business consultant McKinsey to examine the organization.

The report found that Girl Scouts were facing a "stagnating membership base of girls and adult volunteers," "substantial inconsistencies in programming," and an "outdated volunteer and philanthropic model that pitted councils against one

another and barely tapped the organization's vast alumni network," according to a summary of the 2004 McKinsey study in The Nonprofit Quarterly.

The summary also said people identify Girl Scouting with cookies and camping, not the impact the organization had on girls and their communities.

A subsequent survey of local Girl Scout organizations revealed all wanted change. So the executives decided to look into what girls of today want, and make the organizations' offerings more consistent from council to council. The survey found some coun-

cils had multimillion-dollar budgets while others were operating on less than \$500,000.

Among the changes will be a volunteer process that's restructured to let more busy parents volunteer, a new leadership program, and ways to measure the outcome or success of any given Girl Scout program.

Plans are to look at 50 million Girl Scout alumni and to create a new branding strategy. Introducing "Groovy Girls," a new line of dolls, is another way the Girl Scouts of U.S.A. plans to market itself, according to The Nonprofit Quarterly's summary.

PEEK AT THE WEEK

DEADLINES

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 10 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Nicole Wagner, Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 130 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge IL 60068. Information may be faxed to (847) 696-3229 or e-mailed to nwagner@pioneerlocal.com.

BENEFITS

From noon to 5 p.m. July 26, supporters, families, and friends will join at Arlington Park Race Track for WINGS' Annual Day at the Races. The day of live racing will commemorate the life of Cindy Bischof and provide support to WINGS to assist women and children fleeing domestic violence. Michael Bischof, co-president of the foundation, will kick-off the event with an opening address about legislation that will make a huge impact in the race to end domestic violence. Live-racing, a lavish buffet, open bar, silent auction and raffle complete the day. Tickets can be purchased online at www.wingsprogram.com or by contacting WINGS administrative offices at (847) 908-0910, Ext. 221.

The Jessica Shayne Magid Chai Chapter of the Leukemia Research Foundation will host a golf benefit from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 18 at Traditions at Chevy Chase Golf Course, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling. This tournament consists of two-person teams emphasizing a family or close connections of father/daughter, mother/son, grandfather/grandson, siblings, best friends, or any other family combination. This tournament encourages family fun while helping in the fight against leukemia. The golf outing was established in honor of Jessica Shayne Magid, of Niles, who lost her fight with leukemia in 1985 at the age of 13. The cost is \$164 per individual golfer. Play-

ers 19 and younger pay \$134. Call Marty Kander; (847) 470-1190, ext. 175.

Resurrection High School will host a benefit from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. July 19 at the school. The event, "Take Flight: A Tribute to Our Friend Tony Mazzulla," is in memory of the Resurrection social-studies teacher who died in May. Pre-sale tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 10; tickets at the door are \$25 for adults; \$5, children ages 5 to 10; and free, children younger than 5. The evening will feature food, music, auction items and raffle prizes. All proceeds benefit the Anthony Mazzulla Scholarship Fund. For tickets or information regarding volunteering at the event call (773) 775-6616, ext. 142, or e-mail amartorano@reshs.org. Donations to the scholarship fund may be sent to The Anthony Mazzulla Scholarship Fund, Resurrection High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago IL 60631.

CENTER OF CONCERN

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453. Calendar of events includes:

Mondays through July 28 — Nutrition support group, 10 a.m.

Wednesdays through July 30 — Employment counseling, by appointment.

Wednesday, July 30 — Grief and loss support group (call first).

Saturday, July 19 — Legal counseling, by appointment.

July 26 — Blood-pressure and blood-sugar testing, 10 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed).

COMMUNITY

Presented by Maine Township's MaineStay Youth and Family Services and the Cook County Sheriff's Youth Services Department, a "Safety Town"

event for youth ages 5 to 8 will be in the parking lot at 8800 W. Ballard Road, Des Plaines (a half-block east of Town Hall), at 1 p.m. July 18. The event is free. Participants will learn about bicycle and pedestrian safety. Children will enter a pretend "town" of child-size buildings and pedal cars. Instructors will teach participants basic traffic safety, dangers of oncoming traffic and road signs. Other topics include: street crossing, obeying traffic signs and signals and wearing bicycle helmets. To register call Michelle Biondo, (847) 297-2510, Ext. 271, or for more information go to www.mainetownship.com.

Cook County Animal and Rabies Control will host a rabies-vaccine and microchip clinic in the 17th District, in Des Plaines, on July 23 at the Oak Leaf Commons Jewel, 1500 Lee St., and July 29 at the Oasis Mobile Home Park, 7500 Elmhurst Road. The hours will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rabies vaccine is \$7 for one year or \$21 for three years. The microchip is \$10. Services are available to all dogs, cats and ferrets three months or older who are owned by Cook County residents with a valid ID. Cash or check only, no credit or debit cards. For more information call Cook County Commissioner Elizabeth Gorman's office, (847) 871-1717.

The Polish National Alliance will host the second Annual Classic and Antique Car Show on the grounds of the Home Office Building, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, from 1 to 5 p.m. July 20. The car show is open to the public. It will feature hot cars, food, music, and fun. Trophies will be awarded to the best cars. Those wishing to participate showing off their classic cars, which must be 1983 and older models, must register with the PNA. To receive a registration form, contact the Polish National Alliance 1-800-

621-3723, during regular office hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Registration fee before July 10 is \$5; on-site registration the day of the event will be \$20, cash only. A registration form could also be copied from the Polish National Alliance Web site: www.pna-znp.org in the events section or on the main page. Questions about the car show should be directed to Dave at (847) 970-1040.

FITNESS CENTER

Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8400, www.nilesfitness.com. There is still time to register 6 to 11 year olds in the Niles Family Fitness Center's Summer Camp Program. Activities include sports, outdoor games, swimming, crafts, field trips and more. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, for sessions: July 21 to 25, July 28 to Aug. 1, Aug. 4 to 8 and Aug. 11 to 15. Full-time one week camp fees are: \$128 for members, \$166, non-members; part-time, three-day week: \$86, members and \$111, nonmembers. Extended camp hours are 8 to 9 a.m. for \$5 per day or 3 to 5 p.m., \$10 per day.

FUND-RAISERS

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society will host its 10th annual Light the Night kickoff and walk. The free kickoff event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 22 at Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview. Lots of light appetizers will be provided, along with information on how The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society supports those diagnosed with blood cancers. Those who cannot attend the kickoff event, but would like to walk with The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, should register at www.lightthenight.org. For more information, call Kim Rogers at (312) 568-7752 or

e-mail her at kim.rogers@lls.org.

The Annual Knights of Columbus Council 4338 will host its Steak-Fry Aug. 23. This year's dinner, complete with salad, baked potato and corn-amber fluid or wine and dessert will cost \$20 per person, widows and widowers discounted to \$16. The dinner will be held at St. John Brebeuf Parish Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem Ave., Niles. Doors open for social hour at 6 p.m., with dinner scheduled for 7 p.m. This year the special entertainment will be provided by the talented Jodi Meehan and her great magical voice beginning at 8 p.m. Food must be ordered in advance and reservations must be received by Aug. 18. For more information contact Bob Galassi at (847) 965-0920. All proceeds will be donated to area charities.

