

# NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

JANUARY 7, 2010 ★ A PIONEER PRESS PUBLICATION ★ WWW.NILESHERALDSPECTATOR.COM ★ \$2.00

## THIS WEEK

### DIVERSIONS



#### BAD TO THE BONE

The teen comedy "Youth in Revolt" is featured in this week's Film Clips.

SEE PAGE B2

### FOOD



#### FOOD FIGHT

Problems of allergies in so many edibles.

SEE PAGE 18

Inside!

today's homes

Look for it in the center of SearchChicago-Autos



## BEING RESOLUTE

Jose Carrasquillo, of Niles, breaks a sweat on Saturday morning in spinning class at the Niles Family Fitness Center. PAGE 8 (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

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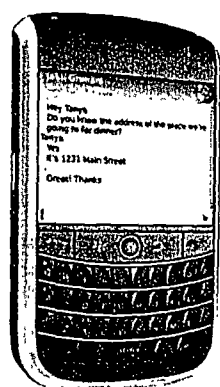
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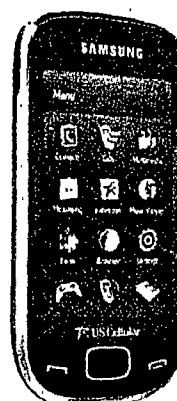
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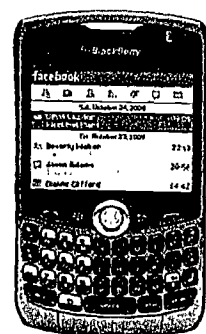
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Mary Nespoux and husband Mike, of Chicago, share a moment Saturday with baby Juliana Elizabeth Nespoux at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Juliana was born at 5:26 p.m. New Year's Day and was the second baby born at Lutheran General. She went home on Jan. 2 to meet her older brother, Jake. (Shauna Bittle/for STM)

### ADVOCATE LUTHERAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

## Hospital's 'official first baby' actually came 2nd

Juliana Elizabeth Nespoux wasn't technically Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's first baby of 2010, but she's still getting her fair share of attention.

Lutheran General's first baby of the new year was actually born at 9:34 a.m. Friday, but the family asked not to be photographed or named, according to spokesperson Colette Urban.

That opened the door for little Juliana, who stepped into the spotlight as the hospital's "official" first baby when she came into the world 5:26 p.m. later that day.

Juliana, weighing in at 7 pounds, 15.9 ounces, was born to Mary and Mike Nespoux, of Chicago's Northwest Side.

She joins a brother, Jake, 3.

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

### BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

## Businesses warned of scams

By **TONY BERTUCA**  
[tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com)

Local businesses in Niles are being warned against suspected scammers who have been handing out suspicious awards.

"Some local businesses have received an e-mail from the U.S. Chamber Association informing them they are recipients of a 'Niles Best Award' or 'Best of Niles Award,'" the Niles Chamber of Commerce warns. "This may be a scheme to get the business to pay for vanity awards or get company information."

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) has advised business owners to exercise caution when dealing with the U.S. Chamber Association.

"Recent e-mails notifying businesses that they have won prestigious awards from a national association appear to be part of a widespread scheme designed to get companies to pay for vanity awards and plaques," according to the BBB.

The bureau says the U.S. Commerce Association, a group that purports to operate out of Washington, D.C., has been sending out news

releases in recent months to businesses nationwide, telling them they have been selected as 'outstanding local businesses' and offering them an opportunity to buy one or more awards to mark the honor.

"The Washington, D.C.-area BBB office gives U.S. Local Business Association an 'F' grade and warns that persons contacted about awards must be sure the recognition is not, 'in fact, an attempt to obtain access to a company's information or to elicit funds by what it represents itself as being,"

according to the BBB.

To avoid vanity award scams, the BBB advises business owners to learn everything you can about who is giving the so-called award and to ask specific questions about how their business was chosen.

"If you didn't apply for an award or the group cannot tell you how you were nominated, chances are the award is not legitimate," according to the BBB.

For more information go to [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) or call 800-356-1007.

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

### NILES POLICE

## DUI crackdowns go into overdrive this year

By **TONY BERTUCA**  
[tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com)

Motorists planning on drinking and driving through Niles shouldn't try to press their luck o' the Irish this St. Paddy's day.

In fact, they shouldn't try it on Super Bowl Sunday, Memorial Day, the 4th of

July, Thanksgiving, or Christmas either.

That's because the Niles Police Department began a holiday crackdown on drunk driving on New Year's Day after receiving a \$31,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to finance patrols through town.

"The grant is for saturation patrols focusing on DUI, speeding and occupant restraint violations," according to a statement issued by Sgt. Tom Davis.

Police say the patrols will be divided into eight major two-week-long campaigns. "The patrols will take place mostly during night-

time hours between 11 p.m. until 4 a.m.," Davis wrote. "(They) will focus mainly around holidays and events such as New Year's Day, Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day and Thanksgiving and Christmas."

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

### Message to readers

As part of improvements to serve our readers, including providing more color, cleaner print and easier numbering of pages, we have moved our production

to new presses. As part of the transition, your paper will temporarily be delivered to you without any staples. We expect the paper to return to its original stapled format by the middle of January.

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LAST WEEK  
TOP FIVE STORIES

1. Man Charged in Robbery

Niles police have charged an 18-year-old Chicago man with allegedly using a BB gun to rob a local gas station where he used to be employed.

2. Teen charged after entering Niles home

A Park Ridge teenager was arrested Dec. 19 after a Niles resident reported the boy had entered his home just before midnight.

Cody Carpenter, 17, of 635 Elmore Ave., Park Ridge, was issued local ordinance citations for consumption of alcohol by a minor and disorderly conduct, according to Niles police.

3. Half-million-dollar state grant to extend Milwaukee Ave. work

Niles was recently awarded a \$520,000 transportation grant from the state of Illinois to continue work its Milwaukee Avenue Beautification project.

This is the second grant Niles has been awarded by the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program. To date the entire Milwaukee Avenue project has received \$1.8 million from various funding sources.

4. District 207: Teachers union rejects salary freeze

Maine Township High School District 207 teachers union has voted against re-opening their contract to mitigate heavy job cuts proposed by the school district, but union members were discussing voluntary contributions to save jobs.

5. Glenbrook North's Dragicevich named player of the year

When starter Tyler Ponticelli went down with a back injury in the preseason, junior guard Alex Dragicevich stepped up as Glenbrook North's offensive leader.

To find stories go to www.pioneerlocal.com.

# WE ARE YOUR NILES herald-spectator

## Snap a photo. Tell a story. Send it in.

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



**Who makes Niles special?** There are countless people in our towns who are our unsung heroes. Crossing guards. The barista who knows your latte. The teacher, librarian or Little League coach. The music director at church? Tell us about them.



**SNOW FUN**  
Have you built a great snowman (or snowwoman), or perhaps a great snow fort? Take a picture of your creation and send it to us at yournews@pioneerlocal.com.

### NILES HERALD SPECTATOR

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#### EDITORIAL

**Assistant Managing Editor-News**  
Matt Schmitz (708) 524-4433  
E-mail: mschmitz@pioneerlocal.com  
Fax: (847) 486-7495

**Managing Editor-Sports**  
Rich Martin (847) 486-7491  
E-mail: rmartin@pioneerlocal.com  
Fax: (847) 393-3678

**Managing Editor-Diversions**  
Jennifer Thomas (847) 486-7358  
E-mail: jthomas@pioneerlocal.com  
For go calendar listings or questions, e-mail: sparker@pioneerlocal.com

**Got news?** (847) 486-7259  
Sports tips: (847) 486-7468  
E-mail: parkridge@pioneerlocal.com

**Editor in Chief**  
Jeff Wisser (847) 486-6848  
E-mail: jwisser@pioneerlocal.com

**MAIL**  
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### MAINE TOWNSHIP

## Authorities seek missing woman

By JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Cook County Sheriff's Police were looking for an unincorporated Maine Township woman who had not been seen since Saturday morning.

Sheriff's Police identified the woman as Sangitagene Patel, 32. According to a new release issued by the department Monday, Patel was last seen between 8

a.m. and 9 a.m. near her home in the area of Ballard and Dee Roads in unincorporated Maine Township. She was reportedly on her way to a bus stop and was heading to work at a Subway restaurant in Prospect Heights, Sheriff's Police said. Patel was last seen wearing a purple jacket and black pants. She was described as 5 feet, 2 inches tall, about 125 pounds, with brown eyes and black hair.

Police said she speaks limited English, and there are no reports of domestic trouble between Patel and her husband and no a history of her leaving without contacting her family.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Cook County Sheriff's Police Investigations Section, (708) 865-4896, or the Sheriff's Police Communications Center, (847) 294-4729. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Catholic high schools to take placement test Saturday

At 8 a.m. Saturday, Catholic high schools across the Archdiocese of Chicago will administer their annual placement tests for elementary school eighth grade students, according to a news release. Catholic, public or private school students who are interested in attending archdiocesan high schools in

the fall of 2010 should report to the high school they wish to attend to take the test, bring two No. 2 pencils and a check or money order for the \$25 exam fee made payable to the school. Test results will be mailed to students Feb. 12.

The North Central Association, called in the news release "the largest regional evaluation and accreditation

organization in the United States," accredits each Archdiocese of Chicago high school and requires professional development for teachers. Catholic high school students in the Archdiocese of Chicago have a 96-percent attendance rate and a 98-percent graduation rate, with 95 percent of graduates enrolling in a college or university.

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## Upload stories, photos to Community page

You can upload your stories and photos directly to us. The information will be posted on the Community page on the paper's Web site, www.pioneerlocal.com. Selections from the page will appear each Thursday in the print edition.

- Go to [www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com).
- Scroll down to and click the Send Us Your News button, with the bright yellow plus sign.
- Open the page and fill out the form, starting with the paper in which you want the information to appear.
- Here you can upload photos and press releases. The items will then be sent to the Community Update page on that paper's Web site. Submissions will be monitored for libel, hate speech, profanity and other inappropriate content.

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YEAR



(Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

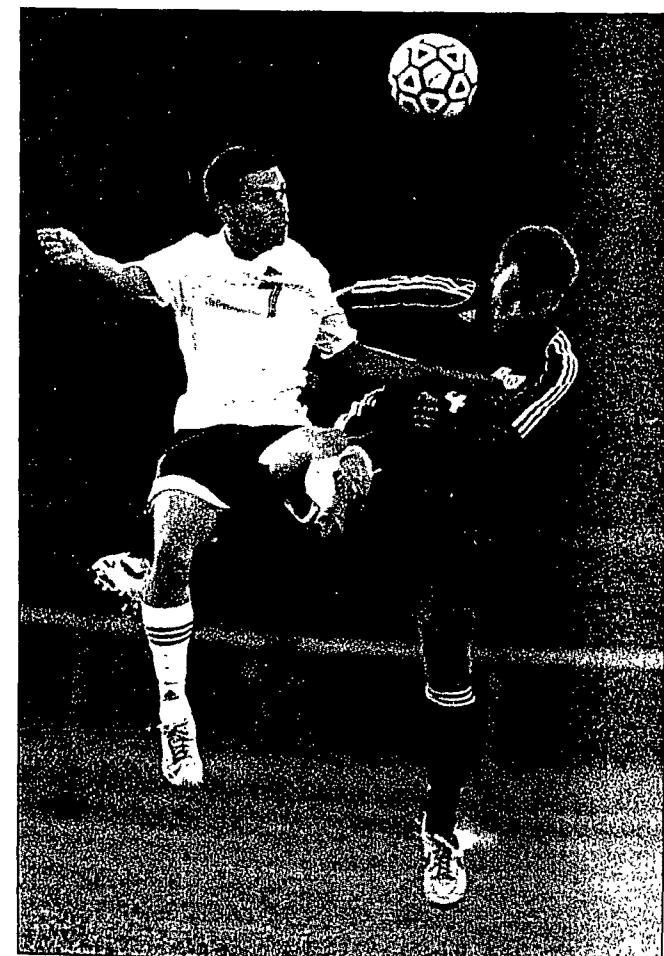


(Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer)

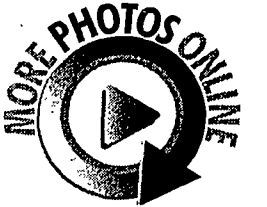
**TOP** Claudia Podolski, 12, lets Milo the Chihuahua hold an American flag July 4 on Main Street while waiting for the parade to begin.

**ABOVE** Eight-year-old Mikayla Morales hula dances July 31 during the evening's concert at Oak Park in Niles. The Barefoot Hawaiian provided the evening's entertainment.

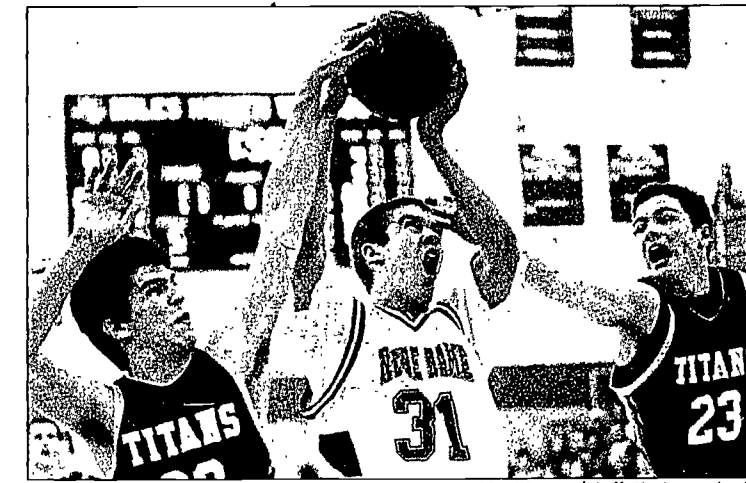
**RIGHT** Niles West's Joe Kosir leaps for a header and collides with Elk Grove's Cesar Rodriguez on Aug. 24 at Elk Grove.



(Rob Hart/Staff Photographer)



While only a select group of photos of the year ran in the paper, there are more than 200 other photos in our online photo gallery at [www.pioneerlocal.com](http://www.pioneerlocal.com).



(Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

Notre Dame's Doug Wollney is harassed March 11 on his way to the basket by Glenbrook South's Raul Hudema (left) and Alex Harvey during the Niles North Boys 4A Basketball Sectional semifinal.



(Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer)



(Rob Hart/Staff Photographer)

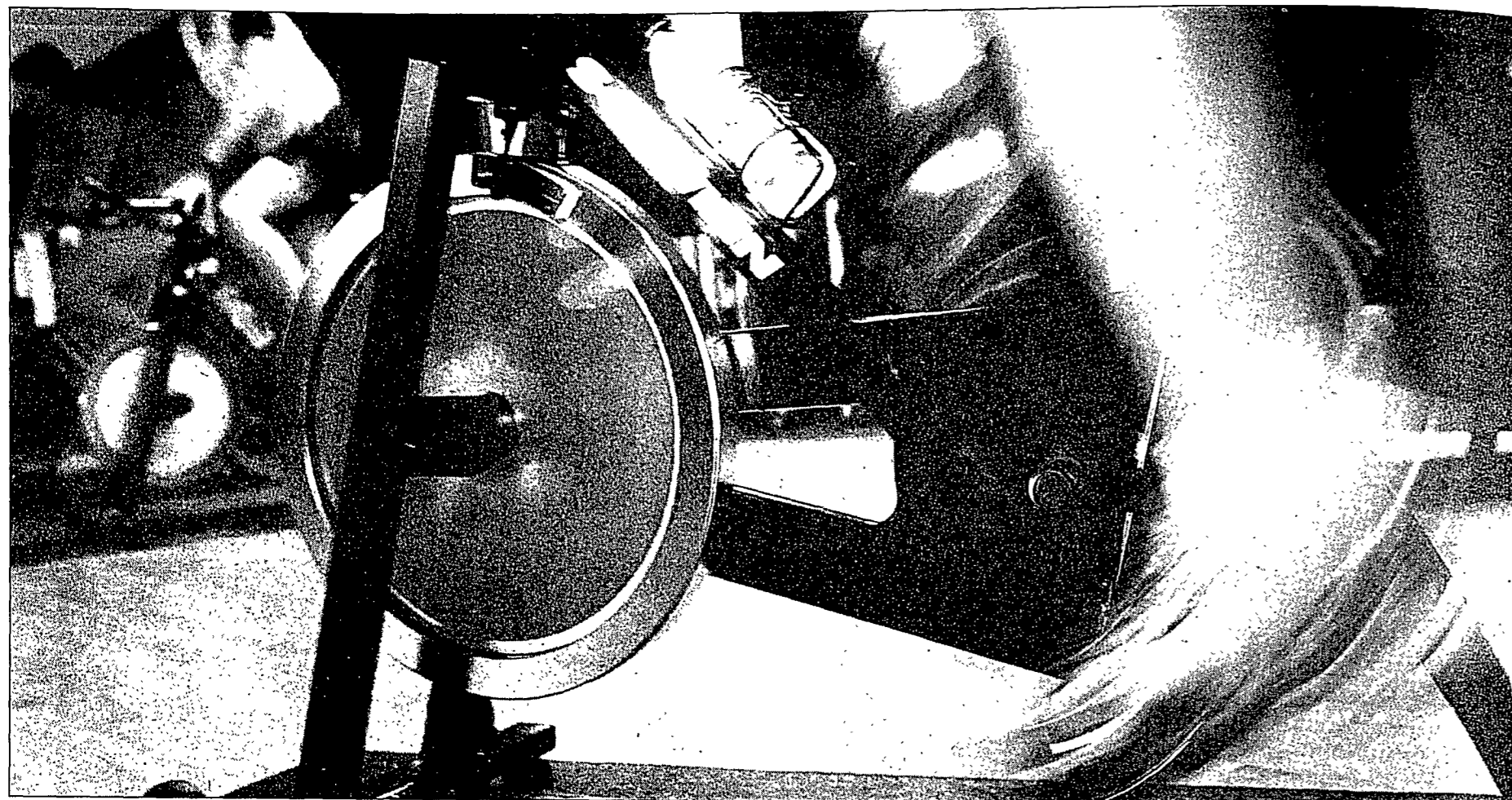
**TOP LEFT** Roberta Goldberg holds aloft notes and talking points from a previous discussion on health-care from Congressman Mark Kirk (R-10th) during a discussion on the same subject with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-9th) on June 14 at the Niles Senior Center.