Maine Township Regular Republican Organization will hold its annual miniature-golf fund-raiser from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. July 24 at Mountain View Mine course, located at Prairie Lakes Park, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$25 per couple; \$5 for anyone younger than 18; children younger than 6 are free. Tickets include unlimited golf and a picnic dinner. Event and hole sponsorships are available, as well as an ad book. Proceeds will be used to fund the get-out-the-vote efforts for the fall campaign by the organization. For tickets or information contact Committeeman Mark Thompson, (847) 824-8350.

HEALTH

Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, will offer the following health programs:

For those having a hard time losing weight or who are inexplicably losing weight rapidly, a thyroid screening will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. July 28. There is a \$10 fee for lab test. Test results will be

mailed. Advance registration is required by calling 1-877-737-4636.

Allergist Dr. Mark Miller will discuss various types of allergies such as bee stings, food allergies and asthma on July 31 from 7 to 8 p.m. A question and answer session will follow this free lecture. Advance registration is required by calling 1-877-737-4636.

LIBRARY

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., (847) 663-1234, www.nileslibrary.org.

Niles Public Library will relive the era of the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival with its Rock Documentary Series featuring music films from the 1970s, complete with insight from Pat Wilsey, educator, musician and rock 'n' roll fanatic for more than 40 years. Head to the Niles Public Library for one of these shows. At 2 p.m. **Aug. 9:** "The Filth and the Fury: A Sex Pistols Film," winner of Chicago Film Critics Association 2001 Best Documentary, charting the rise and fall of the band that changed rock music. Registration is required. This series is "A Night at the Oscars early Registration Punch Card" qualifier and part of the free seat-cushion giveaway.

The Go Club for ages 6 to 12 usually meets the first and third Saturdays of each month on a drop-in basis.

Read a great book aloud, enter its writer's imagination and talk about it with others. Join the Niles Public Library for a Flash Fiction Break, where you may come to listen or bring a story to read. Flash/Sudden Fiction Break will be at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 5 and 1 p.m. Aug. 9. Reading is limited to 15 minutes per story. Refreshments will be provided. Registration is required.

"Benjamin Franklin, in Search of a Better World,"

Peek, PAGE 54

Food HUNGRY FOR MORE?

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JOE SHUMAN/FOR PIONEER PRESS

Ermanno Amidei arranges his fresh red leaf lettuce in his Lake Forest mercatino.

BY SARA BURROWS
sburrows@pioneerlocal.com

Summertime, and getting fresh lettuce is easy. Just ask Ermanno Amidei, owner of Amidei Mercatino, 235 Southgate in downtown Lake Forest. He likes to buy his lettuce and other produce as locally as possible. Early in the season it comes from Georgia, but "as time goes by, we get it from closer and closer," he said.

His 20-year-old open-air market is tucked in a cobblestone alleyway off the town's Market Square. With opera playing in the background, flower baskets piled along one entry, pots of herbs wandering out the other, it's got a friendly old world charm. Amidei, a native of Fiorenza — Florence, in English — plays gracious host to a stream of customers, many of them clearly regulars.

By mid-June this year, he was selling green leaf lettuce from Illinois. No matter where it comes from, to ensure the best flavor and texture, he said, "You should use these let-

tuces as soon as you can." And because it's summer in California a lot longer than it is here, Patrick Corrigan, produce manager at The Fresh Market, 3232 Lake Ave., Wilmette, has a whole range of lettuces just in from the west coast.



Dress salad greens in something light, like a simple vinaigrette, so you can enjoy the taste of the individual leaves.

Iceberg at the tip

"Iceberg is still the number one lettuce in America," he said, adding that you'll rarely find it locally grown because it requires special, sandy soil and lots of sun.

These days, however, there's plenty of lettuce choice.

Arugula, endive, romaine, spinach, red and green oak, perilla, mache or lamb's ear, frisse, mizuna, radicchio and many others add pizzazz and a whole lot of health benefits to your diet. Vitamins A and C, folic acid, calcium and fiber are just a few of the nutrients you'll get from greens.

The greener the leaves are, the more healthful they are.

They also provide a whole new spectrum of taste.

"Each kind of lettuce has its own flavor," said Corrigan. So it's best to keep your salad dressing simple, he adds. "Something light, like a basic vinaigrette, or sometimes a sweeter one, with balsamic (vinegar) to enhance the flavors."

Arugula, for instance has a spicy piquancy, while curly endive adds a pleasant bitterness, and romaine, the oak leaf-shaped lettuce and fluffy red and green leaf lettuces add delicate, almost sweet notes to a salad.

Healthy Sun-dried Tomato Dressing

This vinaigrette, courtesy of The Fresh Market, www.thefreshmarket.com, is light on the oil, thus light on the calories, and goes just as well on a salad of fresh greens as it does on a plate of freshly cooked pasta.

1/2 C sun-dried tomatoes (not oil-packed)
1/2 C water
2 tsp. oil
1/2 C chicken broth, undiluted
3 T red wine vinegar
2 T Dijon mustard
2 shallots, peeled
1 clove of garlic, crushed
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. black pepper

Combine tomatoes, water, and oil; let stand for 1 hour. Finely chop in food processor, including liquid. Add remaining ingredients and process until smooth. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

Your basic greens

Lettuce varieties from all over are at their peak in the summer

A mix of greens, also called mesclun, if you use the French word, is a good way to try lots of lettuces at once. Mesclun is available in bags in many leaf combinations, or in bulk at some stores, including The Fresh Market. There, Corrigan said, "We have a minimum of seven different lettuces in our mix." His mesclun, like most mixes, are made up of baby, or very young greens, that are more tender and closer to bite-size than their adult counterparts. It also comes thoroughly washed.

Give it a soak

Amidei noted that locally grown lettuces, though quite fresh, often need more washing than packaged counterparts. Grabbing a handful of flouncy bright greens, one of those Illinois lettuces, he pulls back the outer leaves, showing the crumbles of dirt down where the leaves connect. "It's how the lettuce grows," he said.

His radicchio, shiny maroon tennis-ball size heads lined up in a box, grows in California. It has to come from somewhere warm, he

explained, because it takes a long time to reach an ideal size. Unlike that leaf lettuce that opens up as it grows in warm weather, radicchio pulls its leaves tighter and tighter together.

"These are about six months old," said Amidei. With its distinctive color and intense flavor, just a few leaves of radicchio can bring a green salad to life. Fortunately, it's a good keeper. "In a plastic bag in the refrigerator, it will keep for a few weeks," said Amidei.

Both Corrigan and Amidei have seen their customers' salad palates expanding over the past few years.

"Nowadays, people are trying everything in their salads," said Corrigan.

Amidei has noticed too that the limp economy is inspiring lots more home-made meals, so customers are looking for good fresh produce. "For \$20, you can cook yourself a really good meal, and we're talking meat, fresh veggies and everything else to go with it," he said. "You're getting a pretty good bargain out of that \$20."