**ABOVE** Robert Callero, center, and members of the Continuing Economic Stability Party celebrate April 7 at White Eagle Restaurant, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. Niles. Callero won with just less than half of the vote.

**LEFT** Sophomore Mike LoPiccolo pushes a 175-pound tire on July 9 across the field during Maine East Summer Football Camp on Thursday afternoon in Park Ridge.



(Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)



**Spin cycle** About a dozen people on Saturday morning took a spinning class at the Niles Family Fitness Center. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

COMMUNITY

# Niles East class of 1960 plans big 50th reunion

By JENNA HASKITT  
jhaskitt@pioneerlocal.com

Before Niles North there was Niles West and before Niles West there was Niles East.

Niles East was the original — the one and only Niles Township High School before Niles West opened its doors in 1959. Those who graduated from the original school in 1960 — nearly half a century ago — will get together again for a 50th class reunion slated from Oct. 1 to Oct. 3 at the Lincolnshire Marriott.

Reunion committee members are trying to reach about 880 of their classmates from 1960. The committee has already received about 400 responses so far.

"I'm very nostalgic," said Jeff Sippil, committee member and Highland Park resident.

"It's fun. The scary part is seeing people you haven't seen in a long time and you remember them at the age of 17. And now they're 50 years older and it's scary. The other scary thing is, unfortunately, finding out about classmates that have died."

Sippil said he misses his high school days — being 17 again and being "more care-free."

Reunion committee member Jerry France, now an Atlanta resident, joked that he has many fond memories of Niles East that he can't talk about.

"It was a very warm envi-

ronment. I think the most memorable thing is how close our class was. As big as it was there were so many friendships and so much fun."

France said his fondest high school memories revolve around the closeness of the Niles East community and how much fun they had in school.

"It was a fun place to go and a great place to learn," he said. "We didn't have the problems with drugs that kids have to deal with today. We did a lot of stuff and we got into a few bits of trouble but all in all everybody was pretty on the straight and narrow and had a lot of fun. I think the worst thing someone might do was smoke."

Niles West opened in 1959 and Niles North in 1964. Niles East's sister schools, Niles West and Niles North remained open after the original closed in 1980.

That ended a 52-year run for Niles East, which opened in 1938 — a year before the start of World War II.

The reunion planning committee members include Marilyn Holtz, Jerry France, Paul Heinze, Sandy Heinze, Barb Demano Hopper, Pat Gorgen, Barry Humphrey, Jeff Sippil, Gail Frank Raphael, Carol Peterson Cordier and Karen Brodsky Winkelmann.

For more reunion information visit [www.niles1960.com](http://www.niles1960.com).

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

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ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

# Charity concert pays tribute to church's late choir director

By JENNIFER JOHNSON  
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Last January the St. Paul of the Cross Church Choir was still reeling from the sudden loss of their long-time director Chris Diez, who at just 48 succumbed to two brain tumors three weeks after his diagnosis. This year members will

remember Diez with music in a special concert featuring some of his favorite pieces.

The Chris Diez Memorial Concert will be at 8:30 p.m. Sunday at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, 320 S. Washington Ave., Park Ridge. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door on the day of the concert.

cert.

The concert falls just days before the anniversary of Diez's death, and proceeds will benefit the American Brain Tumor Association. The event was organized by his wife, Wendy Diez, of Norwood Park, who is the choir's soprano section leader.

"I wanted to do something

to memorialize him around the anniversary of his death, and to me there was no better way to do it than musically because music was such a big part of his life," Wendy said.

The St. Paul Choir, which Chris directed for 15 years, will perform traditional Christmas songs like the Hallelujah Chorus from

Handel's Messiah, as well as non-holiday music including pieces the choir performed at Chris and Wendy's wedding. Another song, "Gesù Bambino," was a lullaby Chris' mother used to sing him, Wendy said.

"Planning this concert has been a great outlet for me," she said. "While it has been a lot of work, it has been a positive way for me to channel my grief and feel like I'm doing something for Chris and for others who might be in the same situation."

It was the American Brain Tumor Association that Wendy Diez reached out to shortly after her husband's diagnosis of Glioblastoma Multiforme, an aggressive type of tumor; in December 2008. The association provides resources and support services for patients and their families, and works to fund brain-tumor research.

"There's nothing like the helpless feeling you have when you get this diagnosis. Short of doing anything else, raising money for an organization that can do something concrete was important, so that's why we

chose them," Wendy said.

Following Chris' diagnosis the American Brain Tumor Association provided the Diezes with a list of leading research hospitals in the area and they made an appointment at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. But Chris' illness progressed quickly and, shortly after his second child was born, he died Jan. 13, 2009.

Almost immediately friends of Chris brought up the idea of holding a concert in his memory, Wendy said. But without a choir director plans were put on hold temporarily until, Wendy admitted, she "just started to run with (the idea)."

As of last week ticket sales had far surpassed the \$2,000 goal initially set.

Wendy acknowledged her late husband would "probably be embarrassed that such a big deal is being made over him," but at the same time believes he would also love the show itself.

"I think he'd enjoy the concert. I think he'd enjoy the music," she said. "I hope he'd be proud of what we're doing."



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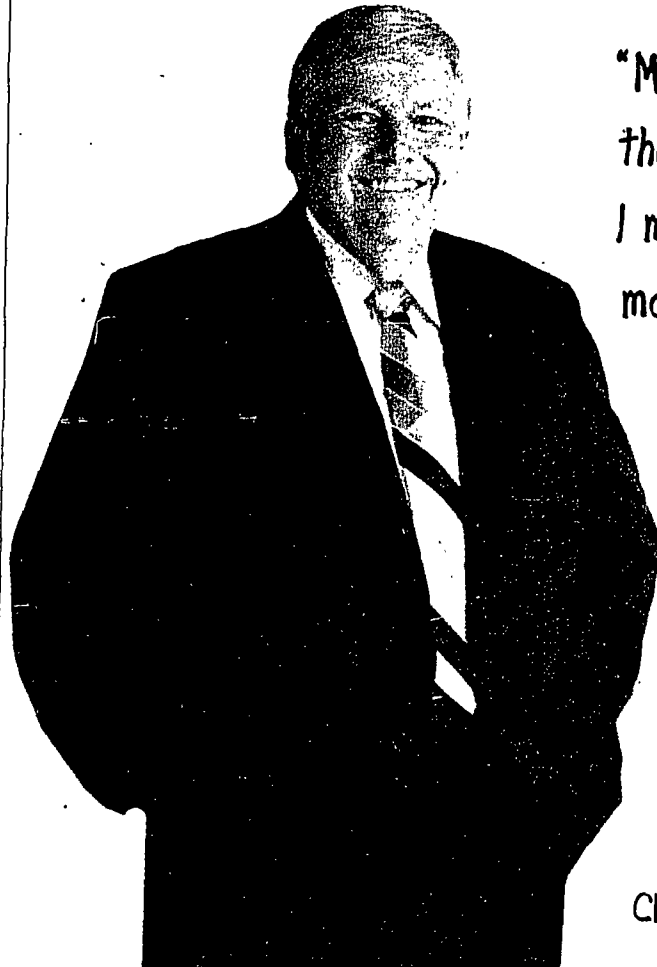
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Chris Diez

DISTRICT 63

# Space concerns spawn task force

By TONY BERTUCA  
tbertuca@pioneerlocal.com

East Main Elementary School District 63 has asked parents to join a task force aimed at solving space issues at several schools.

District officials say both Stevenson and Nelson elementary schools are running out of space due to unexpectedly high enrollment over the past two years. Enrollment at Apollo Elementary School is lower than expected.

"Due to enrollment changes as well as new programs resulting from state and federal mandates, East Maine School District 63 is facing concerns over space at several schools," according to a statement from the district. "As a result, we are seeking participants in a Community Task Force to develop recommendations for addressing these challenges. Because the solutions generated by the task force could directly impact many of the students and

residents of District 63, your input would be greatly appreciated."

The task force has scheduled several community meetings before the school board takes action in March 3: Jan. 27 from 6:30-9 p.m. at Stevenson School; Feb. 9 from 6:30-9 p.m. at Nelson School; Feb. 23 from 6:30-9 p.m. at Twain School; and Feb. 24 from 6-9 p.m. at Donald C. Stetina Educational Service Center.

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

BUSINESS BRIEF

**Meijer's donates gift cards to food pantry**

The Niles Food Pantry was recently presented with a \$2,000 donation from Meijer supercenters.

The donation came in the form of Meijer's gift cards that will allow visitors to the food pantry to receive \$15

worth of food at Meijer's in Niles.

Meijer's Niles location is scheduled to open Jan. 19 at 9000 W. Golf Road.

Niles Family Services Director Marty Friedman said he was delighted to receive the donation because families in need could now select perishable items from Meijer's that cannot be stocked in the food pantry.

Niles Mayor Robert Callero, who was on-hand to receive the donation from Meijer's Niles Store Director Shaun M. Bonner, expressed his gratitude for store's generosity and was thankful for their investment in Niles.

Comment: [pioneerlocal.com](http://pioneerlocal.com)

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents were listed in the official reports of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest by police does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

THEFT

Daniel Allen Jr., 44, of 5000 W. Fargo Ave., Skokie, was charged with retail theft Dec. 31 after he allegedly stole \$200 of merchandise from a store on the 5600 block of West Touhy Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Jan. 22.

DUI

Melissa Caraito, 26, of 6034 N. Avondale Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Saturday on the 7000 block of West Touhy Avenue. She was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Jan. 22.

Kimberly Hall, 28, of 5917 Crain St., Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Monday near Oakton Street and Natchez Avenue. She was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Jan. 26.

Eric Gursch, 44, of 5023 W. Dobson St., Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Sunday on the 8600 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Jan. 26.

Larry Turner, 46, of 1735 W. Park Ave., North Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Sunday on the 9000 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 26.

Mary Jegen, 46, of 4620 N. Narragansett Ave., Harwood Heights, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Sunday

on the 7200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. She was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 23.

Christopher Levendoski, 23, of 8146 N. Ozanam Ave., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Saturday on the 7900 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$2,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 26.

Adel Castro, 27, of 3728 S. Hermitage Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Friday near Waukegan Road and Milwaukee Avenue. He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 26.

Joseph Mete, 45, of 8831 N. Oketo Ave., Niles, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Friday on the 7900 block of North Harlem Avenue.

He was released on \$1,000 bond and is due in court Feb. 26.

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- \$2.7 Million: Police misconduct/excessive force
- \$2.7 Million: Construction worker injured
- \$2.5 Million: Truck Rear-ends van
- \$2 Million: Pedestrian hit by automobile, resulting in brain damage
- \$1.97 Million: Failure to Diagnose Cancer
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**WE SAY**

# New laws now in effect in Illinois

While many of the new state laws legislators approved this summer went into effect immediately, a bevy of new laws just became active Friday, Jan. 1. The ones likely to impact most folks are those designed to reduce the number of accidents caused by distracted drivers.

Beginning Jan. 1, it is now against the law to read or send text messages or e-mails while driving. The ban applies to cell phones, smart phones and laptops, but does not apply to Global Positioning System navigational units or other direction-providing services.

Illinois joined 18 other states that already had banned sending or receiving messages while driving. Another law was designed to increase the safety of students and construction workers. Motorists are now banned

from using hand-held devices near schools or construction zones, although Bluetooth-enabled calling is allowed.

And the penalty for driving without proper insurance has increased. Drivers taking a chance without car insurance now are subject to a Class A misdemeanor instead of just a traffic citation.

Schools in the area may be experiencing fewer disruptions. A state law that went into effect Jan. 1 is aimed at eliminating bogus threats to schools. The law makes it a felony, not a misdemeanor, to threaten to destroy a school and/or harm anyone in a school building. Several suburban schools were disrupted in the past year when unfounded threats forced schools to be evacuated.

The felony charge should discourage some of these pranks.

Still another law has

made it easier for prosecutors to file charges against family members who are accused of sexually abusing children. Victims used to have one year after they turned 18 to press their case. As of Jan. 1, they now have 10 years after they turn 18. The definition of a family member has also been expanded to include related uncles and others.

One other new state law of interest: The legal definition of juvenile has been expanded to include those 17 and younger. Previously only those 16 and under were considered juveniles. This means that from Jan. 1 on, we are no longer including the names of those aged 17 charged with crimes, as we have done for those 16 and under. The only exception would be if the defendant is charged as an adult, as in a murder case, for example.

*Comment: pioneerlocal.com*

**YOU SAY**

## Work-at-home scams top '09 list

Scammers in 2009 followed the financial woes of individuals as they preyed on people's difficult economic conditions and concerns about the general economy, according to the Better Business Bureau's summary of dishonest business dealings for the past year.

"We've seen scammers follow the money trail and target the desperate emotions of people," said Steve J. Bernas, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and Northern Illinois. "This year the Top 3 scams

were directly related to personal finances ..."

This listing is based on the number of times people requested information and inquiries through personal phone calls or the BBB website, as well as complaints. These instances of service by the Better Business Bureau serving Chicago and Northern Illinois, including inquiries and complaints about specific businesses, totaled a record-setting 9 million.

The list of the Top 10 most common scams in 2009 include:

1. Work-At-Home schemes.
2. Credit Repair scams.
3. Grant Locating and Government Job-Finding offers.
4. Mortgage Foreclosure Rescue deals.
5. Check Collection scams.
6. Advance-Fee Lending.
7. Mystery Shopper offers.
8. Phony Directory solicitations.
9. "Free Trials" that are not free.
10. Phishing, Smishing, Fake E-Cards and other ways to obtain ID information.

**1000 WORDS**



## Re-gifting and refunds



**CHERYL O'DONOVAN**  
VAN MOM STRIKES AGAIN

Post-holiday madness, I pass through several stores and find long lines and cordoned-off areas marked "Refunds."

The hostility and desperation is almost as bad as when I shopped at a "Toys R Us on Christmas Eve." I shudder, recalling that dark despair. Even the Toys "R Us mascot, Geoffrey the Giraffe, was scalping parents outside. Aisles picked clean, it was almost as though the Grinch swept through with a snow blower. The one speck of candy remaining was a half-devoured green M&M slung aside by a toddler.

But today, I'm shopping for clearance bargains and ignoring the plush Santas

missing eyes and belts. I overhear bits of conversations.

"Don't even say Zhu Zhu pets," an exhausted mom says, her paper return bags crumpling. "My daughter already lost Pipsqueek, Num Nums and Mr. Squiggles. All she has is Chunk."

"Chunk. That's the white one?"

"Yes," the tired mom nods.

I see a photo of Chunk, a white toy hamster, who looks like he's struggling with Super Odious Seasonal Affective Disorder, SO-SAD. Chunk is the pudgy white Zhu Zhu with the pasty complexion. Come to think of it, after all this holiday eating, Chunk could easily represent most North American Caucasians.

In the Refunds and Returns line, a testy father pipes up from the back. "Well, my kid wanted a real hamster, and our Zhu Zhu went doo-doo all over our holiday decorations."

A woman in a pea coat surveys the Refunds line, which continues outside

and has a traffic cop maintaining law and order.

"Sheesh," she breathes with relief. "For a moment there, I thought I might be in the unemployment line." Other people discuss why they are returning purchases.

"My sister bought my kid this SpongeBob sleeping bag"

"Oh, so your kid's into other shows, huh? Watches 'iCarly' now?"

"No, he's 33."

They're also discussing other options, in the event they turn into dust before reaching the returns cashier.

"I'm going to re-gift this tub of Oxyclean."

"Well, I'm going to re-gift a Celestial Tea package from 1992."

Finally, those returning gifts reach their destination, the cash register and angry clerk. "Sorry, no returns unless we have a receipt, blood sample, last tax return, and you specify which Monkee you preferred, Mickey Dolenz or Davy Jones."

*Comment: pioneerlocal.com*

## Wells Fargo help comes in stages



**STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN**  
THE FIXER - Chicago Sun-Times

Dear Fixer: My mother-in-law, Rosemarie DePinto, cannot get her Wells Fargo mortgage modified.

Her husband passed away about 18 months ago, and she has been trying to get a modification of the loan since the beginning of the year. She has submitted documentation of my father-in-law's death several times. They say they did not receive it, and they bounce her from clerk to clerk. She has gotten nowhere — please help her.

**Roberto Morrone**

Dear Roberto: The Fixer had fun getting to know you and Rosemarie over the nearly two months that it took to get this fixed.

Wells Fargo won't earn any speed records, but they did come up with a more affordable payment plan, at least until they can review your mother-in-law's situation again.

Rosemarie described a phenomenon common to many "Dear Fixer" writers. Because she'd get a different customer-service representative on the phone each time, she felt she had to begin telling the story from the start each time.

She figures she sent her husband's death certificate to the company five times — and they still kept him listed on the account. She said she was told they couldn't help her because they couldn't reach her — which doesn't make sense because she's a senior citizen, hasn't traveled lately and has an answering machine.

We were happy to connect her with some higher-ups at Wells Fargo who could handle the problem. It took awhile, but they agreed to let her skip her December payment, and they set her payments \$200 lower for the first three months of 2010. In March, they said they'll review her case. We'll cross our fingers that they make the arrangement permanent.

### My (not so) Free Travel

We've written a couple of columns about My Free Travel, the Joliet rebate-fulfillment business that partnered with retailers to offer rebates to consumers who bought big-ticket items. Several readers — and at least one merchant — had complained that My Free Travel was either finding unusual reasons to deny people's rebates or being pokey with their customer service, or both.

The icing on the cake was that consumers had to fork over 10 bucks just to participate in the program, meaning My Free Travel made lots of money on participation fees without ever paying all the rebates.

Well, it looks like My Free Travel is no more. The Better Business Bureau, which was reviewing the company after receiving a whopping 540 consumer complaints, says that, as of late December, My Free Travel had laid off its staff and ceased operations.

No word on whether it will try to reorganize, but consumers with unpaid rebates ought not to hold their breath waiting.

Consumers with complaints are urged to contact the Illinois Attorney General's Office toll-free at (800) 386-5438 or online at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

### Saving gas

Here are a few tips to keep your gas bills from careening out of control this winter, from the good folks at the Citizens Utility Board, the non-profit

agency created by the Legislature to advocate for consumers vis-à-vis the utilities:

- Check your bill. If it says "estimated" or "EST" it means the gas company didn't read your meter and estimated your usage based on past history. If this goes on for months it can mess up your bill, so call them to inquire. You also can do your own reading — check out www.citizensutilityboard.org or call (800) 669-5556 for info.

- Get a programmable thermostat and set it at 68 degrees during the day and 62 at night. In most homes, you can save about 2 percent of your heating bill for each degree you lower the thermostat.

- Set your water heater at 120 degrees and cover it with an insulating blanket.

- Caulk leaky windows and insulate any openings around window air conditioning units.

One more thing — if a salesperson comes to your door to try to switch you to an unregulated natural gas provider, be very wary. Countless consumers have reported their gas bill rising astronomically after being put on an outside supplier's plan.

A new state law helps protect consumers who signed up for these plans on or after April 10, 2009. Now, consumers can cancel their contracts within 10 days — after they've seen the bill — with no penalty. If they cancel after that, the maximum penalty is \$50.

*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. Or, 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. Letters are edited for length and clarity.*

*Comment: pioneerlocal.com*

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SCHOOLS BRIEFS

DISTRICT 207

Maine Township High School District 207 is well represented in this year's listing of Illinois State Scholars...

Sahrish Moosed, Alfredo Nagode, Alyssa Paguirigan, Mahek Parikh, Hyon Park, Komal Patel, Rina Patel, Michele Perchess, Patrick Radziwil, Dania Shehadeh...

From Maine South High School: Andrew Abtahi, Leonard Allegretti, Matthew Ammentorp, Joseph Anderson...

From Maine East High School: Kristen Beierwaltes, Dana Castillo, Andre Cololina, Michelle Cunanen, Keanu Delavega...

Connor Doherty, Tamara Dukich, Marissa Duric, Katelyn Elder, Matthew Eller, Christian Eusebio, Corinne Farrell, Paul Fedyniak, Sean Fleming...

From Maine West High School: John O'Brien, Maureen O'Donnell, Michael Oleczyk, Julie O'Leary, Katelyn O'Neil, Eleanor Pace, Helen Pantazi...

School: Salma Ahmed, Ryan Alm, Michael Aryman, Brandon Bailey, Justine Bednarski, Michael Bednarz, Bryan Bishop, Jennifer Black, Rebecca Broda, Eric Brooks...

Sinks, Emilie Sinkler, Katherine Sobolewski, Jeremy Stepanovich, Jeremy Storck, Rachel Vogeney, Irene Vrblik, James Walsh IV, Lisa Wille, Ashley Wilson, Ashley Winiecki...

Sanks, Emilie Sinkler, Katherine Sobolewski, Jeremy Stepanovich, Jeremy Storck, Rachel Vogeney, Irene Vrblik, James Walsh IV, Lisa Wille, Ashley Wilson, Ashley Winiecki, Daniela Wojciechowska, Brett Wolf, Stephen, Woodford, Abigail Wydra, Shaif Yusufshaq and Adam Zmyslowski.

Northridge Prep Knights, with the help of their families, raised nearly \$1,000 and three carloads of toys and gifts to be split between the Women's Center in Chicago and St. Joseph's Home in Osceola, Ind.

Student members of Cavalier, Paladin and Riddervon Halls donated more than 100 toys for children younger than 5 who attended a Christmas Party given by the Women's Center on Dec. 21.

More than 80 wrapped presents were also brought in by the members of Vytis Hall and delivered to the residents of St. Joseph's Home. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

NorthSide Community Bank advertisement featuring mortgage rates starting as low as 5.000% / 5.149%\* APR. Includes branch locations in Gurnee, Riverwoods, Mundelein, Niles, and Chicago.

AUCTIONS advertisement for SUGAR RIVER AUCTIONS PRESENTS. Features government surplus auctions, police cars, seized vehicles, dump trucks, pickup trucks, and public works equipment. Contact: 847-546-2095.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026.

Benefits

A Chris Diez Memorial Concert will be held at 3:30 p.m. Jan 10 in St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington St. Park Ridge. Tickets are \$10.

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge. (847) 823-0453. calendar of events includes: Tuesdays, Wednesdays (every week) - Employment counseling, by appointment.

Chamber

The Niles Chamber Dollars for Scholars Charter is an all volunteer committee dedicated to youth. This 2009-10 academic year, three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating eighth-grade students and three \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors.

Classes

Low-cost adult computer classes are offered by the Niles Township Government, 5255 Main St., at Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Classes cost \$70 for Niles Township residents and \$85 for out-of-district students.

Clubs

The Golden Notes from the Niles Senior Center will sing a lively and entertaining montage of music at 2 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 Milwaukee Ave.

day of the month in the Maine Park Leisure Center. Forestview and Sylvanwood. Guests of all ages are welcome. Call Roger Ginger. (847) 825-2982.

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

Community

Parents of Maine Township High School District 207 students are invited to participate in a focus group about teen alcohol use and prevention efforts in Maine Township. The Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation, a community coalition, is gathering information from parents about communication between parents and youth regarding alcohol use.

Our Lady Mother of the Church, 8747 W. Lawrence Ave., presents a musical performance. "Amahl and the Night Visitors," an opera in one act. "It is the touching story of a crippled boy who is visited by the Three Wise Men on their way to see the newborn Jesus Christ and stars members of the parish. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8 and 9 and 3 p.m. Jan. 10.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, will welcome its second traveling exhibition, "Anne Frank: A History for Today" runs through Feb. 28. Hours are: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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

The American Jewish Artists Club is accepting new members. The group, founded in the early 1920s, focuses on the broad aspects of artistic performance and serves to enrich the cultural fiber of the Jewish community. Call Lorre Slaw. (847) 272-0744, or e-mail: islaw@oakton.edu.

Audubon Society of Park Ridge meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month in the Maine Park Leisure Center.

The Niles Chamber of Commerce Reminds you to Shop Locally. Call the Chamber office for referrals on businesses in the area (847) 268-8180. www.nileschamber.com. Visit us at our new location 8060 Oakton Street (Inside the NorthSide Community Bank).

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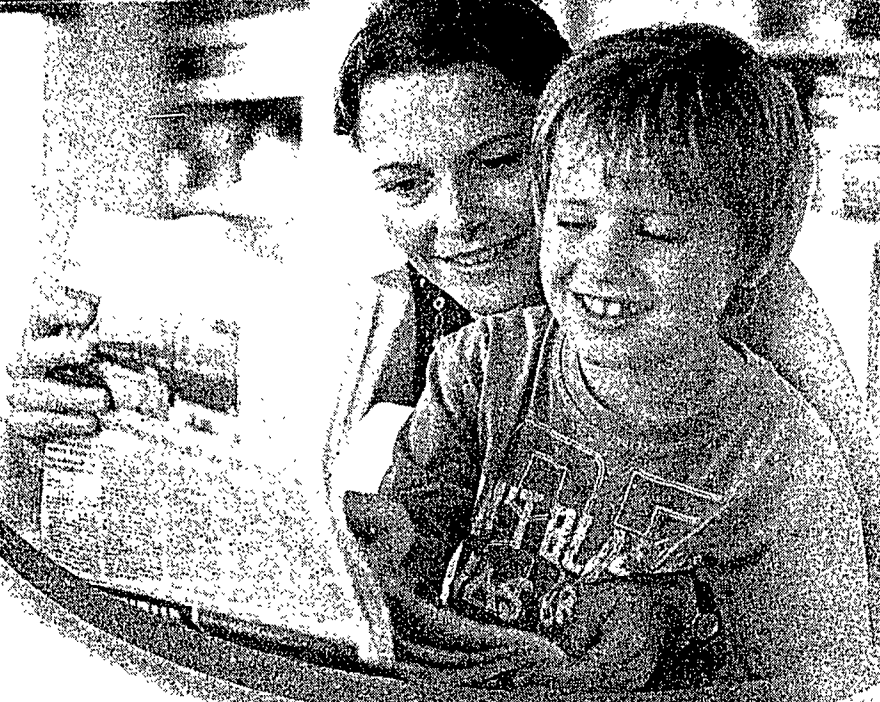
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### 4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for the coming week



**1. James Cuno**, president and director of the Art Institute of Chicago, will present "The Modern Wing: A New Look at a Treasured Landmark" at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 12 at the annual meeting of the North Shore Senior Center, Arthur C. Nielsen Jr. Campus, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. A book signing follows the program. Free. www.nssc.org.

**2. Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra** presents "A Musical European Voyage," with Lyon Leifer, flute, and Michael Hensch, oboe, at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 10 at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The program includes works by Richard Rodney Bennett, Respighi, Kodaly and Ravel. \$44-\$70, with discounts for seniors and students. (847) 673-6300 or www.arsviva.org.

**3. "Jazz in January,"** featuring local jazz musicians Kent Wehman, Mike Levin, Wally Hustin, Neal Wehman and Bruce Nelson, 8 p.m. Jan. 8-9 at Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland, Park Ridge. \$30. (847) 823-3164 or www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org.

**4. "Love Letters,"** starring Jan Ellen Graves and Lou Lang, 2 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door. (847) 677-7761 or www.skolietheatre.com.

## Top musicians gathering at Northwestern

Winter Chamber Music Festival, at Northwestern University Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Sundays, Jan. 8-24. (847) 467-4000 or www.pickstaiger.org.

By DOROTHY ANDRIES  
Contributor

Chamber music of the highest quality has been resounding from Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall in Evanston during January for the past 13 years.

This year, the university's Winter Chamber Music Festival continues that tradition with a roster including internationally acclaimed cellist Lynn Harrell, triple-award-winning violinist Ilya Kaler, violinist and Chicago Symphony concertmaster Robert Chen and the CSO's assistant principal cellist Ken Olsen. And that's not mentioning faculty members from Northwestern's Bienen School of Music, many of whom also play in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, such as festival founder violinist Blair Milton, clarinetist J. Lawrie Bloom and trombonist Michael Mulcahy.

On Friday, Jan. 8 the program features the Evanston Chamber Ensemble, violinist Blair Milton, cellist Stephen Balderston, and pianist Andrea Swan, joined by six faculty members: clarinetist J. Lawrie Bloom, bassoonists Christopher Millard and Lewis Kirk, trumpeters Charles Geyer and Barbara Butler and trombonist Michael Mulcahy. Also playing are violist Lawrence Neuman, flutist Camille Churchfield and trombonist Randy Hawes. The program includes music by Gabrieli, Stravinsky, Crusell, and Schubert.

On Sunday, Jan. 10 cellists Lynn Harrell and Stephen Balderston, violinists Robert Chen and Blair Milton and violists Roger Chase and Yukiko Ogura play Brahms' String



Cellist Lynn Harrell

Quintet No. 2 in G Major; Op. 111 and String Sextet No. 1 in B-flat Major; Op. 18. Harrell will give a free master class from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 at Pick-Staiger.

On Friday, Jan. 15 the Dorian Woodwind Quintet, flutist Gretchen Pusch, oboist Gerard Reuter, clarinetist Jerry Kirkbride, bassoonist John Hunt, and hornist Karl Kramer-Johansen, with faculty members violinist Gerardo Ribeiro and pianist Alan Chow, play music of Ligeti, Schubert, Morton Gould, and Mordechai Rechtman's arrangements of Bach's "Christ lag in Todesbanden" and Fugue in G Minor.

On Sunday, Jan. 17 pianist Lori Kaufmann, violinist Ilya Kaler, violist Rami Solomonov, cellist Ken Olsen and clarinetists J. Lawrie Bloom and Steven Cohen play music of Stravinsky, Martinu and Tchaikovsky.

On Friday, Jan. 22 the Jupiter String Quartet, violinists Nelson Lee and Megan Freivogel, violist Liz Freivogel and cellist Daniel McDonough, will perform works by Haydn, Janacek, and Beethoven. Quartet members will give a free string master class to pre-selected NU string students at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 23 in Regenstein Recital Hall, adjacent to Pick-Staiger.

On Sunday, Jan. 24 the festival closes with the Lincoln String Quartet, violinists Lei Hou and Qing Hou, violist Lawrence Neuman, and cellist Stephen Balderston playing works by Boccherini and Stravinsky, as well as Schubert's Octet in F Major for Strings and Winds, for which they will be joined by NU faculty members, clarinetist Steven Cohen, hornist Gail Williams, bassoonist Christopher Millard



The Lincoln String Quartet



Chicago Symphony concertmaster Robert Chen

and bassist Peter Lloyd. Cellist Lynn Harrell, who lives in Santa Monica, Calif., has a special reason for braving the winds off Lake Michigan for this festival. "I am always eager to unite with my former student Stephen Balderston," he said, referring to their upcoming collaboration on Jan. 10. "This is the fourth time I have played at the festival and everyone has made me feel so welcome."

The prevailing wisdom is that Chicago music lovers head south in January. "But that's not completely true," violinist Robert Chen maintained. "There's been a very good audience for this series every year."

"Blair is my colleague in the Chicago Symphony," he continued. "I've played in this festival off and on over the last few years, and it's a wonderful chance to play things we don't have the opportunity to do when we're

working in an orchestra." The first festival program in January 1997 paid homage to composer Johannes Brahms in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his death and concluded with the composer's Piano Quintet, with no less than Daniel Barenboim, then the CSO's music director, at the piano. But Milton has not been compelled to pay such a tribute to any other composer. "I didn't see any sense in trying to observe some sort of anniversary when there wasn't one," he said. "There's a lot of good chamber music out there for us to play."


From the first, Milton built a festival and people came, and it has continued to play to packed houses. Some of its success must be credited to Milton's ability to attract top musical talent, including pianists Menahem Pressler and Barenboim, violinists Pinchas Zuckerman and Gil Shaham and cellists Janos Starker, Yo-Yo Ma and Harrell.

January was chosen because Pick-Staiger was usually nearly dark at that time. "These days there are a lot more things going on there," Milton said, "but now they schedule around our January dates." Comment: pioneerlocal.com

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"The Addams Family," through Jan. 10 at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., Chicago. Tickets: \$28-\$105. Call (800) 775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com.

"The American Pilot" will be presented at 8 p.m. Jan. 29-30 and Feb. 4-6, and 2 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 in Northwestern University's Ethel M. Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. After crashing in the hills of a war-torn country, an injured American bomber pilot finds shelter in a farmer's barn. Unable to speak the local language, he is left with only the music on his iPod to communicate, and his fate will be determined by the conflicting agendas of the farmer, his family and the local militia. Tickets: \$25; \$22 for senior citizens, Northwestern faculty and staff and area educators and administrators; and \$10 for full-time students. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tic.northwestern.edu.

"Annie," Jan. 19-24 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Parkway, Chicago. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$20-\$75. Call (800) 775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com.

"Awake and Sing!," Jan. 21-Feb. 28 at Northlight Theatre, located in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. In a cramped Bronx tenement during the Great Depression, a working-class Jewish family copes with financial hard-

ship even as they dream of a brighter future. Performances on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except Jan. 26 and Feb. 9, 16); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (except Jan. 27) and 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. (except Jan. 23) and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. (except Jan. 31) and 7 p.m. (except Feb. 7 and 28). Tickets: \$35-\$50; \$10 for young adults, age 25 and under. Opening performance and post-show reception on Jan. 31, \$75. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org. Northlight will host a free panel discussion, "Clifford Odets' America: The American Dream Fulfilled," at 12:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at the theatre. The discussion is free, but reservations are required; call (847) 679-9501, ext. 3555.

"Billy Elliot the Musical" begins pre-view performances March 18, with opening night April 11, at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., Chicago. Tickets: \$28-\$100. Call (800) 775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com. The Curious Theatre Branch presents the 21st annual Rhinoceros Theater Festival, Jan. 22-Feb. 14 at Prop Thr, 3502-04 N. Elston, Chicago. \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Call (773) 508-0666 or visit www.rhinofest.com. "Dreamgirls," Jan. 19-31 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St., Chicago. Tickets: \$18-\$85. Call (800) 775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com.