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Scouts

Continued from PAGE 51

And adult training will be more expensive," she said.

Wilson said many of the programs offered at Crossroads will now be offered to girls throughout the Chicago region. "We have formalized opportunities for girls not able to join a troop. We are offering projects for girls interested in science, math and technology," she said.

One in five girls ages 5 to 17 in the Crossroads area takes part in a Girl Scout program, Wilson said, even if they aren't affiliated with a troop.

Wilson said she's proud of Crossroads' efforts to reach out to minorities. "The population is 36 percent minority and our membership is 47 percent minority," she said.

Skokie scout leader Tammi Finestone said she did not know how the most recent merger might affect her, but has been concerned about how previous consolidations have impacted local leaders.

"I see the changes as not a physical or mental closeness anymore because we (scout leaders) are physically farther apart. The (leaders') meetings used to be right in the neighborhood. Now I don't know who these people are," she said. She explained Skokie and Lincolnwood leaders who used to meet together two years ago became part of a larger subgroup, called a "Vista," that includes Park Ridge, Morton Grove and Niles, where meetings have been held.

But Finestone said overall, her experience with the Girl Scouts had been positive, as has her daughter's.

Why?
"Girls being together with girls, parents being able to be involved."

Letters

Continued from PAGE 12

me by my new colleagues and tried to incorporate them in my daily activities. It's a concept that is used by many successful organizations, and I'm sure it's what Mr. Blouch had in mind when making his decision.

The parents affected by this change should sit down with their children and talk about how change will be a constant part of

one's life, and discuss the positive aspects that come with such changes.

I guess it can't be said any better than by a group of children that inspired us all, the Brady Bunch, in their song, "It's Time To Change": "Well it's time to change, when it's time to change you've got to rearrange, move your heart to what you're gonna be." Change is an imminent factor in our life that we all need to embrace.

Tom Russell
Park Ridge

Peek

Continued from PAGE 52

an exhibit, will be displayed from Oct. 15 to Dec. 5 at Niles Public Library, with special programs and events for both children and adults. The exhibit is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

PARKS

Niles

Niles Park District offers free family concerts at Oak Park, Main and Ottawa streets, on Friday evenings. Children's entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. with the main stage performances at 7:30 p.m. — July 18: Sean Masterson (magic show); West Side Winders (jazz, blues, surf and Western swing). July 25: Mike Mauthe (magic and juggling show); ABBA Tribute. Aug. 1: Dan Lemmonier (songs and storytelling); Lesley Byers & The Jazz Cats. Aug. 8: Ken Schultz ("The Flying Fool"); Soul Cookin' (soul and Motown). Aug. 15: Chuck Field (ventriloquism); 215 West (Rhythm and blues, classic rock, disco, blues). Aug. 22: Jeff Bibik (magic and comedy); Final Say (rock 'n' roll to today's hits).

Parent-Child Golf will take place at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course on Aug. 3. This is an opportunity for children 7 years

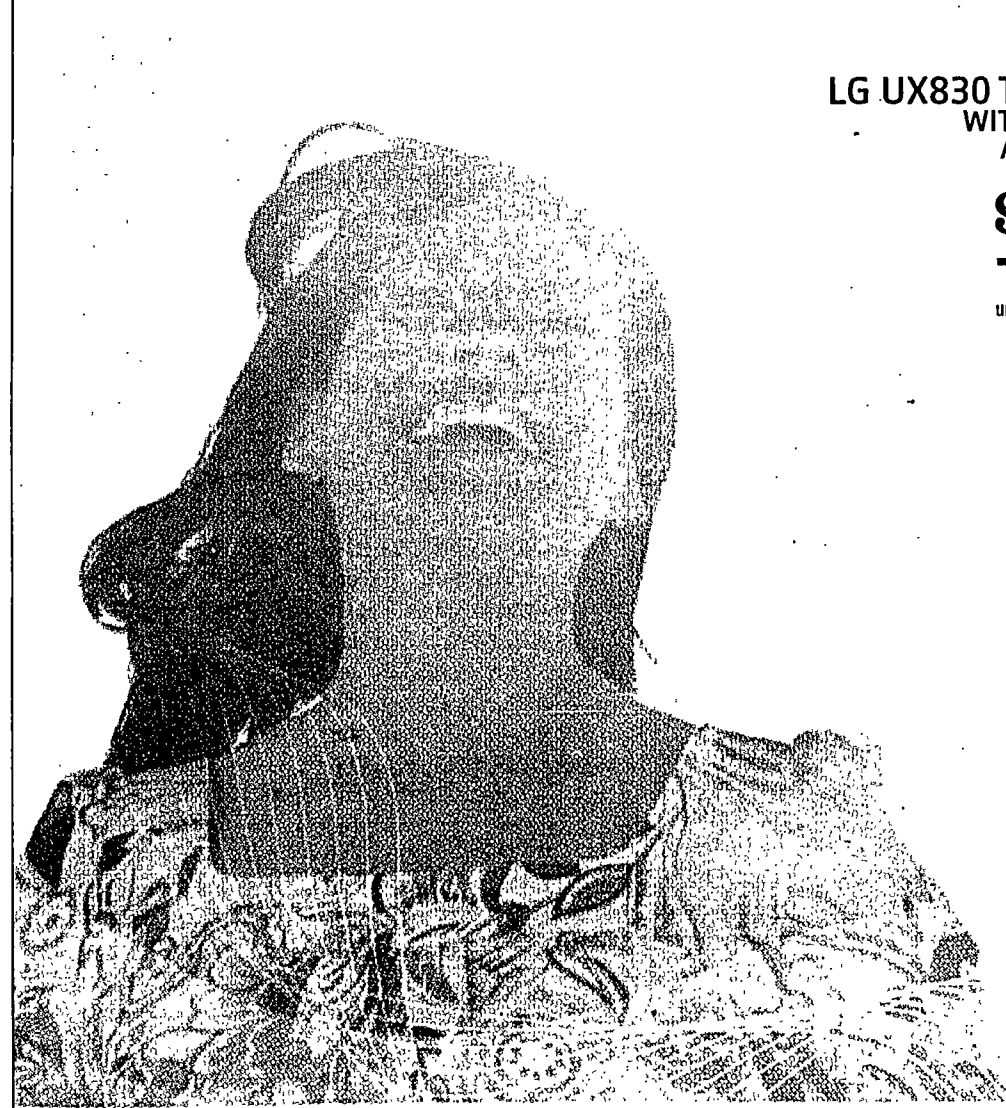
and older to have an enjoyable experience with the game of golf. Lunch is included in the fee of \$55 per couple for residents and \$65 per couple for nonresidents (gas carts are not included in the fee). Tee times start at 11 a.m. To register, come to the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St., or call (847) 967-6633 for more details.

Niles Park District is offering Drama Classes for youth this summer. Summer Theatre Camp I, ages 6 to 8, will run July 28 to Aug. 1. During this one-week camp, participants will learn every aspect of theatre while putting on a play. They will act, sing, and create set, prop and costume designs. Summer Theatre Camp II, ages 9 to 14, will run Aug. 11 to 15. Students will practice acting, singing, dancing and create a set. All drama students will then present a final play or skit at the end of their sessions. Registration is being accepted at Howard Leisure Center. For more information, call (847) 967-6633.