"The Exonerated," Jan. 12-Feb. 7 at La Costa Theatre, located on the second floor at 3931 N. Elston, Chicago. Culled from interviews, letters, transcripts, case files and the public record, "The Exonerated" tells the true stories of six wrongfully convicted survivors of Death Row in their own words. Curtain at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 4 p.m. Sundays, with Saturday matinees at 4 p.m. Jan. 16 and 23. Tickets: \$15. For information, call (866) 468-3401.

Halcyon Theatre presents The Alcy-one Festival 2010, Jan. 21-Feb. 27 at the Lincoln Square Theatre in the Barry United Methodist Church, 4754 N. Leavitt, Chicago. The festival celebrates the work of Maria Irene Fornés, and features "Letters from Cuba," "Manual for a Desperate Crossing," "Sarita," "Summer in Gossensass," "Tango Palace" and "What of the Night." Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 6 p.m. Sundays. \$10-20 for single tickets; \$50

Festival Pass for entry to all shows. Performance schedule can be found at www.halcyontheatre.org/alcyone10. For tickets, call (773) 413-0453.

"Here Where It's Safe," Feb. 23-April 3 at Stage Left Theatre Company, 3408 N. Sheffield, Chicago. Curtain at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$20-\$25; \$10 for previews on Feb. 13-14, 18-20 and 22. For information, call (773) 883-8830 or visit www.stagelefttheatre.com.

"Icarus," through Jan. 24 at Looking-glass Theatre Company, located inside Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. at Pearson. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets: \$18-\$62. For information, visit www.lookingglasstheatre.org or call (312) 337-0665.

"The Island" will be presented by Remy Bumpo Theatre Company Jan. 27-March 7 in the Upstairs Mainstage of the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. John and Winston are cellmates in an unnamed prison, spending their days in back-breaking labor and their nights rehearsing Sophocles' Antigone to present to their fellow inmates. When John learns his sentence is being reduced, the men's friendship is tested. Tickets: \$35-\$50; \$25-\$40 for previews, Jan. 27-30. Call (773) 404-7336 or visit www.remybumpo.org.

"Mamma Mia!," a musical based on the songs of ABBA, Jan. 19-24 at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19 and 21; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 20; 8 p.m. Jan. 22; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jan. 23; and 2 p.m. Jan. 24. Tickets: \$30-\$80. Call (800) 775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com.

"Million Dollar Quartet," a new musical inspired by the 1956 recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley, in open run at the Apollo Theater, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. Tickets: \$20-\$64.50. Call (773) 935-6100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

"Mrs. Callban," Feb. 5-March 28 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Previews at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and 12; 8 p.m. Feb. 6 and 13; and 4 p.m. Feb. 7 and 14. Regular run at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 4 p.m. Sundays. Dorothy is locked in a lifeless marriage

of empty domestic ritual until a fugitive reptile-man from another world arrives on her doorstep. With him, she finds forbidden love and experiences a rebirth of her spirit, as she learns to question her assumptions about the world. \$20 for previews; \$30 for regular run, \$25 for seniors, \$15 for students. Call (773) 761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com.

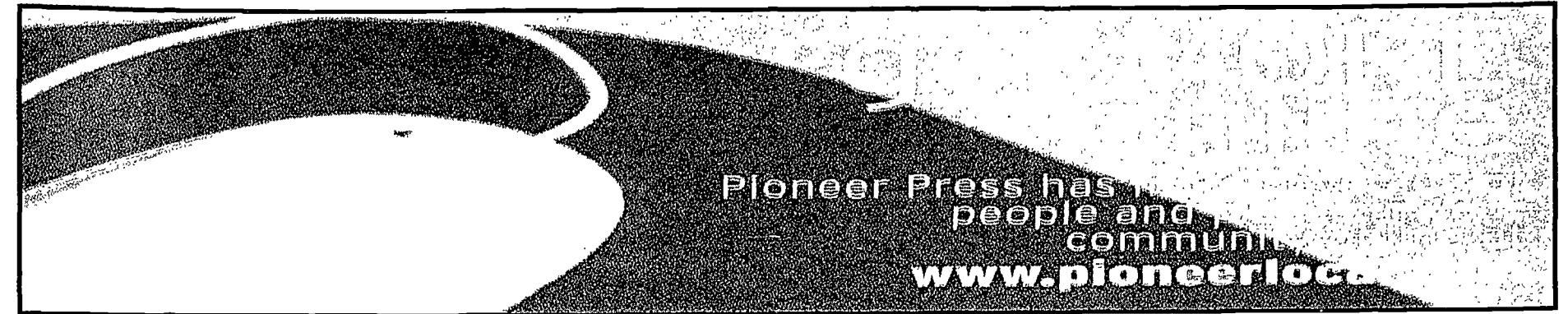
"Nervous Conditions" will be presented at 8 p.m. Jan. 29 and 2 and 8 p.m. Jan. 30 in Northwestern University's Alvina Krause Studio in Annie May Swift Hall, 1920 Campus Drive, Evanston. Adapted from author Tsitsi Dangarembga's novel of the same name, "Nervous Conditions" is set in Zimbabwe during the Second Chimurenga (Struggle for Independence). Admission is free.

"Number of People," March 6-April 11 at Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and grappling with the challenges of aging, a Holocaust survivor bears witness to his past in an exploration on the elusive nature of memory. Tickets: \$25; \$15 for previews, March 6-7. Call (773) 753-4472 or visit www.piventheatre.org.

"Palmer Park" will be presented in a staged reading at 2 p.m. Jan. 17-18 in Northwestern University's Mussetter-Struble Theater, 1949 Campus Drive, Evanston. Tony Award-nominated playwright Joanna McClelland Glass tells the story of a Detroit neighborhood that struggled to uphold the ideal of integration. Both performances will be followed by a post-show discussion with the creative team. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call (847) 491-7282.

Pegasus Players will present its 24th annual Young Playwrights Festival, a professional production of three one-act plays written by Chicago high school students, Jan. 7-31 in the O'Rourke Center at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago. Previews will be Jan. 7-10, with the official Opening Night Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 11. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15, with student and senior discounts available, and may be purchased by calling (773) 878-9761 or online at www.pegasusplayers.org

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## SUBURBS Nonna Silvia's still sizzles

by Charles P. Pecoraro, Fra Noi Inc. ©2010 reprinted with permission. Visit www.franoi.com.

It's 5:30 on a typical Friday and the wait begins. Most of the folks in line have been here before and know what to expect. They observe patiently, hoping a table will soon become available at Nonna Silvia's.

On Saturdays, the waiting game starts all over again. Some customers may be in line 30 minutes before being seated. A few ventured from as far as Schaumburg or Barrington.

A queue of eager diners isn't unusual, particularly at the hot new restaurants. This Park Ridge trattoria isn't exactly new, but sure is sizzling.

Since opening four years ago, Nonna Silvia's has blossomed into one of the area's preferred destinations for notable Italian cooking and pizza. Most of its 50 seats are occupied on weeknights, and waiting lines are inevitable on weekends. Diners are saying yes to Nonna, and partners/chefs/cousins John Giannini and Steve Marti respond with comforting dishes and imaginative flavors not likely found at Americanized Italian restaurants. They ratchet up the hospitality by stepping out of the kitchen every so often to mingle with their audience.

Produce and herbs from Marti's farm are used extensively to intensify their cooking with freshness and stimulating subtleties. Examples: fettucine hand-rolled with organic Swiss chard, and ravioli stuffed with home-grown — not canned or frozen — pumpkin aroused with sage.

The preliminaries are a preview of good things to come. Pasta e fagioli, for instance, was hearty and warming, the noodles nice and firm, the broth deep and decent. Indeed, a super soup for a frosty winter evening.

Calamari alla griglia con spinaci is long in title and taste. Freshly marinated whole squid are lightly grilled and served over sauteed spinach, grape tomatoes and

artichoke hearts. A drizzle of aged balsamic and splash of EV olive oil complete the chewy treat.

Previously mentioned fettucine belongs on the pasta list. The chard imparts a dark green tone and earthy essence to the noodles, while freshly crushed garlic, a touch of red chili peppers and a dusting of Parmigiano

Unlike some risotti in which the ingredients are overwhelmed by the rice, this di mare interpretation lets Alaskan king crab, shrimp, clams, mussels and calamari take the lead role with Arborio rice in support. Deft dashes of basil and garlic help assure seafood succulence in every forkful.

Though the Greeks claim to have the best lamb recipes, the Giannini-Marti tandem make a convincing statement with agnello modo mio. New Zealand (read: premium) rack of lamb is marinated with fresh herbs and lemon, grilled to a charred turn and served in a puddle of deliciously dark reduction sauce, with garlic mashed potatoes on the side.

Kudos also are in order for the red snapper al forno (roasted with kalamata olives, herbs and lemon over toasted ciabatta with shoestring sweet potatoes), and pollo Venuto (chicken breast sauteed with onions, shiitake mushrooms, spinach and sun-dried tomatoes in creamy goat cheese sauce).

A dessert that nicely complements any meal is pumpkin cheesecake — light, luscious, not overly sweet and crowned with a dollop of whipped cream. Homemade tiramisu and fried dough balls satisfy, too. The 50-count wine roster, highlighting top-shelf Italian labels, is compatible with the cuisine.

Despite not much wiggle room, youthful servers like Desirae Mercuri weave in and out of traffic with affable, accommodating efficiency.

The corner storefront emits a casual, come-as-you-are vibe with a faux brick wall, tin ceiling, colorful illustrations and neat bar. The acoustics can get loud, but not enough to spoil your visit.

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Another primo pasta is mezza luna, translating into half-moon shaped packets packed with a puree of fennel sausage, spinach and nutty flavored fontinella cheese in a gratifying sauce of heirloom — not ordinary — tomatoes sparked with basil.

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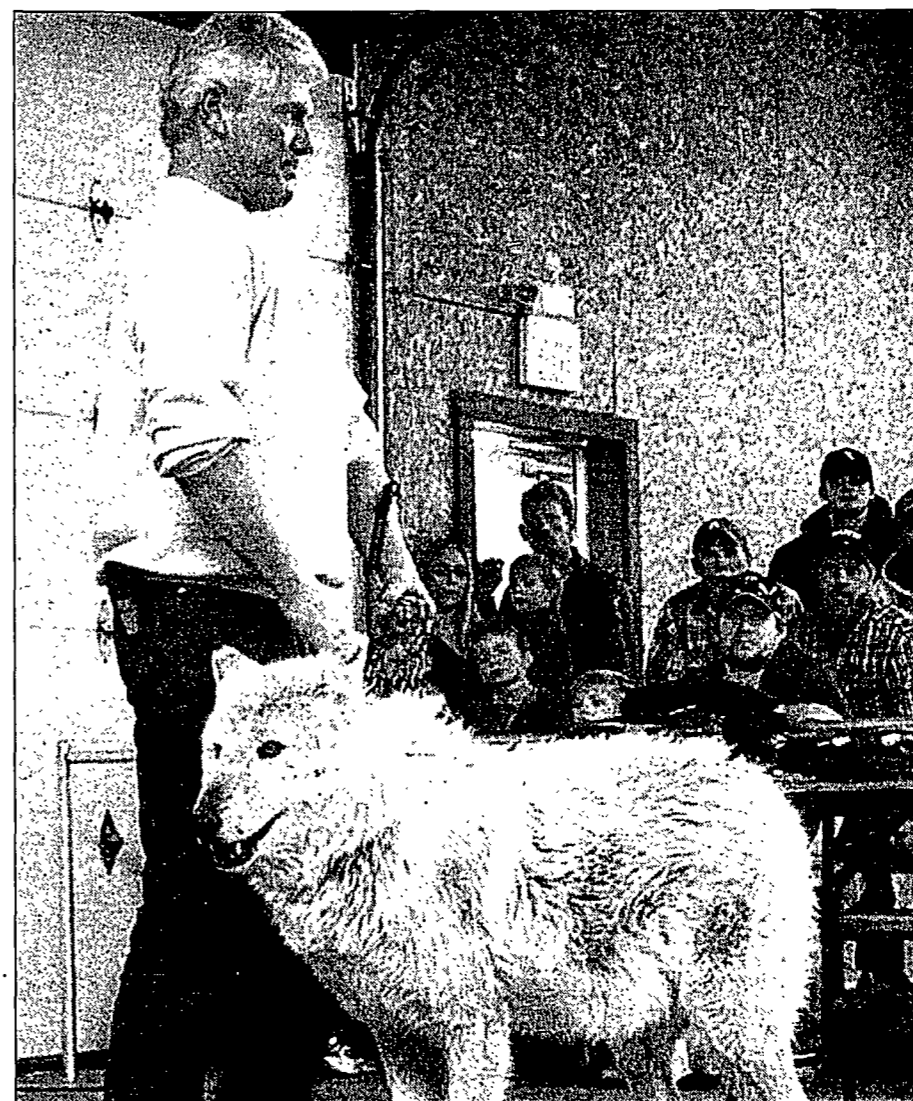
By MYRNA PETLICKI  
Contributor

Even though it's a bit early for a groundhog to predict when winter will end, Wilson will pop up at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10. The groundhog will be joined by several other animals that live at Big Run Wolf Ranch, a federally licensed non-profit program in Lockport that's dedicated to education about and conservation of North American wildlife. Big Run President John Basile will talk about the animals.

"We'll go through everything you could possibly want to know about a groundhog or a woodchuck — that's the same animal," Basile said. He will also talk about Big Run's Groundhog Day Open House on Saturday, Jan. 30. (See bigrun-wolfranch.org for details.) Basile will also bring Bloo, a 9-month-old Canadian lynx; Juno, a seven-year-old timber wolf; and Mahala, a rescued orphaned coyote who is "just like a little dog," Basile reported. "I tell them, 'Today you will get the truth about the coyote and you will leave here with a different attitude about this animal. He's out there just trying to make a living like the rest of us.'"

### Highlighting Korean culture

Everyone is invited to celebrate Korean American Day during "Dance From and of Korea: Ballet and Traditional," 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The program will feature the Dance Department of Chung-Ang University, presenting classic and contemporary ballet,



John Basile, president of the Big Run Wolf Ranch, with Odin, a timber wolf.

and the Chicago-based Korean traditional dance group Choomsarang, which will tour Central and South America this year. For details, call (847) 678-7774.

### Spontaneous fun

Audience suggestions will form the basis for some of the skits during Improv, Games and Original Skits, 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. The morning of free creative family entertainment at the bookstore will be presented by the Wilmette Park Dis-

trict Children's Theater. For details, call (847) 676-2230.

### Food flight

The forecast calls for laughing families when the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., screens, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," 4-5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8. The 2009 PG film tells the story of a young scientist who tries to solve the problem of hunger in his town by making food fall from the sky. But things get more than a little bit out of hand when the trouble-

prone inventor works his magic.

For details, call (847) 965-4220.

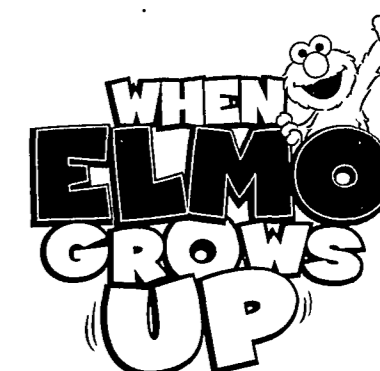
### Families that play together ...

Your entire family will enjoy 2nd Saturday Family Storytime, 10-10:45 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. There will be stories and craft projects all ages can work on together at this monthly drop-in event.

For details, call (847) 825-3123. Comment: pioneerlocal.com

# OPENS THIS WEEKEND!

123  
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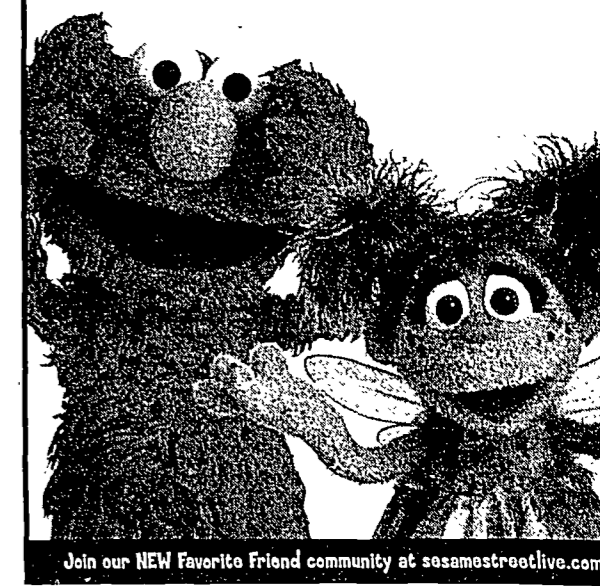


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go.

Continued from PAGE 84

"The Pillowman," by Martin McDonagh, through Feb. 6 at Redtwist Theatre, 1044 W. Bryn Mawr, Chicago...