Sign up for the second session of summer camp. A wide variety of summer-camp programs for 3-year-olds through incoming eighth-graders are offered. Stop by the Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St., to register. Campers will enjoy swimming at the new Oasis Fun

Peek, PAGE 56

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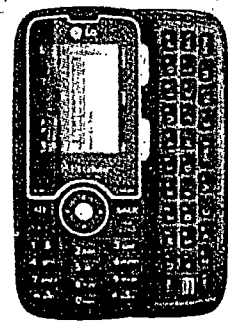
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Date of Wedding or Event _____
Type of Event _____

Mail this form to: Chicago Wedding Resource, 3453 Commercial Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062

Copies also available at: **northbrook court** Guest Services

Peek

Continued from PAGE 54

Center, weekly field trips, arts, crafts and sports. Call (847) 967-6633 for more information.

Relive old memories at the Park District's annual Classic Cruisers Car Shows which will take place every Thursday night, weather permitting from 7 to 9 p.m. at Pioneer Park, 7135 N. Harlem Ave.

Boys Youth Dodgeball Leagues are open to fourth-through eighth-graders. Each team will play 10 matches and team jerseys are supplied. Sign up as a team of eight, or as an individual. The session runs from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. July 19 to Aug. 30. Fees are: residents, \$44; nonresidents, \$55. For more information call (847) 967-1529.

Golf Maine

Preschool. Sign up now for the fall 2008 semester. Early registration is urged. A five-day morning program and four-day afternoon program are offered for children turning 4 years old by Sept. 1.

For more information visit one of the Park District offices, Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), Niles; or Dee Park, at the corner of Dee and Emerson Roads, Des Plaines; or call (847) 297-3000.

RELIGION

St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 260 Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, will conduct Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon July 21 to 25. The program, "Friendship Trek: Jesus Our Forever Friend," will feature fun through games, crafts, Bible stories and music as participants journey toward happy and healthy relationships. Cost is \$15 per child; maximum fee for a family is \$40. Call (847) 823-6656 or e-mail cmbrammei@yahoo.com

register in advance, which is helpful but not necessary.

MAINE STREAMERS

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

A Basic Card Making Class will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. July 22. Cost is \$10; registration is required.

A Trip to Fort Atkinson, Wis., to see "The Rock and the Rabbi" is planned from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 15. The music sets the stage as Simon, a simple fisherman, draws audiences of all ages into his story. Lunch will be served before the show and features chopped salad, roasted New York strip sirloin of beef, mushroom flan, scalloped potatoes, asparagus spears, and banana crême brulee. Cost is \$79 for members; \$84, guests. All Day Trips depart from Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles.

SENIORS

Retired adults who want to continue learning are invited to attend the Lifelong Learning Institute's Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. July 31 at National-Louis University's third floor Public Forum Room, 5202 Old Orchard Road, in Skokie. The Lifelong Learning Institute is a peer-led, non-traditional educational and social program covering two 15-week semesters and two five-week winter and summer sessions during the year. At the July 31 Open House, participants will have an opportunity to discover the wide variety of classes, social events and "adventures" to be offered this fall, as well meeting and inter-

acting with current participants. For further information, contact Joan Marks at (224) 233-2366 or www.nl.edu/lifelonglearning.

SENIOR CENTER

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

The Laughter Club, facilitated by Om Johari, "Certified Laughter Leader," meets from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Research shows laughter has health and social benefits. Call the center for more information.

The social Scrabble group meets at 10 a.m. every Friday in Room 231, and welcomes participants.

SINGLES

Spares Sunday Evening Club for all who enjoy dancing will sponsor a dance from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. July 20 at the American Legion, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, featuring the Ken Jandes Band. Members pay \$8; guests, \$9. For more information, call the hotline at (847) 965-5730.

Young at Heart Singles Club (ballroom dancers of all ages) will feature a dance at 8:30 p.m. July 18 at the American Legion Hall, 9757 Pacific Ave., Franklin Park, with the It Takes 3 Band. Members pay \$7 for each dance; guests, \$9. Attire is semi-dressy/dressy. Call the hotline at (630) 415-3499 for more information, or for directions, call (847) 678-7068.

Thunderbird Singles will host a Girls Nite Out party with the Phase Four Band at 8 p.m. July 19 at the Diplomat West, 681 W. North Ave., Elmhurst. Admission is \$8. Call (847) 604-3446 for more information.

North Shore Singles will feature a dance at 6 p.m. July 20 at 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, 1070 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling. Admission is \$8. Call (847) 604-3518 for information.

The Single Gourmet will enjoy Italian fare at the new Natalino's, 1523 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago on July 23. Reception will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:45. Cost is \$49. Call (773) 772-3535 for information or reservations.

SUPPORT

The Ostomy Association of Greater Chicago will meet July 23 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge (10th Floor West Special Function Dining Room); fellowship is at 7 p.m. and the meeting is at 7:30. Guest speaker will be WOCN Connie Kelly from Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Visit www.uoachicago.org for additional information.

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation support group meets from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Room 1063, Park Ridge. The focus is to assist patients with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, their families, significant others and friends in coping more effectively with the illness. For more information call (847) 827-0404.

TEEN CENTER

The Niles Youth Council is a group of teenagers in sixth through 12th grade who provide support and advice on Teen Center programming, develop leadership skills and work to serve the Niles community. It meets at 5 p.m. the first and third Thursday of every month. Call (847) 375-8949, for more information. The Teen Center is located at 373 Golf Mill Center in Niles. Summer hours are 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, through

Peek, PAGE 57

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Information is provided by Record Information Services, Inc. in St. Charles, www.public-record.com, (630) 365-6490. The company provides public record data for including new incorporations, business licenses, bankruptcies, foreclosures, judgments, mechanic liens, state and federal tax liens, residential and commercial real estate transfers, building permits, DUI arrests, divorce reports and sheriff sale foreclosures.

NILES

- 9917 N. Huber Lane, Tracy E. Christian to Andrzej and Malgorzata Rumas, \$172,000, May 13.
 - 8217 W. Ballard Road, Kornmesser Trust to Nareshkumar J. and Lilavativen N. Patel, \$655,000, May 13.
 - 7120 N. Milwaukee Ave., Ronald V. Naples to Eun Mee Han, \$258,000, May 15.
 - 7919 N. Oketo Ave., Deutsche Bank Trustee America Trustee to David G. Ahlstrand, \$255,000, May 15.
 - 8801 W. Golf Road, Wells Fargo Bank Trustee to Greg Martin, \$90,000, May 19.
 - 8132 N. Overhill Ave., Law of Wojewnik & Assoc. Trustee to Franciszek Barnas, \$325,000, May 19.
 - 7153 W. Keeney St., Bawolek Trust to Jon A. Bero and Georgina Mando, \$286,000, May 29.
 - 8296 N. Elmore St., Deutsche Bank National Trust Co. Trustee to Hyon C. Lee, \$295,000, May 29.
 - 7514 W. Lawler Ave., Elzbieta Dadas to Brian M. and Hayat Pronovost, \$750,000, May 29.
 - 8840 N. Prospect St., Alan C. Offenber to Kaleem and Sajida Begum Mohammed, \$155,000, May 29.
 - 7091 W. Touhy Ave., Peter C. Argianas to Harriet Itano, \$265,000, May 30.
 - 8516 W. Normal Ave.,
- Gergana Filipova to Zapriana Ilieva, \$405,000, May 30.
 - 9208 N. Ashland Ave., Fort Trust to Vechean Shamaon, \$240,000, May 30.
 - 8717 W. Sunset Road, Pocica Construction Inc. to Rafid A. and Luma S. Sukkar, \$835,000, June 2.
 - 8141 N. Oketo Ave., Bernice Zuraski to Kathleen Bradshaw, \$270,000, June 3.
 - 7035 W. Keeney St., Anita A. Detloff to Michael A. and Tonda J. Lucchese, \$286,500, June 3.
 - 8429 N. Milwaukee Ave., Keith E. Boyer to Hanchul and Nanhee Kim, \$631,500, June 4.
 - 9030 W. Heathwood Circle, Won Chul Chung to Batteredene Byambaa and Jamiyan Udvaltuja, \$293,000, June 5.
 - 8101 W. Courte Drive, Irina Ryakhovska to Constantin Cojocaru and Alina Bancescu, \$227,000, June 5.
 - 8410 W. Roseview Drive, Palewski Trust to Prakash L. and Hina P. Patel, \$270,000, June 5.
 - 6817 W. Jonquil Terrace, Susan Sawa to Angelo Imperatos, \$365,000, June 6.
 - 9098 W. Terrace Drive, Peristera Romero to Patricia Jurado, \$129,000, June 9.
 - 6956 W. Keeney St., Chicago Title Land Trust Co. Trustee to Edward P. and Leah Katherine Payne, \$320,000, June 9.

Peek

Continued from PAGE 56

Aug. 22.

Teen Movie Night is from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. July 25. Bring a pillow or blanket. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase. No registration is necessary. The cost is \$3, or \$2 for center members.

Charity Car Wash.

Help raise money for charity and the Niles Teen Center. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity. Come dressed to work and bring any spare towels, sponges and buckets. Sign up to participate by July 18. Meet from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 19 between entrance 6 and the movie theater. The rain date is July 26.

Get your friends together (sixth through 12th

grades) to watch the Schaumburg Flyers baseball team take on the Winnipeg Goldeyes at Alexian Field from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. Aug. 15. Cost is \$30 for members and \$40, nonmembers. Ticket, supervision and transportation are included in the cost. Bring extra money for food, drinks and souvenirs. Registration deadline is Aug. 1.

The Teen Center is

working with the Niles Senior Center to find teenagers willing to leaf raking, snow shoveling and general yard work while earning money. Complete the Niles Teen Job Connection form available on the center Web site and return it to Mark at the center. Information will be shared with the director of the center and contacts will

Peek, PAGE 58

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NORTHWESTERN

2008 HOME SCHEDULE

AUG. 30	SYRACUSE (North Shore Community Day)
SEPT. 13	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (WGN Radio Day / Take a Kid to the Game Day)
SEPT. 20	OHIO (NU Faculty & Staff Day)
OCT. 11	MICHIGAN STATE (American Airlines Day / Scout Day)
OCT. 18	PURDUE (Homecoming)
NOV. 8	OHIO STATE (Bank of America Day)
NOV. 22	ILLINOIS (U.S. Cellular Day / Youth Football Day)

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OBITUARIES

Stanley Bandur

Stanley J. Bandur, 80, of Niles died July 8 in his home.

Mr. Bandur was a tool and-die-maker. He had served in the U.S. Army Air Force and was a member of the Niles Senior Center.

Survivors include his wife, Therese (nee Jordan); children, Susan (William) Zaker, Barbara (Joseph) Massani, Donald (Kathleen), John (Cynthia), and Thomas (Janet) Bandur; grandchildren, Jamie, Carrie, Aric, Kelly, Angela, Kate, Corey, Alex, C.J., Adam and Andrew; great-grandchildren, Madison, Alyssa, Charlie and Aaron; siblings, Mitchell (Sophie), Chester (Eleanor) Bandur and Charlotte Saucki; sisters-in-law, Patricia Jordan and Valerie Ware and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a son, James (Linda).

Visitation was in Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, Niles. Funeral Mass was celebrated July 11 in St. Ju-

liana Catholic Church, Chicago. Burial was in All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines.

Memorials may be sent to Rainbow Hospice, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge.

Helen Birch

Helen Frances (nee Zarzyck) Birch of Park Ridge died July 6. She was a former resident of Chicago's Gladstone Park and Edison Park communities.

Mrs. Birch was a past officer and member of many social and civic organizations including the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, North American Martyrs Council 4338; the Niles Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 Auxiliary; and the Women's PNA (Polish National Alliance). The Birch family has run Birch Optical, now on Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago's Gladstone Park community, for three generations.

Preceded in death by

her husband, Dennis, in 2005. She is survived by her children, Bill (Leesa), Cindy (Dr. Roger) Blank and Paul (Liz); nine grandchildren; siblings, Billie (Bob) Zidek and Beverly Wijas; sister-in-law, Lois Birch and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, Park Ridge, preceded the July 10 funeral Mass at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, Park Ridge. Burial was in All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines.

Memorials to Rainbow Hospice, 444 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge; or Nazarethville, 300 N. River Road, Des Plaines IL 60016, are appreciated.

Juanita Grozdiak

Juanita N. Grozdiak, 91, of Niles died July 5 at the St. Benedict Nursing Home, Niles.

She had previously been a clerical office worker.

Preceded in death by her husband, John, she is survived by her daughter, Juanita (Donald) Uczen of

Downers Grove, Dr. Anne Marie Kudelka (James) Sailer; grandchildren, Jennifer and David; brother, Edward (Audrey) Macoicz; and nieces, Diane Ulrich and Sally Macoicz.

Funeral service was held July 9 in the St. Benedict Home. Burial was in St. Adalbert Cemetery, Niles.

Contributions to the St. Benedict Home, 6920 W. Touhy Ave., Niles IL 60174, are appreciated.

Fred Kaechele

Fred H. Kaechele, 79, of Niles died July 7 at Bethany Terrace Nursing Home, Morton Grove.

Mr. Kaechele had been self-employed as a painter.

He is survived by his wife, Anna Marie (nee Wendling); children, Fred (Toni) and David (Cynthia) Kaechele, Lisa (Michael) Provenzano and Heidi (Joseph) Mahoney; grandchildren, Jamie, Joseph, Eric, Frederick, Monika, Joseph and Annamarie; and brother, Albert Kaechele.

Funeral service was

held July 10 in Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, Niles. Burial was private.

Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 625 North Court, Suite 280, Palatine IL 60067.

Steven Shirley

Steven Wayne Shirley, 56, of Niles died July 8 in Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge.

Mr. Shirley had been a route salesman for a bakery. He was a member of Teamsters Union Local 734.