CLASSICAL

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300.

ern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are \$70 on the main floor...

theaters throughout the United States, including Niles Showplace, 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles; and Evanston 18, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston...

her Illinois debut, performing selections from her recent CD, "Scriabin Piano Music." Tickets: \$20-\$15 seniors; \$7 students. For tickets, call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.tix.com.

to in B flat major for Bassoon; and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Opus 21 and 61 by Mendelssohn, April 25, 2:30 p.m.; Haydn's "The Creation," with soloists Sarah Hibbard, soprano; Kurt Hansen, tenor; and Peter Van De Graaf, bass-baritone...



The National Tour of "Mamma Mia!" will be on stage Jan. 19-24 at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road. Tickets cost \$30-\$80. Call (800) 775-2000 or visit www.mamma-mia.com. (Photo by Carol Rosegg)

concerts are at 7:30 p.m. Subscription prices for the six-concert series, which includes prime reserved seating, are \$122-\$116 for senior citizens and Northwestern faculty and staff...

and cellist Daniel McDonough, will perform Haydn's String Quartet in F Minor, Op. 20, No. 5; Janacek's String Quartet No. 1 ("Kreutzer Sonata")...

River Road, Rosemont, (847) 928-9900. www.gibbonssteakhouse.com. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7-11 p.m.; Lenny Capp, Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight; Lenny Capp Trio.

Woman (Irish music), \$50, \$75. Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.com.

Center for Performing Arts advertisement for Die Fledermaus. Includes text: "HAVE A FLING AT THIS FLIRTY OPERA TREAT!", "Teatro D'Opera presents DIE FLEDERMAUS By Johann Strauss Jr.", "Sun., January 17 at 4pm", and contact info: "708.235.2222 | centertickets.net".

Chambers Seafood Grille & Chop House advertisement. Includes text: "WE SPECIALIZE IN SPECIAL OCCASION PARTIES", "TITURS: JOHN BANY, CHARLES BRAUGHMAN & DON STILLE 7:30-11:30", "FRI. 8PM TONY SMITH SHOW 9 TO 1 (\$5 COVER)", "SAT. 9PM THE METRODS 50% 60'S OLDIES 9 TO 1 (\$5 COVER)", "SUN. 10PM CONNIE MERRILL & JOINNY GARDOR 5 TO 9", and phone number "847-647-8282".

Five-week Learn to Skate Mini-Sessions advertisement. Includes text: "Skatium Ice Arena - Skokie", "Register Now", "Hockey: Jan. 23-Feb. 25", "Figure Skating: Jan. 18-Feb. 20", "Only \$45-58 for an entire session! Skate rental \$2/week", and address "9300 Weber Park Pl. • Skokie (847) 674-1500, ext. 2900 SkokieParkDistrict.org".

Cava Restaurant and Bar advertisement. Includes text: "Bar Open Friday-Saturday until 2 AM", "Nightly Bar specials", "Now through January 30 honoring Piano Piano giftcards issued July 2007-July 2008 for \$25.00", "626 Busse Hwy Park Ridge Illinois 60068", "Call: 847.720.4201", "Click: Cavaparkridge.com", "Email: info@cavaparkridge.com", and "\*Bring this ad in for one free glass of house wine\*".

Icarus World Premiere advertisement. Includes text: "NOW THIS IS THEATER! BREATHTAKINGLY STAGED AND BRAVELY EXECUTED.", "Icarus WORLD PREMIERE NOW PLAYING", "WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DAVID CATLIN", "LOOKINGGLASSTHEATRE.ORG OR CALL 312.337.0665".

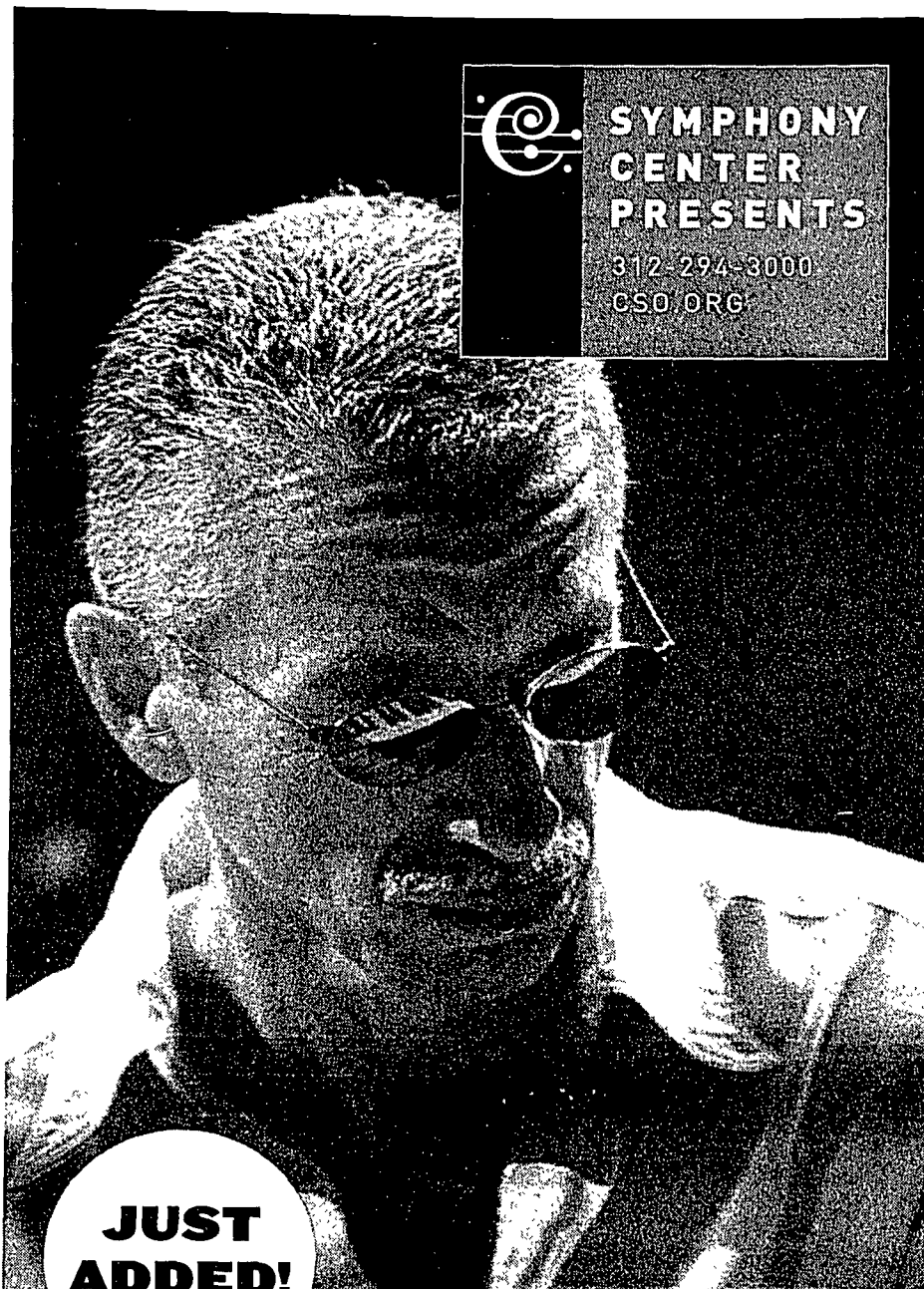
POP/FOLK/JAZZ advertisement. Includes text: "Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000: the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees.", "American Legion Music Hall, 1030 Central St., Evanston, (847) 573-0443. www.chicagobluegrass.com. Bluegrass Legends Concerts - doors open at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Jan. 16: The Henhouse Prowlers, \$10.", "Blues Bar, 2 W. Busse Ave., Mount Prospect, (847) 788-9977. www.bluesbar.com. Jan. 9, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.: Vance Kelly & the Backstreet Blues Band.", "The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, (847) 864-1679. www.celticknotpub.com. No cover unless noted otherwise. Mondays, 8 p.m.-midnight: Bluegrass and roots music with The Mudflaps, Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m.: Irish music session, Jan. 10, 9 p.m.: Fifth Anniversary Hooley featuring the Henhouse Prowlers, Jan. 17, 5-8 p.m.: Eric Lugosch, Jan. 23, 10 p.m.: Anish.", "Centre East in the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, (847) 673-6300. www.centreeast.org. Feb. 13, 8 p.m.: Frank Sinatra Jr. \$80. Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse, 5464 N.

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, (773) 282-7035. www.irish-american.org. Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.: Seanson (Celtic folk rock), \$15. Entertainment at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in the Fifth Province Lounge, no cover - Jan. 8: Joe Cullen and Kathleen Keane, Jan. 9: Reilly, Jan. 15: Gerry Haughey, Jan. 16: The Dooley Brothers, Jan. 22: Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore, Jan. 23: Johnny Cash Night, featuring local bands performing Cash's music, Jan. 29: Joe McShane, Jan. 30: The Mickey Finns, \$5 cover.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.: "Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular," a celebration of Elvis Presley's 75th birthday. For tickets, visit www.elvistributeartistspectacular.com. Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland, Park Ridge, (847) 823-3164. www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org. Jan. 8-9, 8 p.m.: "Jazz in January," featuring local jazz musicians Kent Wehman, Mike Levin, Wally Hustlin, Neal Wehman and Bruce Nelson. Tickets: \$30. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000: the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. Jan. 8-10, 7:30 p.m.: Lady Gaga, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.: Nick Jonas & the Administration, with guest Diane Birch, \$39.50. March 25, 7 p.m.: Justin Bieber, \$39.50, \$29.50. April 9-10, 8 p.m.: Celtic

NEED A COMEDY BAILOUT? OBAMA MIA! advertisement. Includes text: "The Capitol Steps", "Jan. 21-Jan. 24", "After a sell-out run in 2009, the Capitol Steps return to Centre East with more hilarious musical political and current event satire.", "Left, right or center, [this] musical satire out of Washington, D.C., 'has a laugh and an insult for everyone.' - Variety", "847.673.6300 • northshorecenter.org FREE PARKING", "NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE 8501 Skokie Blvd.", "PIONEER PRESS", "Donor's Trust".





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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 8:00**

**KEITH JARRETT**

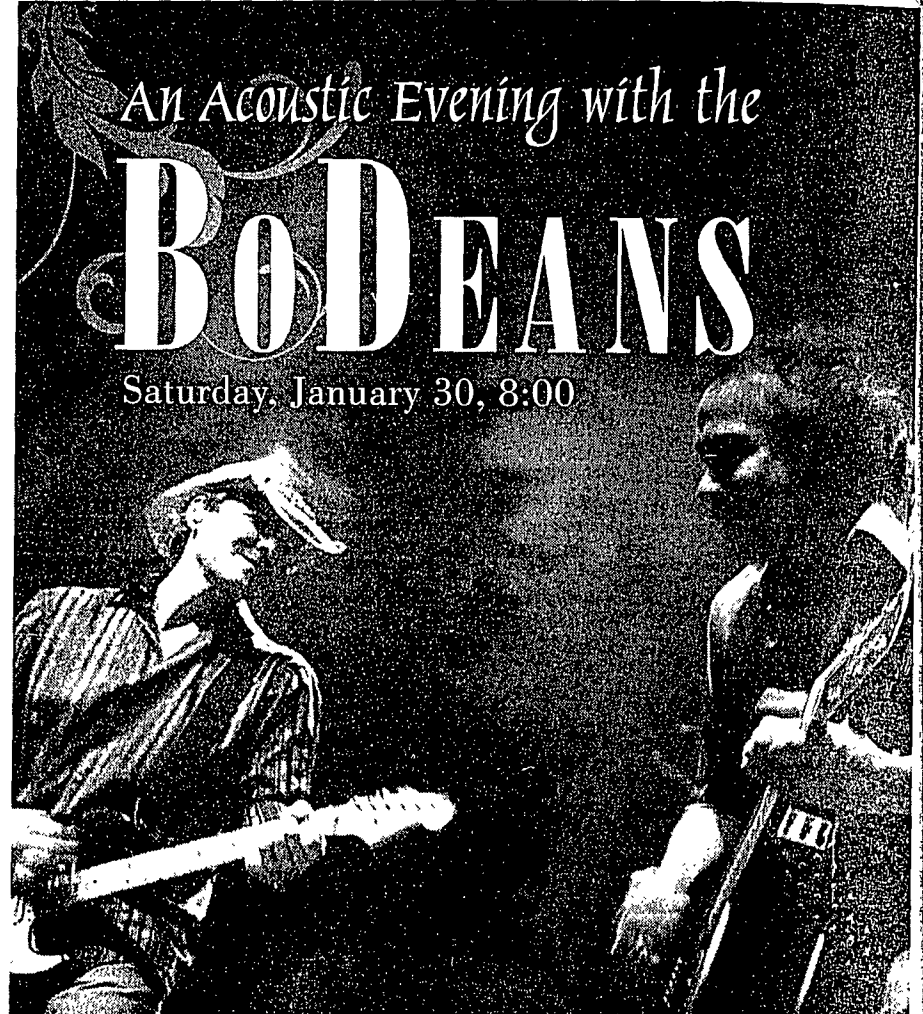
Symphony Center welcomes world-renowned jazz pianist Keith Jarrett. A brilliant improviser, composer, and classical keyboardist, Jarrett "turned in some of the most lustroously elegant pianism to be heard in Orchestra Hall in a long time, regardless of genre" (*Chicago Tribune*) at his 2007 Chicago recital. This solo performance celebrates his most recent release on ECM, *Paris/London: Testament*.

**go.**  
Continued from **PAGE B11**

cluding Evan Lysacek, Tanith Belbin, Benjamin Agosto, Sasha Cohen, Todd Eldredge and Michael Weiss. Tickets start at \$25.

The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. (847) 864-1679. www.celticknotpub.com. No cover unless noted otherwise. Jan. 17, 9 p.m.: Storytelling in the Snug with Elyne Handler. Jan. 31, 8 p.m.: Storytelling in the Snug with Jennifer Armstrong. James Cuno, president and director of the Art Institute of Chicago, will be the guest speaker Jan. 12 at the annual meeting of the North Shore Senior Center, Arthur C. Nielsen Jr. Campus, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield. Business meeting is at 10 a.m.; Cuno will speak on "The Modern Wing: A New Look at a Treasured Landmark" at 10:30 a.m. A book signing follows the program. Admission is free. www.nssc.org.

Skokie Theatre Music Foundation presents concerts in the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Call (847) 677-7761 or visit www.skokiethatre.com. Jan. 10, 2 p.m.: "Love Letters," starring Jan Ellen Graves with Lou Lang. \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door. Jan. 24, 2 p.m.: "Love Letters," starring Jan Ellen Graves with George van Dusen. \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door. Jan. 30, 8 p.m.: "Conversations with Teddy Roosevelt," presented by Joe Wiegand. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door.



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**MOVIE REVIEW**

# Carnival of Souls

By **BRUCE INGRAM**  
Film Critic

**THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS**  
★ ★ ★

There's an insightful moment early on in "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" when the doctor, a generally half-drunk and exceedingly ancient holy man (Christopher Plummer), steps out of his carnival wagon, turns to his assistant Percy (a sarcastic dwarf played by Verne Troyer), and asks "Where are we?" "Geographically, North America," Percy replies, "sociologically, on the margins, narratively, a long way to go."

A long, long, long and trying way to go, as it turns out.

It would be interesting to know if that scene was shot after the sad and regrettable death of Heath Ledger almost one year ago, an event that threatened to scuttle the half-finished "Imaginarium" and certainly knocked it half off-track.

It doesn't really matter though. Spectacular, dream-like imagery has always been the strong suit of writer/director Terry Gilliam's ("Monty Python and the Holy Grail," "Brazil") and "Imaginarium" has that in wonderful, heaping amounts: Mostly the fantasy adventures of those foolhardy enough to step into the recesses of the doctor's mind through a magic mirror for a test of their moral character. It's also typical of Gilliam that his original stories tend to be rambling, loosely structured affairs that quickly lose any sense of forward propulsion — and there's no reason to think that wouldn't have been the case here if Ledger had lived.

The trick here is to savor the fantastic flights of imagination and hang on, while the storyline, which is only feebly resolved, gradually reveals itself. If you have the patience.

Here's what you'll find if you stick it out: Dr. Parnassus is a wandering mystic, roaming the world with a broken-down traveling show he stopped updating sometime in the medieval era, in the company of his sardonic assistant, his beautiful daughter Valentina (Lily Cole) and her tireless suitor Anton (Andrew Garfield). Thousands of years ago, the doctor made a couple of deals with the devil (Tom Waits) which granted him eternal life and the love of his life in exchange for his first-born child at the age of 16. His beloved Valentina is approaching her 16th birthday and the doctor, whose hopelessly creaky carnival act is in the soul-saving business, makes one last desperate gamble to save her: If he can collect five souls before the devil, all bets are off.

Of course the devil has an unfair advantage in that department. And the situation is complicated by the entrance of a mysterious amnesiac named Tony (played with great charm by Ledger).

Things grow even more complicated when Tony suddenly begins to be played by A-list stand-ins recruited after Ledger's death: first Johnny Depp, then Jude Law, then Colin Farrell takes a turn as Tony.

It's not really fair to dismiss "Parnassus" as a simple case of style over substance, because Gilliam's style is so mind-boggling it almost makes substance unnecessary, and the themes at work here can't be described as inconsequential. But there's something unsound about the whole proposition. Early on, the doctor states his philosophy that the universe is perpetuated by the telling of stories, a sentiment that it's not too hard to imagine Gilliam sharing.

"That's the power of the imagination to transform the human mind," he says.

But the devil replies, "That's a weak hypothesis." *Comment: pioneerlocal.com*



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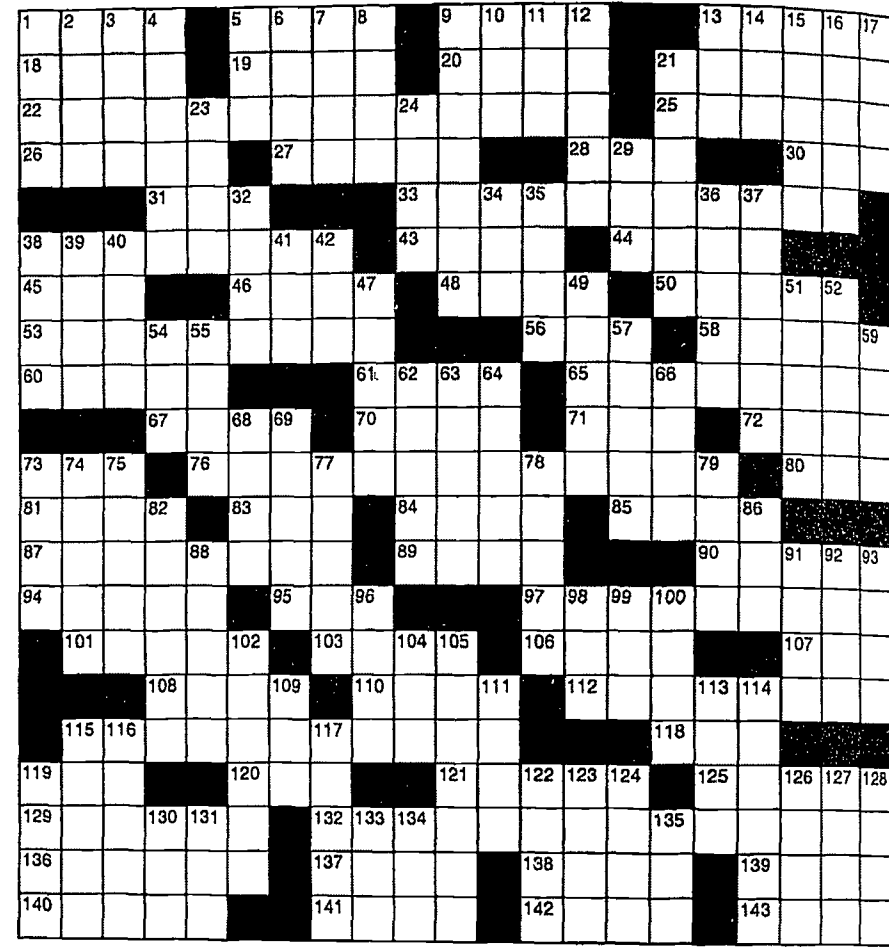
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# Super Crossword

## THEY'RE DRIVEN

- ACROSS**
- 1 Din from dynamite
  - 5 Iceberg kin
  - 9 Exclude
  - 13 Platonic character
  - 18 South Seas novel
  - 19 Steber solo
  - 20 Iago or Othello
  - 21 Alligator relative
  - 22 Driven President?
  - 25 Procure
  - 26 "Rawhide" rope
  - 27 Muslim deity
  - 28 Select, with "for"
  - 30 Plg — poke
  - 31 Fluffy female
  - 33 Driven novelist?
  - 38 Might
  - 43 Art deco designer
  - 44 Caution
  - 45 Rush
  - 46 Son of Zeus
  - 48 Big man on campus
  - 50 Paris' pop
  - 53 Driven humorist?
  - 56 Shorten a skirt
  - 58 Aquatic mammal
  - 60 Trattoria treat
  - 61 "L—, c'est moi!"
  - 65 Longfellow subject
  - 67 "Carmina Burana" composer
  - 70 Take the tube
  - 71 "Kidnapped" monogram
  - 72 Prepares to dine
  - 73 Part of EST
  - 76 Driven actress?
  - 80 Mushroom part
  - 81 Meat cut
  - 83 Thompson or Salonga
  - 84 — breve
  - 85 Barbecue
  - 87 Pangolin, for one
  - 89 Slender
  - 90 Heel type
  - 94 Mideastern pockets
  - 95 Smidgen
  - 97 Driven actor?
  - 101 Terra —
  - 103 Lauder
  - 106 Garment feature
  - 107 Accomplished
  - 108 Time to evolve?
  - 110 Valuable
  - 112 Rite
  - 115 Driven explorer?
  - 118 Be in debt
  - 119 "— Nidre"
  - 120 Pallid
  - 121 Victorian wit
  - 125 At attention
  - 129 Sheik spot
  - 132 Driven rock star?
  - 136 Real thing
  - 137 Actress
  - 138 — mater
  - 139 King or
  - 140 Gibboris of "Entertainment Tonight"
  - 141 Rocker Rundgren
  - 142 Parent
  - 143 Dressing gown
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Pigelet's papa
  - 2 Prefix meaning "both"
  - 3 Author Ephron
  - 4 Mitch Miller's trademark
  - 5 Remark from 31
  - 6 Across
  - 6 Role for Shirley
  - 7 "Show — a Rebel" ("62 hit)
  - 8 It's often jumped
  - 9 Chekhov's "The Cherry —"
  - 10 — juice
  - 11 Springfield's st.
  - 12 Caruso or Corelli
  - 13 Use a shuttle
  - 14 Thwack
  - 15 Monitor message
  - 16 Contaminate
  - 17 Mofu of the Met
  - 21 Afternoon refresher
  - 23 "Cactus Flower" star
  - 24 Christen
  - 29 Basilica bench
  - 32 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
  - 34 Hwy.
  - 35 Beatles refrain
  - 36 Cupid's missile
  - 37 Legendary Colt Johnny
  - 38 Have a ball at the mall
  - 39 Buster Brown's dog
  - 40 Some wines
  - 41 Singing syllable
  - 42 "— a Rebel" ("62 hit)
  - 47 Sociologist Hite
  - 49 Indira Gandhi's father
  - 51 Tall story?
  - 52 Maestro Zubin
  - 54 Ike's domain
  - 55 "Cheers" patron
  - 57 Jazzman Davis
  - 59 Kind of file
  - 62 — wave
  - 63 Mr. Rochester's ward
  - 64 Electrical inventor
  - 66 '68 US Open winner
  - 68 Fedora fabric
  - 69 Cut loose
  - 73 Blow for a boulder
  - 74 Pick-me-up
  - 75 "Same here!"
  - 77 Jeweler's weight
  - 78 All legs
  - 79 Suburban obsession
  - 82 Tidy up
  - 86 Ring counter
  - 88 Philanthropist
  - 89 Brooke "doublet"
  - 91 Extinct bird
  - 92 Prepare to bear it
  - 93 Whirlpool
  - 96 Poel in the past
  - 98 Rapper Tone —
  - 99 Scrape by, with "out"
  - 100 Pianist Peter
  - 102 Regardless
  - 104 — Crucis, NM
  - 105 Dense
  - 109 — Na Na
  - 111 Oklahoma city
  - 113 Kind of pitcher
  - 114 Lyricist Johnny
  - 115 Mezzo Marilyn
  - 116 Make one's day
  - 117 Incompetent
  - 118 Film critic Pauline
  - 122 Inventive sort?
  - 123 Take-out order?
  - 124 Austen's Miss Woodhouse
  - 126 Continental currency
  - 127 Farm structure
  - 128 Little guy
  - 130 Show —
  - 131 "Make — doublet"
  - 133 Milne creature
  - 134 Remnant
  - 135 Teacup part



Answers: Inside today's classified section

## HOROSCOPES

For the week of Jan. 11 - Jan. 17

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Use that Arian charm to help make a difficult workplace transition easier for everyone. News about a long-awaited decision can be confusing. Don't jump to conclusions.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Although you might well be tempted to be more extravagant than you should be at this time, I'm betting you'll let your sensible Bovine instinct guide you toward moderation.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** An opportunity for travel could come with some problems regarding travel companions and other matters. So be sure you read all the fine print before you start packing.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Make an effort to complete your usual workplace tasks before volunteering for extra duty. Scrambling to catch up later on could create some resentment among your colleagues.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** A financial matter could have you rethinking your current spending

plans. You might want to recheck your budget to see where you can cut back on expenses until the situation improves.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** One way to make your case for that promotion you've been hoping for might be to put your planning skills to work in helping to shape up a project that got out of hand. Good luck.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Be careful about "experts" who have no solid business background. Instead, seek advice on enhancing your business prospects from bona fide sources with good success records.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Standing up to support a colleague's viewpoint — even if it's unpopular — can be difficult if you feel outnumbered. But you'll win plaudits for your honesty and courage.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** While progress continues on resolving that recurring problem, you might feel it's taking too long.

But these things always need to develop at their own pace. Be patient.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Someone close to you might have a financial problem and seek your advice. If you do decide to get involved, insist on seeing everything that might be relevant to this situation.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** A personal matter takes an interesting turn. The question is, do you want to follow the new path or take time out to reconsider the change? Think this through before deciding.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Moving into a new career is a big step. Check that offer carefully with someone who has been there, done that, and has the facts you'll need to help you make your decision.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your warmth and generosity both of spirit and substance endears you to everyone.

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THURSDAY

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## Cushy Audi Q7 beats winter's snow and ice

BY REX ROY  
SearchChicago-Autos Correspondent

As winter settles over the Chicago area, there's something comforting about the Audi Q7. Like a traditional American full-size SUV, the seven-seat, all-wheel-drive German vehicle feels unstoppable. But instead of seeming like a happy Saint Bernard

romping through the snow (my mind's recollection of how a Chevy Tahoe or Ford Expedition takes to drifts of the white stuff), the Audi feels supremely dignified.

The sensation stems from the Q7's Teutonic seriousness. Computer chips full of sophisticated programming orchestrate advanced mechanical systems to help the Audi's stability, regardless of weather. While fully capable of light off-road duty (it offers more than 8 inches of running ground clearance), the only off-roading a Q7 is likely to experience is at the hands of a reckless driver. Even today's best safety systems can't prevent driver stupidity.

But the Audi tries with a full-time all-wheel-drive system, antilock brakes, traction control and a fully integrated vehicle stability system. These active safety systems are backed by passive safety features, including six airbags. According to federal and insurance industry tests, the Q7 crashes well — that is, it protects its occupants well in the event of a collision.

2010 AUDI Q7 TDI

ENGINE: 225-horsepower 3.0-liter V-6 TDI diesel

TRANSMISSION: Tiptronic automatic

DRIVETRAIN: all-wheel drive

FUEL ECONOMY: 17 city/25 highway

BASE PRICE: \$51,000

AS TESTED: not available

WEB SITE: www.audiusa.com

continued on page 4



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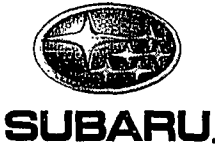
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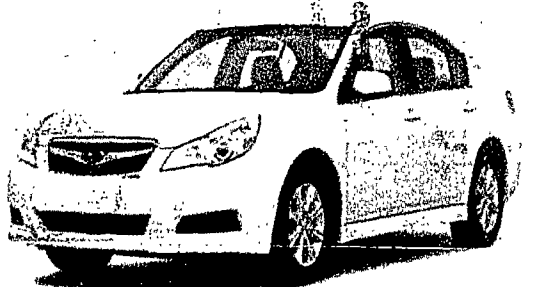
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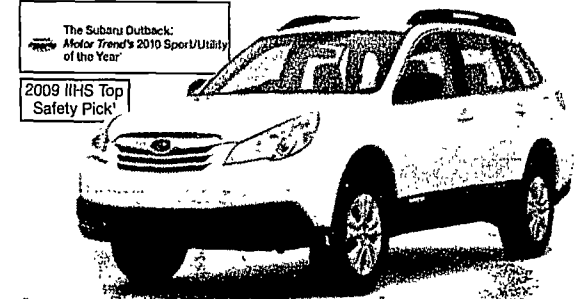


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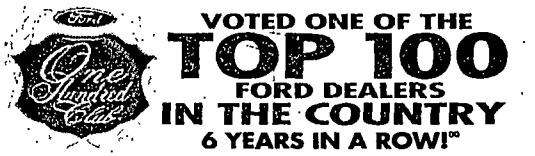


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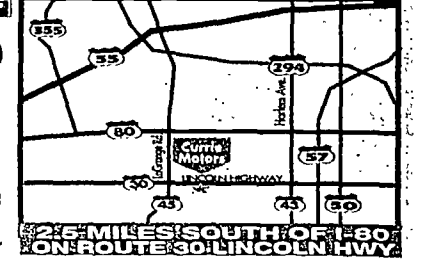
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# Audi's Q7 diesel is clean and green

continued from page 1

The Q7's extra height proves most advantageous because of the higher seating position it affords. Forward visibility is good — the better to see the surprise of pedestrians who are sometimes startled at the big Audi's aggressive appearance. Refreshed for 2010, the large grille appears genuinely hungry.

The balance of the exterior design looks sleek, especially for such a large vehicle. It tips the scales at more than 2.5 tons, but appears to be heven from a single chunk of metal. Detailing such as the LED daytime running lights and taillamps adds personality.

The cabin reflects the thinking of a company that helped usher in a new age of automotive interior design. The quality of the materials is evident and 14 cup holders have never appeared in a nicer environment.

Comfort in the first two rows is excellent, but the third row is cramped for adults and kids aren't likely to enjoy being imprisoned in the way back either. If you need three rows of seats on a regular basis, there are better choices.

I've had several opportunities to drive the 2010 Q7 during the past 14 months

and have accumulated literally thousands of miles in different versions of the SUV. Audi offers three different engines, one of which I heartily recommend. The least expensive is the 3.6-liter V-6. Its 280 horsepower is completely overwhelmed by the 4.2-liter V-8, although the subdued rumble of this engine is music to this writer's American ears.

I recommend the 225-horsepower 3.0-liter V-6 TDI diesel. Looking at the horsepower figures, the recommendation might seem questionable, but the diesel produces more than 400 pounds-feet of torque (the V-8 produces only 325 pounds-feet). This torque helps accelerate the Q7 nearly as fast as the V-8 (in the 8-second range to 60 mph), but with vastly superior fuel mileage (17 mpg city, 25 mpg highway versus 13/18 for the V-8). Plus the delivery of the acceleration feels less stressed in the diesel and more in line with what a driver in Chicago really wants.

One of my Q7 driving experiences was a long-distance run from Las Vegas to Santa Monica, Calif., by way of Mammoth Lake and Monterey. Taking it easy, the big,

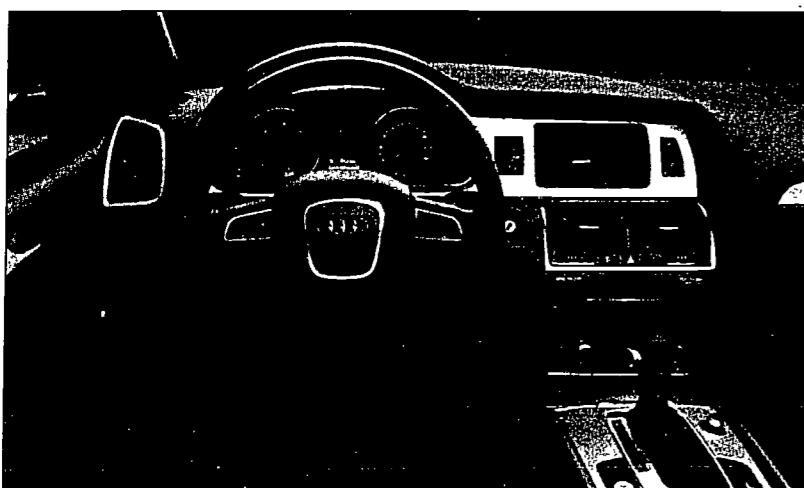
Q averaged more than 30 mpg. Driven normally without regard for saving fuel, the highway mileage still stayed above 26 mpg.

This is excellent real-world performance. While some might think that a hybrid would be superior to a diesel regarding fuel conservation, hybrids are not the only answer. The truth is that Audi's "clean" 3.0-liter diesel (certified for sale in all 50 states) is a better option than hybrids for those looking for good highway mileage. Hybrids work best under heavy stop-and-go traffic. But typical American driving patterns are light intra-suburban and open-road traffic conditions under which diesels outperform hybrids.

Audi calling this option a "clean diesel" isn't advertising hype. The Q7 uses what is called an exhaust after-treatment system to make the engine run exceptionally free of nitrogen oxide and soot. The so-called "AdBlue" system injects a urea solution into the exhaust to nullify harmful emissions. Only small amounts of the solution are used — about 5 percent the rate of diesel consumption — but the AdBlue tank does require refilling at normal vehicle service intervals.

As impressive as the Q7's greenness is, there is something this diesel doesn't deliver: the noxious diesel smell. This refreshing olfactory experience may be among the most important characteristics of this powertrain because we Americans aren't like Europeans — we won't drive cars that smell like UPS trucks.

The least expensive Q7 3.0 TDI starts at around \$51,000. The gasoline V-6 is slightly less expensive while the well-equipped V-8 is about \$10,000 more. My money would go down on one of the Q7 diesel models, secure in the knowledge that one day in the near future we're likely to see \$4-a-gallon gas prices. At that point, driving a luxurious, full-size SUV that gets 25 mpg will seem brilliant compared to a similar vehicle that can barely muster 18 mpg.