He is survived by his wife, Valerie; sons, Steven (Stacie) of Niles and Phillip Shirley; grandchildren, Justin, Mariah and Reece; and sister, Saudi (Dennis) Dailey.

Funeral service was conducted July 11 in Skaja Terrace Funeral Home, Niles. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Skokie.

Memorials to the National Kidney Foundation, 215 W. Illinois St., Suite 1c, Chicago IL 60654, are appreciated.

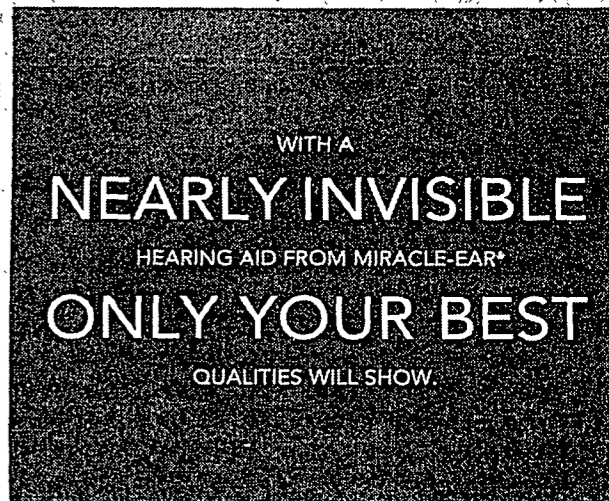
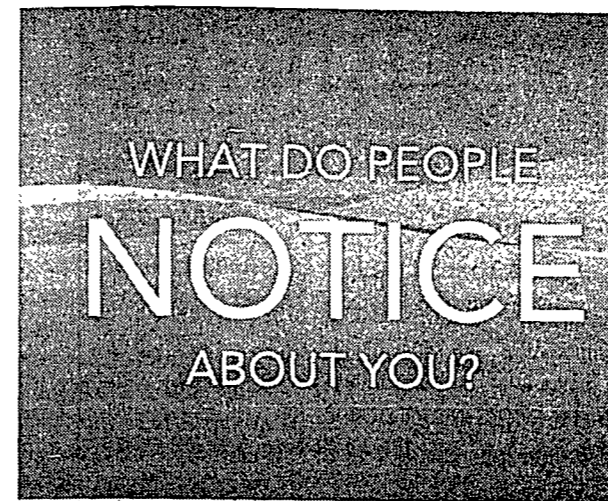
Peek

Continued from PAGE 57

be made with residents in need of services.

VOLUNTEERS

Porchlight Counseling Services is looking for volunteers to join its 2009 event committee. The group of local women and men donate their time and talents by organizing the annual fund-raising event. The committee meets the first Monday of every month in Wilmette. The atmosphere is friendly and fun. As a result of these efforts many young rape survivors are able to get professional counseling they need to heal and go on with life. For more information about Porchlight go to www.porchlightcounseling.org. For information about this committee contact Executive Director, Laura Sabino, laura@porchlightcounseling.org, or call (847) 864-1557.



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Matteson **Sears Lincoln Mall**
Niles **Sears Golf Mill Center**
Oak Brook **Sears Oak Brook Center**
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Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide from Bankrate.com

Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Program	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR
ALLSTAR HOME MORTGAGE, INC. 847-441-5050 Bob@Allstarhomemortgage.com																	
30 yr fixed	6.125	0.000	\$0	20%	6.160												
15 yr fixed	5.500	0.000	\$0	20%	5.610												
5/1 ARM	5.500	0.000	\$0	20%	5.720												
5/1 jumbo ARM	5.625	0.000	\$0	20%	5.730												
(B) 1780 Maple St., Suite 22, Northfield, IL 60093 MB0006457																	
GLENVIEW STATE BANK 847-729-1900 http://www.gsb.com																	
30 yr fixed	Call for Rates																
3/1 ARM	Call for Rates																
7/1 ARM	Call for Rates																
15 yr fixed	Call for Rates																
Restrictions apply, please inquire. (C) 800 Waukegan Rd., Glenview, IL 60025																	
GREAT NORTHERN FINANCIAL CORP. 630-653-4700 http://www.gnfc.com																	
30 yr fixed	6.250	0.000	\$850	20%	6.299												
15 yr fixed	5.750	0.000	\$850	20%	5.830												
5/1 jumbo ARM	5.625	0.000	\$850	20%	5.774												
7/1 jumbo ARM	5.875	0.000	\$850	20%	5.631												
(A) 2850 Golf Rd., Ste. 403, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008																	
30 yr fixed	6.48	15 yr fixed	6.01	5 yr ARM	6.05												
This week						Last week						Last year					
6.53						6.09						6.78					
6.53						6.09						6.46					
6.53						6.09						6.54					
Source: Bankrate.com, for more information visit www.bankrate.com . Bankrate national averages are based on 100 largest institutions in the top 10 markets in the United States.																	



Here's what the monthly loan payment would be on a home mortgage loan using the following programs at prevailing interest rates

Loan Program	Rate	Monthly Payment
1 yr ARM	6.17%	\$1,007.36
5/1 ARM	6.05%	\$994.57
15 yr fixed	6.01%	\$1,393.26
30 yr fixed	6.48%	\$1,040.74



MORTGAGE UPDATE

Mortgage rates drop — along with stocks and bonds By Holden Lewis • Bankrate.com

Mortgage rates fell this week as investors grew anxious about corporate earnings. As stock prices fell, bond yields declined, too — and so did mortgage rates.

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 5 basis points, to 6.48 percent, according to the Bankrate.com national survey of large lenders. A basis point is one-hundredth of 1 percentage point. The mortgages in this week's survey had an average total of 0.37 discount and origination points. One year ago, the mortgage index was 6.78 percent; four weeks ago, it was 6.52 percent.

The benchmark 15-year fixed-rate mortgage fell 8 basis points, to 6.01 percent. The benchmark 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage fell 4 basis points, to 6.05 percent. The 30-year jumbo, for bigger mortgages, fell 5 basis points, to 7.64 percent.

In the world of mortgages, the big news this week was the decline and fall of IndyMac Bank's home loan operation. The Southern California bank originated almost \$77 billion in home loans last year and was a top 10 lender, according to National Mortgage News. With the demise of stated-income loans this year, IndyMac couldn't reinvent itself fast enough as a conforming and FHA lender.

At the beginning of the week, IndyMac abruptly

announced that it would shut down its mortgage lending operation and close its last mortgage on Aug. 15. It said it immediately would stop accepting applications. Then the bank did something unusual: It asked for a 1 percent deposit on mortgages that had been approved and for which the rates had been locked.

IndyMac said the fee would be refunded if it declined the loan. Brokers said they assumed that the 1 percent fee would be credited toward closing costs. But IndyMac imposed the surprise fee in a way that seemed designed to scare off business: Brokers would have to sign up for all of their customers awaiting IndyMac loans. They couldn't pick and choose which loans to proceed with.

"If you do not submit the required fee for any individual loan as part of this process, all of your rate locks will be subject to cancellation," wrote Drew Buccino, IndyMac's mortgage chief, in a letter to mortgage brokers and bankers.