# Ford, MIT hope to improve safety by reducing stress

DEARBORN, Mich. — Ford Motor Co. and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have teamed up to study driver workload and identify new opportunities to use in-vehicle technologies to improve driver safety by lowering stress.

Ford and MIT researchers are focusing on how cars can potentially enhance overall human wellness, become an oasis from stressful situations and increase driver attention and safety.

Partnering with MIT's renowned AgeLab, the project will identify specific stress-inducing driving situations, monitor a driver's reaction to the situations using biometrics and evaluate methods to incorporate new stress-reducing features into the next generation of Ford products. A six-month effort beginning this month will focus on human interaction with a specially equipped 2010 Lincoln MKS.

"We strongly believe that driving can be made safer by reducing the stress load placed on a driver," said Jeff Rupp, Ford manager, active safety research. "Through the use of our existing technologies such as adaptive cruise control with collision warning or SYNC, our voice-activated communications system, we are proactively guiding drivers away from difficult situations.

"The goal of this program is to take this one step further by creating the most comfortable-driving environment possible so that our driver is always relaxed, calm and able to perform at peak performance," Rupp added.

Since 2004, Ford and MIT's AgeLab — in conjunction with

the U.S. Department of Transportation's New England University Transportation Center — have been working to develop vehicle systems that detect the state of a driver at key points in time. This project envisions using this information to adjust systems in the car in ways that reduce driver stress.

One of the goals of this work is to help the driver recapture the wellness experience that driving once promised.

"Today's driver is feeling a greater level of anxiety than in the past, both from situations inside and outside the vehicle," said Joseph Coughlin, founder and director of MIT's AgeLab and the project leader.

"By identifying specific situations and the physiological effect they have on the driver, we are seeking solutions that can bring the driver from a heightened stress level back to an optimal operational state and thereby make their commute safer and more comfortable, renewing the positive experience of driving and riding in an automobile."

By monitoring biometrics such as heart rate, skin conductivity and eye movement, researchers at MIT have been working to develop a specific set of parameters for an embedded detection system that could be engineered into future Ford vehicles.

Ford and MIT expect to conclude this phase of the study in July 2010. Findings of the study will be made public shortly after its conclusion.

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# today's homes

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION | NORTHEDITION | JANUARY 7, 2010

## New Year mortgage outlook

Buyers, refiners will benefit from low loan rates in 2010

Home buyers searching for an affordable mortgage and homeowners seeking to refinance should be able to lock in a home loan at a low interest rate in early 2010.

With the Federal Reserve Board continuing to hold its benchmark interest rate close to zero, experts say it is likely that mortgage rates will stay low until late 2010.



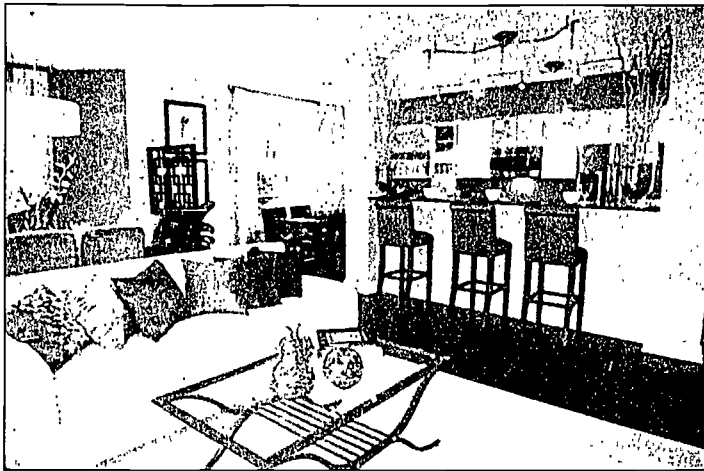
Michael Klein, a retail mortgage consultant at Fifth Third Bank's Gold Coast office, sees a "tremendous opportunity" for borrowers seeking a home loan in 2010.

"Home buyers are now attracted by the combination of lower home prices, low mortgage rates and the perception that the free fall in the housing market is behind us," said Frank Nothaft, vice president and chief economist of Freddie Mac.

Average benchmark 30-year fixed mortgage rates were an affordable 5.05 percent at the end of 2009, according to Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey. On Dec. 3, the benchmark rate dipped to 4.71 percent, the lowest level since Freddie Mac began its survey in 1971. Economists say rates have not been this low in nearly 60 years.

Although interest rates for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages inched higher than 5 percent at the end of the year for the first time since late October, they are still around a half of 1 percentage point below the 2009 peak set in mid-June, Nothaft noted.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, roughly three out of four mortgage applica-



Condominiums can be had with less than 5 percent down through Wintrust Mortgage.

tions in December were for refinancing. Along with rock-bottom mortgage rates, home buyers also can count on help from the federal government in 2010. Congress extended the \$8,000 tax credit for first-time buyers through April 30 for homes closed by June 30.

The income limits also were raised to \$125,000 for singles and \$225,000 for couples to broaden its impact. To claim the credit, a home must be under contract by the end of April and closed by the end of June.

A new provision, offering a credit of up to \$6,500 to existing homeowners who have owned their residence for at least five years, also will boost the local housing market, experts say.

Many borrowers also are taking advantage of

Federal Housing Administration-insured loans with interest rates around 5 percent and down payments as low as 3.5 percent, lenders say.

Looking ahead, veteran lending specialist Michael Klein, a retail mortgage consultant at Fifth Third Bank's Gold Coast office, sees a "tremendous opportunity" for borrowers seeking a home loan in 2010.

"Fifth Third Bank is an aggressive yet responsible institution that is focused on an ethical, responsible, low-cost and long-term banking commitment to each and every client," said Klein, noting that the bank funded more than \$1 billion in residential mortgages in Chicago in 2009.

Turn to MORTGAGE, 2

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Local real estate transactions start on PAGE 3

INSIDE

Featured home

Stately Elgin residence gives new meaning to 'home office.'

PAGE 3

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EDITORIAL

KAREN HUELSMAN  
Chicago Sun-Times, 312-321-2775,  
khuelsman@suntimes.com

PAUL KELMA  
Sun-Times Media  
630-978-8362, pkelma@suntimes.com

TAMMY MATTHEWS  
Sun-Times Media, 847-486-7312,  
tmh@pioneerlocal.com

CAROLE SHARWARKO  
Southtown Star, 708-633-6872,  
csharwarko@southtownstar.com

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RITA WALKER  
Sales Manager  
708-633-4924, rwalker@mswp.com  
Vol 1, No. 13

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RE/MAX Horizon

<p><b>3 CAR!</b> Perfect for the car buff! The 3rd garage is separated by a wall (with access) to make sure that storage car, on special space's car is free from necks and scratches! This sharp home is fabulous... (McLean to Lancaster to Harvard) \$1191,200</p>	<p><b>1101 N. Harvard, South Elgin</b> Immaculate 2 BR upper in Sandhurst One of the nice "100" units. P.e. over level Vaulting Fireplace Balcony Appliances say 1 car garage Lots of close space Huge MBR Paved for quick sale Nice starter (McLean to Spring to Sandhurst) \$1,295 or \$149,900</p>	<p><b>Valued Placement</b> 1207 Southside South Elgin 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 1 car garage Hardwood flooring to living room and dining room Ceramic tile in kitchen Complete counter with back splash Full finished basement with wet bar New stainless steel (McLean to Sandhurst) \$169,900</p>	<p><b>1304 Madison Circle, Elgin</b> 4 bedroom (1613 sq ft) floor bedroom w/ full bath (Great for guests or law arrangement) Gorgeous flooring, new roof, siding and newly painted interior Wood laminate flooring Fenced yard, patio, 2 car (Shel, 2 Bed) W-2 Langford N \$179,900</p>
<p><b>St. Charles School!</b> 477 Williams, South Elgin School District 303 Quiet street New roof 2006 1 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, 2 car garage Large 23x16 lower level family room with outside access Ready for immediate closing (Rt. 25 to Gilbert to Cooper at North to Linda to Williams) \$179,900</p>	<p><b>Custom Ranch!</b> 2635 E. L. Elgin Williamsburg Condominiums a great place to live! 3BR, 2 bath custom ranch Full basement Beautifully remodeled kitchen w/ maple floor Decorated with some. Paved/waterfall. Less a million uses \$555 (Carter to Elgin to Highland) \$229,900</p>	<p><b>1936 Pool!</b> 909 Carl Jd, South Elgin Perfect for outdoor entertaining! 19x16 in ground pool Deck, hot tub, fenced yard, 2 ponds. Remodeled kitchen New roof-in-law New furnace &amp; C/A 50 gallon HWH Quick close (McLean to Spring to Reno to Gerald W) \$179,900</p>	<p><b>1625 N. Pembroke, South Elgin</b> 3 1/2 half duplex with no association fees (Close to location) Backs up to single family home. Beautiful wood laminate flooring throughout 2 bed patio Original owners have taken beautiful care here (Spring 2 Kingport S2 N Pembroke) \$189,900</p>
<p><b>1616/12 Acres</b> 9802 Hickman Hill Elgin Solid brick ranch 1/2 acre, 2 1/2 car garage w/ side apron 3 full baths, including one in the finished lower level (with full 2nd kitchen), 1R, bonus room &amp; fireplace Hardwood floors (Randall 2 Houses W-2 Langston to No Deckman) \$179,900</p>	<p><b>RENT/BUY!</b> 4491 1/2 Elgin, South Elgin Heated garage! Who doesn't like that! 1 bedroom, 1 1/2 baths, fenced yard with deck. Spacious half duplex. No fees to pay. Now open, relocation, dishwasher (Spring 2 Kingport S2 Elgin Lane) \$149,900</p>	<p><b>1616/12 Acres</b> 2201 Colorado Elgin Valley creek, wooded 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, garage, full basement nearby shopping Low association fee! \$65 Condo with unfinished basement are a great for first time buyers. "Sweet equity" pay. off (Royal 2 Colorado) \$149,900</p>	<p><b>3 BUDGET!</b> 1455 Lincoln, South Elgin Larger model in Kingport Valley featuring the first den 3 bed, 1.5 bath, 1 1/2 baths, 2 car, patio, large fenced yard with perfect spacious deck. Back to open farm land No association fees. (Spring 2 Kingport S2 Toole) \$199,900</p>
<p><b>5 BIRD CAR!</b> 8571 1/2 Elgin, South Elgin Spectacular 2 1/2 acre Great kitchen w/ island 2 furnaces 2 C/A Master suite w/3 closets, &amp; oversized whirlpool 1st fl laundry 1st fl BR w/ full bath Sunning (McLean to 2 Robin Glen to an Lily Pond 2 Houses) \$149,900</p>	<p><b>80% HOME!</b> 2511 1/2 Elgin, South Elgin 1 BR with enclosed ar/bway, &amp; woodwork that is simply gorgeous. Built in tons of storage 1 car garage off the alley. Country kitchen 28' family room Spacious yard finished basement (Rt 25 to Jay to Lawrence to home) \$149,900</p>	<p><b>1 Newer Home!</b> 1111 Elgin, South Elgin 1 BR home with newer 1/2 bathroom (247) ideal for enjoying the wooded half acre lot. In-law Knoll school area 25' master bedroom Wood burning fireplace Solid "C" 1" BR \$99 to 64 1/2 to Prince (Spring 2 to High Lake) \$199,900</p>	<p><b>VALUED PICK!</b> 1171 1/2 Elgin, West Chicago 1 1/2 BR home with newer 1/2 bathroom (247) ideal for enjoying the wooded half acre lot. In-law Knoll school area 25' master bedroom Wood burning fireplace Solid "C" 1" BR \$99 to 64 1/2 to Prince (Spring 2 to High Lake) \$199,900</p>

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As we all look forward to a better year in 2010, I would like to thank the following clients who bought or sold through me in 2009. A huge thanks to Randy & Kim Tjerna, Jim Crawford, Scott & Vanna Schrammer (bought & sold, thanks consins!), Colizzi Family Trst, Jesse & Mary Vickers, Joseph & Danielle Ehnmann, Gail & Ken Campbell, Deb Rippling, Susan Schoeps, Debi Nyari, Apex Investments, and Esther Lombard. Also thanks to my patient clients who are waiting for their homes to sell too.

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Transactions FROM PAGE 3

Bellwood 215 25th Ave: Parada, Josa Cruz & Floras, Encarnisdel Carmen: \$515,000
Elmwood Park 2316 N 73rd Ct: Allander, Charles & Irene: \$410,000

Evanston 1800 Ridge Ave 303: Fisher, Richard A & Gina M: \$540,000
2352 Ashland Ave: Mc Guira, Timothy E & Jennifer M: \$843,000
2665 Crawford Ave: Kirby, James R: \$370,000

Glenview 1620 Monterey Dr: King, Stephen B & Marsha G: \$1,160,000
1802 Jefferson Ave: Ronnemenn, Edward L: \$788,000

Winnetka 655 Sheridan Rd: McNamey, Peter H & Anna B: \$370,000

Golf 28 Golf Rd: Rabor, Emmanuel M & Maria Eila: \$365,000

Morton Grove 8656 Narragansett Ave: Kovar, Megan J & Brannon, Matthew J: \$438,000
9408 Ozark Ave: Uhm, Ja Jung: \$405,000

Mount Prospect 1802 E Bittersweet Ln: Nowak, Christopher J & Christina A: \$470,000
201 S Lancaster St: Pavia, Michael C & Kristen A: \$369,000

Northbrook 1343 Southwind Dr: Dolgun, Igor & Olga: \$520,000
1967 Farnsworth Ln: Tseng, Ching Wal & Hsu, Shu Hui Tseng: \$490,000
4135 Timberlane Dr: Schultes, Scott & Anna: \$450,000

Oak Park 927 Wisconsin Ave: Connolly, Kevin & Laura: \$360,000

Park Ridge 1436 N Dee Rd: Prutis, Nicholas K & Scardino, Irene M: \$670,000
1725 Elliott St: Sladky, Dennis & Eileen: \$513,500

310 N Prospect: Laskans, Bill G & Patricia L: \$1,050,000
409 N Lincoln Ave: Fullman, Michael & Susan: \$369,000
414 S Cumberland Ave: Brania, Brat & Catherine: \$966,000

Prospect Heights 8 N Schoenbeck Rd: Borrero, Kalen: \$365,000
840 Piper Ln: Campanaro, Vito: \$377,500

River Forest 628 Forest Ave: Wintar, Philip & Jennifer: \$445,000

Skokie 3903 White Cloud Dr: Mann, Michael & Deborah N: \$650,000

Wilmette 1029 Pawnee Rd: Krivickas, Paul J & Jana S: \$866,000
1437 Sheridan Rd: Bursfishar, William H & Deborah C: \$675,000

1536 Central Ave: Broadhurst, Gary & Stephanie A: \$630,000
219 Dupes Pl: Russick, John & Susan: \$540,000
2377 Schiller Ave: Hausen, George: \$464,000
3131 Illinois Rd: Horwitz, Dorothy: \$542,500
521 Central Ave: Pauly, Christopher & Marjia: \$1,025,000
723 Sheridan Rd: Milbratz, William H & Enka K: \$780,000

Winnetka 655 Sheridan Rd: McNamey, Peter H & Anna B: \$370,000

NORTHWEST (\$250,000 and up)

COOK COUNTY Barrington 1 Wood Rock Rd: McDonald, Robert J & Messingill, Gwendolyn: \$945,000

Bartlett 613 Ford Ln: Giermoth, Gregory W & Mortland, Stacia J: \$400,000
226 Lillian Pl: Patel, Kalpesh K & Alppa R: \$320,000
633 Rose Ln: Diah, Randall A & Sharon B: \$260,000

Streamwood 814 Blue Ridge Dr: Shah, Minal & Pradipt: \$425,000
940 Tuscany Dr: Stalnake III, Edward F: \$275,000

DUPAGE COUNTY Bartlett 1376 Northgate Dr: Rinaldi II, Stanley C & Rinaldi, Sara E: \$288,000
1547 Old Forge Rd: Klain, Justin J & Julia M: \$475,000
287 Windsor Dr: Malona, Mark: \$280,000

Wayne 4N593 Mountain Ash Dr: Smith, Richard C: \$520,000
32W071 Will Way: Hammarstrom, Wanda: \$270,000

KANE COUNTY Algonquin 735 Braewood Dr: Whitnor, Matthew R & Jennifer S: \$265,000
2120 Broadmore Dr: Ononou, Jennifer A: \$315,000

Carpentersville 4410 Northgate Ct: Bhuthong, Pryanuch: \$255,000

East Dundee 32W646 Albert Dr: Smith, Michael & Christine: \$264,500

Elgin 1449 Blume Dr: Matza, Jeffrey & Ligulam, Indira E: \$308,000
38W592 Brindwood Ln: Nauman, Justin R & McDonough, Koolay J: \$275,000
750 Goodfield Ldg: Patel, Shalindra Pravin & Hemangi Shalindra: \$300,000
304 Red Rock Ln: McLellan, Amanda & John: \$268,000
2011 Salem Dr: Barton, Kristin: \$408,000
2025 Salem Dr: Rows, Ronald G & Graca F: \$342,000
3807 Trillium Trl: Svagija, Dhrarajal & Bharat: \$349,000

Gilberts 203 Easton Dr: Shabani, Johnny S: \$369,000
180 John M Boor Dr: Kardasz, Greg M & Dablia A: \$260,000
291 Town Center Blvd: Bauer, Patric A & Christina M: \$358,500
307 Town Center Blvd: Chowdhury, Siddhartha & Susmita: \$364,500
435 Town Center Blvd: Patel, Daan & Mita: \$252,500