Brokers said they considered this to be IndyMac's way of "clearing the pipeline" — reducing the number of loans it will have to fund before the drop-dead dates of July 31 for refinances and Aug. 15 for purchases.

Reverse mortgages going forward
IndyMac said it will continue underwriting reverse

mortgages through its Financial Freedom subsidiary, will keep some bank branches open in California, and keep servicing some mortgages. But apparently not all.

Servicers are the companies that receive mortgage payments and disburse the proceeds to investors, insurance companies and tax districts. IndyMac is the eighth-largest servicer in the country, with about \$200 billion of loans in its servicing portfolio at the end of March, according to National Mortgage News. Hundreds of thousands of borrowers send checks every month to IndyMac, and at least some of them will find themselves working with another servicer in the coming months.

IndyMac's chief executive, Michael W. Perry, explained that the servicing portfolio is "an asset we need to shrink given its size relative to our existing capital." If servicing rights are sold in an orderly fashion, customers should get plenty of advance notice as to where they should send their monthly payments.

IndyMac is winding up its mortgage operation under federal supervision. Regulators will pay attention to what goes smoothly and what doesn't. Then they'll apply those lessons to the next big mortgage company that goes under. IndyMac probably won't be the last.

LENDERS, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FEATURE CALL BANKRATE.COM SALES DEPARTMENT @ 800-509-4636

MORTGAGE RATES & INFORMATION AVAILABLE 24/7 ON THE INTERNET @ <http://pioneerlocal.interest.com>

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HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER REGIONAL

St. Patrick ends Vikings' summer

By DAN CURRIER
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Niles North split two games Monday on the first day of the summer league playoffs, defeating host Guerin 5-4 in Game 1 and then dropping a 7-3 decision to St. Patrick in the second game, also played at the Guerin field.

The loss to St. Patrick ended the Vikings' summer season at 12-15, but head coach Ron Zagorski said he came away knowing Niles North made great improvements from last spring's high school season and looks forward to next year's campaign.

"We made good strides," Zagorski said. "I was pleased with the effort the kids put in and the success we had this summer. We made a lot of progress."

Zagorski said the hitting and fielding improved vastly, but the Vikings' coaches will still have to work with pitching staff during the offseason.

Niles North, which entered the tournament

seeded 15th, had a 2-0 lead after the first inning against St. Patrick, but the Shamrocks came back in the third with four runs to take a 5-2 lead and never looked back.

Sophomore shortstop Adam Warda went 3-for-3 with two doubles to pace the Vikings. He was 5-for-6 in both games Monday. Second baseman Tim Reichert, who took time off from the Morton Grove Mustangs American League team, and catcher Josh Levy both were 1-for-3 with singles.

After Guerin went up 2-0 in the first inning of the opening game, Niles North tied it 2-2 in its bottom of the first.

An inning later, the Vikings went up 4-2 when Andrew Bouleanu drove in Warda on a fielder's choice.

Niles North finished the regular season winning three of four games last week. The Vikings beat visiting Whitney Young (12-1) Friday and visiting Gordon Tech 4-3 in a five inning, rain-short-

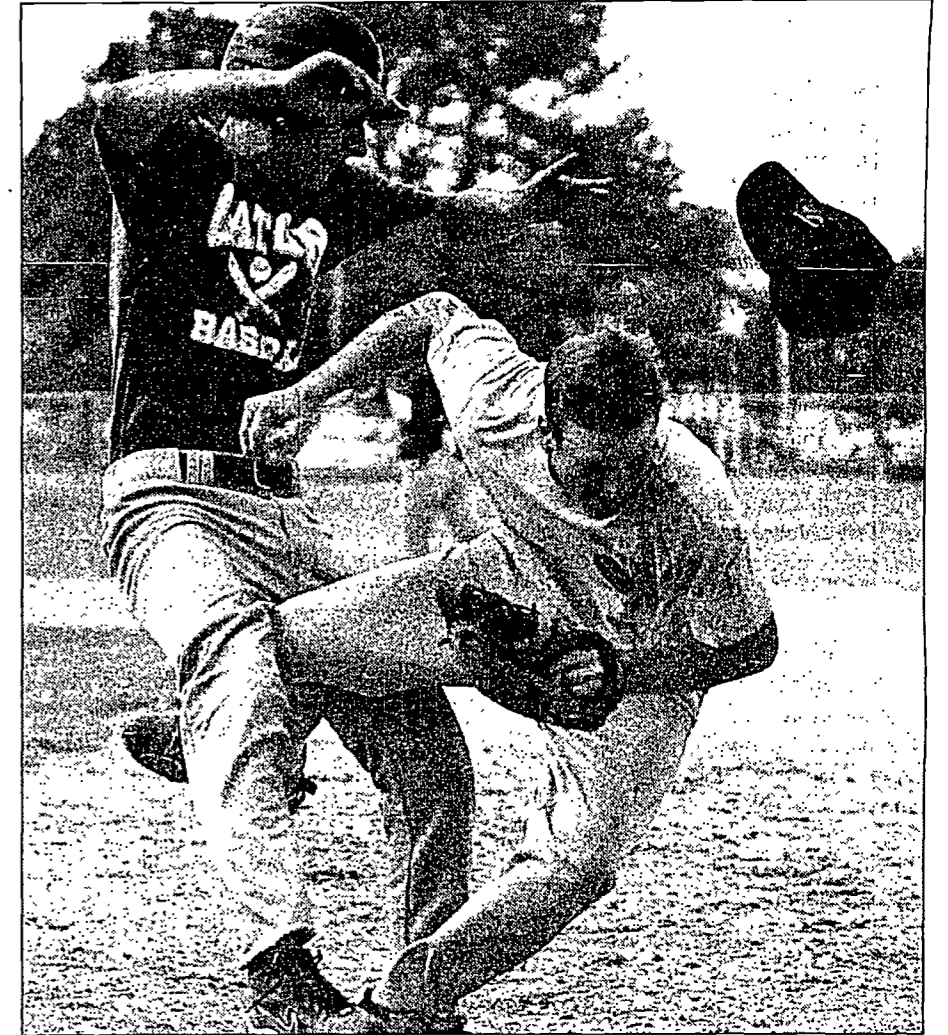
ened game. Niles North's only loss came against host Notre Dame 8-1 July 9. One day earlier, the host Vikings got by Lane Tech 8-7.

In the games against Whitney Young and Gordon Tech, Niles North scored early and held on for the wins. The Vikings had three runs in the first and nine more in the second against Whitney Young. The Vikings' four runs against Gordon Tech were scored in the first two innings as Niles North held on before the rain came.

Niles North was short-handed against Notre Dame and was never a factor as the Dons dominated the entire game.

After the Vikings were up 7-0 against Lane Tech, the Indians scored three runs in the sixth inning and four in the seventh to tie it 7-7. The Viking's game-winner came in the bottom of the seventh on a RBI single by Raj Kumar.

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TINA WAGNER/FOR PIONEER PRESS
Doug Vonmoser (left) of Guerin Prep collides with Niles North first baseman Brian Mortell during Monday's regional opener.

BASEBALL

Cardinals meet challenge at tournament

By JIM EDISON
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Lakeside Cardinal coach Bill Palmer wasn't sure what to expect when he brought his baseball team to Bloomington late last week for the Top Prospects Tournament.

While the Cards had been doing well for the most part, Palmer was unsure if his team would be able to overcome the absence of several players from the lineup.

"Because of the start of the high school (summer league) playoffs," Palmer said, "we knew we would-

n't be able to use a number of our guys.

Dame graduate) pitched a tremendous game that

"But I must say that our pitching staff met the challenge."

Bill Palmer

"But I must say that our pitching staff met the challenge. We went 3-2 down there and won our pool to make the playoffs."

Lakeside got off to a solid start in the 40-team tournament (which was divided into eight pools) July 10 when it rolled over Midwest Elite 7-1 in the opening round.

"Joe Uffell (recent Notre

night," Palmer said. "He gave up just two hits. It was his best outing of the year thus far."

The Cardinal offense provided excellent support in that game. Chris Kontos (recent Niles West graduate) and John Nasshan (Niles West) both had RBI triples and Mitch Lochen (Glenbrook South) had a timely two-run double.

On Friday morning, Lakeside suffered its first loss of the tourney when it was defeated by the Ranger Scouts 7-4. But the Cards came right back that night when they crushed the DuPage Dragons 12-4. After a rough first inning in which DuPage scored three runs, pitcher Joe Willer ('08 Niles West graduate) settled down and finished strongly.

"We scored six runs in the fourth inning and that was the turning point in that game," Palmer said. "Kontos hit a homer that was a real bomb. It went way over the fence and landed in a cornfield nearby."

On Saturday morning, Palmer's team won a crucial 2-1 decision over the Central Illinois Stars. Pitcher Kevin Sullivan (recent Highland Park graduate) was nearly perfect as he faced just 22 batters (for seven innings). His only mistake was a hanging curve which was tagged for a solo home run. With the game tied at 1-1, Lakeside's Lenny Cunzalo (2008 St. Patrick graduate) launched a towering homer to win the contest.

In the first playoff round on Sunday morning, Andy Czerwionka (Notre Dame '08 graduate) pitched a quality game but was

tagged with a loss as Lakeside fell to the Downers Grove Long Shots 3-2. Trailing 2-1, Downers Grove scored a pair of runs in the last inning.

Friday and Saturday, the Cardinals (14-12) will travel to DeKalb for a tournament on the campus of Northern Illinois University.

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CORRECTION

The information submitted for Bo Cisek for Scholar-Athlete was incorrect. His weighted grade-point average was 4.05.

Sports

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

In class, on field, Smith a No. 1 performer

MANAGING EDITOR: Rick Hibbert
rhibbert@pioneerlocal.com | (708) 524-4440By KEN KEENAN
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You name it, in the classroom or on the playing field, if there was something Class of 2008 Prospect graduate Marietta Smith set out to accomplish, she did it.

A three-sport athlete, Smith — this year's Pioneer Press Scholar-Athlete award winner — graduated as the No. 1-ranked student in her class (among 513), posting an ultra-impressive 5.69 grade-point average on a 5.0 scale. The two-year National Honor Society member, and a National Merit Semifinalist, scored a composite 35 on her ACT exam. An AP Honors Scholar selection, Smith also earned Honeywell Scholar recognition and was a Presidential Scholars Program candidate as well.

Sports-wise, she concluded her career as a member of the Knights' girls golf team last fall with a tie for 17th place in the state meet. Her first-round total of 75 was a personal best, and her 153 total marked the lowest score in team history at State. During regional play, Smith tied for first with a 76 in leading the Knights to second place as a team. She then made State with an 81 in sectionals.

After helping Prospect's girls basketball team end up 15-12 under first-year head coach Martha Kelly last winter, Smith paced the Knights' girls soccer team to a splendid 11-5-5 mark as the starting goalkeeper. Besides all that, Smith somehow found time to become involved in numerous clubs, including Leaders Energizing Ath-



Marietta Smith, a class of 2008 Prospect graduate — and this year's Scholar-Athlete award winner — follows a shot as a member of the Knights' girls golf team last fall. After tying for first place during regionals, and then qualifying for State in sectional play, Smith concluded her high-school career by finishing in a tie for 17th in the IHSA tournament.

BRIAN O'MAHONEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

letics at Prospect.

"Some nights I didn't get much sleep ... or I would do homework on the bus, with a flashlight in the dark (after games and practices). It's about using your free time, and doing your homework then," Smith said. "It's also about knowing your limits. So you build time-management skills — come home from practice, eat, take a shower and get down to business. Once

you get organized, you have a list of what to do, and then you check off the list. Then you feel better going to sleep."

Stellar results

Such a busy schedule isn't for everyone, but it worked for Smith — and with stellar results.

"If you want something bad enough, you can do it," she said. "Sometimes that means making sacrifices, and it may get te-

dious, but if you take time to balance it all, you can still socialize with friends. It can be hard, but you can make it work."

Smith will attend Dartmouth College (N.H.) this fall, majoring in neuroscience.

"It will be probably be difficult, but I'm looking forward to it," she said. "I looked at colleges more for academics than athletics, and other schools didn't have the same re-

Golf, support of teammates gratifying for teen

By KEN KEENAN
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Though her first sport as a youth was soccer, 2008 Scholar-Athlete award winner Marietta Smith found golf to be the most rewarding during her career at Prospect.

"Coming into high school, I had played soccer since I was 3 years old, and I enjoyed playing soccer at Prospect," she said. "But with golf, the work you put in shows more than in soccer. Every day at practice, you have to challenge yourself to get better."

Smith finished 17th in the State meet as a senior, one year after helping the Knights win a regional championship.

"In golf, my confidence built up — more because of being able to trust myself," she said. "Stepping up to that first tee box is scary enough. But by junior year, a moment came where I could trust myself, and confidence grew from that. Attending the (J. Kyle Braid) Leadership Conference helped me build leadership skills, too. Once you've solidified the fundamentals, and the

leadership aspect, you trust your base. Then you can fiddle around and try new things. That only leads to more confidence."

And more success — individually and as a team.

"When the success does come around — like winning a regional championship — you have your teammates enjoying it as much as you," Smith said. "And for every team I've been on, we've done some form of team-building ... dinners, pasta parties. That's the side you don't see on the field, but it's just as important. You learn to interact with each other, and you have the support of your teammates."

"I'll miss my teammates, and all the opportunities I had, plus the support of my teammates, staff members and coaches. When you begin high school, you're on the brink of choosing among many things. I really liked being able to do three sports, but I made the most improvement in golf. I wouldn't recognize the girl who was playing four years ago."

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search opportunities at Dartmouth. Since a young age, I've been interested in medicine and research. I want to do something

where I can help people and use my science background."

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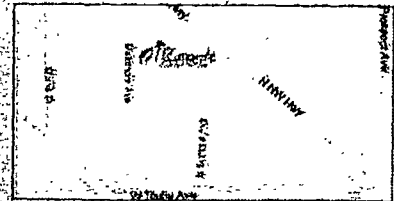
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