Hampshire 15N787 Farm View Ln: Horvath, Jennifer L: \$350,500

Huntley 13297 Iowa Ct: Brandt, Ronald E & Siamar, Jonaal F: \$380,000

St. Charles 41W026 Brille Creek Dr: Burton, Matthew D & Katarzyna: \$414,000
4790 Grandfield Dr: Kumball, Frederick C & Marsha A: \$425,000
1705 Jeanette Ave: Bajtas, James R & Grzeszkowiak, Julia M: \$257,500
1704 Rita Ave: Odonnell, Sean E & Dziadosz, Paulina: \$265,000
4N030 Thorny Rd: Von Qualen, Evan P & Caray A: \$330,000
802 Wildrose Springs Dr: Fryck, Rick L: \$465,000

Source: Information provided by Realtor Information Services Inc. offering public record data for greater Chicago including foreclosure, new home owners lists, new businesses, bankruptcies, mortgage recordings, building permits and tax liens. Access available at www.public-record.com, consumer public-record.com and watch public-record.com, or call 630-557-1000

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## REMEMBERING

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### Remembrances



**McGrew, W.R. "Bill"**  
 Wilford Roland "Bill" McGrew, 91, of Pekin, passed away at 12:05 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2009 at Pekin Hospital. He was formerly of Park Ridge. Born March 29, 1918 in Mason County to Willard J. and Iva Marie (Van Etten) McGrew, he married Ruby Eileen Preston on August 13, 1939 in Anoka, MO. She died August 22, 2001 in Peoria. He also was preceded in

death by his parents. Surviving are one daughter, Sharon K. "Sharry" (Stephen) Myers of Florissant, MO; two grandchildren, Stephen D. Myers of St. Louis, MO and Susan D. (Patrick) Wells of Hazelwood, MO; two great-grandchildren, Tyler P. Wells and Ryan Wells; two brothers, Burel N. McGrew and John H. (Anna Lou) McGrew, both of Havana and two sisters, Ilda L. Snowden of Monmouth and Nellie E. Quinn of Davenport, IA. He also leaves a special niece, Rosemary (Randy) Mingus of Pekin and a dear friend and fellow Cubs fan, Lucille Snedden of Pekin. Bill worked as the manager for Middle States Telephone Company in Pekin, later was the division commercial manager in Park Ridge and then became state manager for Central Telephone Company in Park Ridge. He also worked five years for Central Telephone Company of North Carolina until 1965 and transferred to work in Park Ridge from 1965 to 1974. In 1974, he became State Manager for Central Telephone in Las Vegas and retired on January 1, 1984 as the vice president of Central Telephone of Nevada. He worked a total of 47 1/2 years for CENTEL. He was a life member of Empire Lodge 126, A.F. & A.M. in Pekin. He was involved with the Boy Scouts of America in Park Ridge and Las Vegas and was a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. He was a former member of the Rotary Club of Las Vegas, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a former Kiwanis Club member in Hickory, NC, Park Ridge and Pekin. Bill was past president of the Pekin Kiwanis Club. He was a former member of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce and a former member and past president of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce. He was a past chairman of the Park Ridge United Way. He was the first Chairman of the Nevada Development Authority in Las Vegas. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and formerly attended First United Methodist Church in Pekin. Visitation and funeral was held Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at Preston-Hanley Funeral Home, Pekin Chapel. Burial in Lakeside Cemetery, Pekin. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Central Illinois Chapter, 606 West Glen Avenue, Peoria, IL 61614 or to any charity. To express condolences online, visit [www.preston-hanley.com](http://www.preston-hanley.com)  
 Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

### Remembrances

**Mason, Del**  
 Del Mason, 91, of Park Ridge; Devoted husband of the late Shirley (nee Corbet); cherished father of Shelley Mason (Dan Cartwright) and Jacqueline (Richard) Feare; loving grandfather of Nicole (Jeffrey) Towle; and caring great-grandfather of Braeden and Connor; preceded in death by one brother and two sisters. Del was the owner of Bartsch Tool Co. in Addison and he was a proud 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army while serving in Italy during WWII. Memorial service Saturday, January 9, 11:00 a.m. at Barrington United Methodist Church, 98 Algonquin Rd., Barrington, IL. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association - Chicago Chapter, 8430 W. Bryn Mawr, Ste. 800, Chicago, IL 60631. Arrangements by the Countryside Funeral Home and Crematory, Bartlett; (630)289-7575.  
 Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Beckman, Wallace J.**  
 Wallace J. Beckman, 86, beloved husband of Kathryn (nee Kohn); loving father of Stephen (Karen), Kenneth (Marilyn) (the late Pamela), Richard (Cynthia) and Michael Beckman; devoted grandfather of Sarah (Jason) Lefton, Zachary, Joseph and Samuel Beckman and Mary Elizabeth Bultemeier; great-grandfather of Ari Beckman; fond brother of Beatrice Gilmartin, the late Ernest and the late Arthur Beckman; held in special remembrance by his caregiver, Ruben Papelera. Funeral service was held Sunday, January 3, at Weinstein Funeral Home, Wilmette. Entombment Ridgewood Cemetery Mausoleum. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Paget Foundation or The Jewish Home and Care Center Foundation of Milwaukee. Info: (847) 256-5700.  
 Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Bruen, Maureen S.**  
 Maureen S. Bruen, of Park Ridge. Beloved wife of James J.; loving mother of James (Jana) Bruen, Amy (Mark) Quartaroli, Jennifer (Daniel) Myer, Kathleen (Kevin) Conrad and Meghan (Timothy) Philippsen; proud grandmother of nine; caring sister of the late Gerald (Edwina) Lucey; stepdaughter of Michael Doyle. Visitation was January 5, 2010 at Nelson Funeral Home, 820 Talcott Rd. (at Cumberland) Park Ridge. Funeral was Wednesday, January 6 at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church, Park Ridge. Interment followed at Maryhill Cemetery, Niles. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Park Ridge Public Library Endowment Fund, 20 S. Prospect, Park Ridge, IL 60068 appreciated. Info: (847) 823-5122 or [www.nelsonfunerals.com](http://www.nelsonfunerals.com).  
 Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Noldan, Robert L.**  
 Robert L. Noldan, 82, of Chicago, formerly of Park Ridge, passed away December 27, 2009. Husband of Carol (nee Force); father of Dawn Noldan and Laurie Graca; grandfather of Adrian Graca; brother of the late Bonnie and George (the late Nell) Noldan, Norma (the late Harlan) Asher, Elizabeth (the late Irwin) Wilkinson, Leonard (Laura) Noldan and June (the late Bob) Zeller; uncle of many nieces and nephews. Korean war veteran and proud member of King Oscar Masonic Lodge, Wheaton Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Park Ridge VFW and Morton Grove American Legion. Visitation Tuesday, 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Drake & Son Funeral Home, 5303 North Western Ave., Chicago where a funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 30th at 11:00 a.m. Interment Rosehill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Noldan-Force Memorial Fund, North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 North Lakewood, Chicago, IL 60640. Share a memory at [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com). Information, 773-561-6874.  
 Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

### Remembrances

**Beard, Richard E.**  
 Richard E. Beard, age 69 of Sayner, WI formerly of Des Plaines, passed away January 2, in Woodruff, WI. Beloved husband of the late Barbara Ann (nee Auer); loving father of Richard Wade Beard and Bonnie Jean (Kenneth) Patterson; dear grandfather of Megan, Ellen and Zachary Paterson; fond brother of Marilyn Hurbanis and Joan Stephenson; also survived by his companion, Elsie Turner and several nieces and nephews. Memorial Service Friday, January 8, 10 a.m. at the Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Sayner, WI. Memorials to Plum Lake EMT or Plum Lake Library. Arrangements by RYAN-PARKE FUNERAL HOME (847) 823-1171.  
 Sign Guestbook at [legacy.pioneerlocal.com](http://legacy.pioneerlocal.com)

**Pogoff, Dorothy**  
 Dorothy Pogoff (nee Fein) passed away December 29, 2009. She was born on the West Side of Chicago in 1922. She and her husband, Bob, raised their children in Skokie, where she was active in Emma Lazarus and the National Council of Jewish women. Funeral services were held in Minneapolis, MN. Survived by her husband, Bob; their children, Lisa Pogoff (Jeff Zuckerman) and David Pogoff (Sylvia Pogoff); and four grandchildren.  
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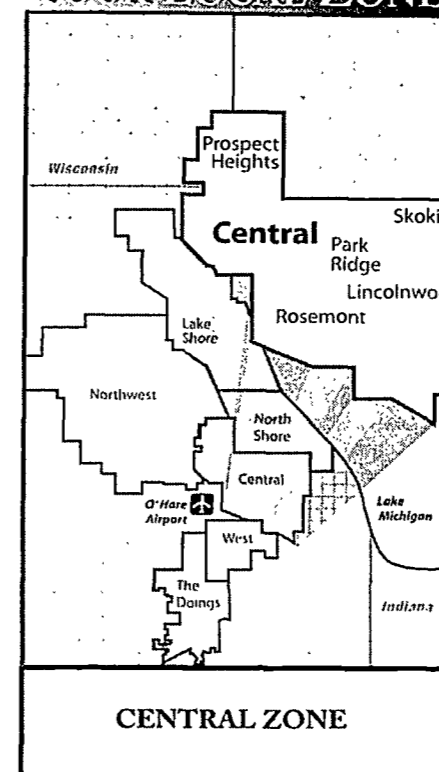
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The Physician Recruiter will be responsible for strategically enhancing the physician recruitment function to address both our short- and long-term needs. With a strong understanding of the physician recruitment marketplace, the Physician Recruiter will guide the organization in creating market-attractive practice opportunities for both new and experienced physicians. Establishes annual physician recruitment plans and budgets based on community need, strategic priorities and market readiness. This will include the creative use of existing sourcing resources as well as the development of solid academic relationships and the use of social media as appropriate. Manages all aspects of the interviewing and selection process, works with the practice management team to ensure a streamlined on-boarding effort and, with the leadership at large, puts into place solid retention mechanisms.

Minimum of a bachelor's degree is required, master's degree preferred. Experience in physician recruitment, relations or physician marketing is required. Must be self-driven, convey confidence and be approachable to all levels of the organization. Solid influencing and communication skills (both written and verbal) will be necessary to lead this effort. Proven organizational skills will be required to manage numerous tactical details. Working evenings and weekends is a given to facilitate physician recruitment activities.

To find out more about this opportunity, and to apply online please visit:  
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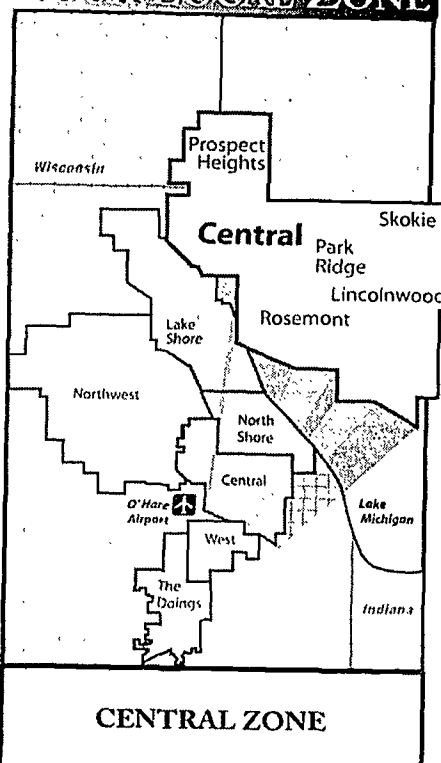
**Deadlines**  
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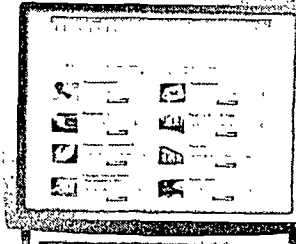
To place a Death Notice  
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 fax 847-486-6836  
 email: deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com

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Go to <http://www.pioneerlocal.com>;  
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 565 Clean & Check Parts  
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**AN EXP'D. ELECTRICIAN**  
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 counted includes the family's  
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## Healthcare

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The Physician Recruiter will be responsible for strategically enhancing the physician recruitment function to address both our short- and long-term needs. With a strong understanding of the physician recruitment marketplace, the Physician Recruiter will guide the organization in creating market-attractive practice opportunities for both new and experienced physicians. Establishes annual physician recruitment plans and budgets based on community need, strategic priorities and market readiness. This will include the creative use of existing sourcing resources as well as the development of solid academic relationships and the use of social media as appropriate. Manages all aspects of the interviewing and selection process, works with the practice management team to ensure a streamlined on-boarding effort and, with the leadership at large, puts into place solid retention mechanisms.

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To find out more about this opportunity, and to apply online please visit: [www.RiversideMC.net](http://www.RiversideMC.net)  
 Equal Opportunity Employer





## Careers in Healthcare: Still Some Choices

In these times of looming unemployment, there are still some possibilities. 2010 is a new year with many new options if you make new decisions. One decision is to attend school and make the sacrifice to change your life. The change will begin with making short-term sacrifices to complete a program for those jobs that are still in demand. Completing a program and a new career can make the difference between staying at a job that does not provide you with the ability to enjoy life and having a higher quality of life. The decision to go to school and make the short-term sacrifices to complete a program is not an easy one at best. Many programs are rigorous and require long hours of study and the ability to discipline yourself. Discipline means hitting the books when you would prefer to be out with your friends. Discipline begins with small steps like turning off the TV, stopping hours of chatting on Facebook and taking a course at a community college. Continuing to spend time reading and writing helps you to prepare for the road ahead.

Many men and women don't take that chance and go to school because they are afraid of failing and lack confidence in their ability to complete a program. Lack of confidence may result in many men and women not taking a risk and taking

the first step to investigate a career. By not investing, they will not discover what it takes to enter a program. Not trying leaves you feeling trapped in your current position or unemployed. The longer you feel trapped the more difficult it will be to take the first step of investigating a new career. Investigating a new career is the most important step in making a decision to go to school and change your life.

If you find yourself thinking about a career that does not mean taking four to five years to complete or you already have a degree, you have many options available to you. According to government statistics, healthcare still offers the possibility of giving you a career that has possibilities through the year 2018. The Department of Labor projects an increase in these positions at a rate of 27 percent or more. These newly revised 2010 statistics can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>.

One career worth investigating includes, an x-ray technician, which requires one to two years of education and an average earning of \$43,350 per year as noted in 2004 published government statistics. This career requires a GED at minimum but opens doors to specialization with advanced training. Employment of radiologic technologists, which requires

more education, is expected to increase by about 17 percent from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations. Technologists with knowledge of more than one diagnostic imaging procedure—such as CT, MR, and mammography—will have the best employment opportunities.

Physical therapy assistant careers are another option for a two-year associate degree program. Wages are averaged at \$46,140 as of May 2008 as published by the Department of Labor statistics. This position also has possible advancement to a physical therapist if you complete a bachelor degree. According to the government, employment is expected to grow much faster than average because of the increasing demand for physical therapy services. Job prospects are expected to be very good.

Surgical technologists can complete a program within 9 to 24 months and lead to a certificate, diploma, or associate's degree. Surgical technologists receive their training in programs at community colleges, vocational schools, universities, hospitals, and the military. Hospitals will continue to be the primary employer, although much faster employment growth is expected in other healthcare industries. Employment is expected to grow much faster than the

average, 25 percent between 2008 and 2018, according to the government job outlook. Job opportunities will be best for technologists who are certified and for those who are willing to relocate. The average wage and salary can be between \$32,490 and \$46,910 according to 2008 government statistics.

The three careers profiled are by no means an easy ticket to financial gains but they offer a plus, high potential for personal satisfaction if you apply yourself and work hard to complete a program. They also are a springboard to advancement once you gain experience and decide to continue your education. Deciding to continue your education may increase your financial worth. It is up to you, the new year has many possibilities. Best of luck with whatever choice you make.

When writing with questions or other inquiries, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with adequate postage to cover mailings.

Sophia Mikos-Schild,  
Edd, MSN, MAM/HROB, CNOR  
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**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Current Illinois nursing license - BLS certification.
- Current ONS Chemotherapy Provider card (infusion only)
- OCN certification required within 12 months of hire (infusion only)
- Minimum of one year recent oncology experience

Contact:  
Angela YoungFountain, Division Administrator  
a-YoungFountain@nmff.org

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For more information and application procedure, visit our website at: [www.uafortsmith.edu](http://www.uafortsmith.edu) or contact: UA Fort Smith, Human Resources, 5210 Grand Avenue, Fullerton Administration Building, Room 239, or PO Box 3649, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649; ph: 479-788-7088; e-mail: [jobs@uafortsmith.edu](mailto:jobs@uafortsmith.edu). AA/EOE

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**Qualifications**

- Current Illinois nursing license
- BLS Certification
- Current ONS Chemotherapy Provider (infusion only)
- OCN Certification (or achieved within 12 months of starting)
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Contact: Angela YoungFountain,  
Division Administrator  
a-YoungFountain@nmff.org



## ANESTHESIOLOGIST

The Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital, Columbia, Missouri invites applications for the position of Staff Physician in the Anesthesiology section. This appointment may be a joint appointment with the University of Missouri - Columbia School of Medicine. The applicant must have completed a fellowship and be board certified or eligible in anesthesiology. He/she will be expected to provide comprehensive anesthesia care to the most complex of surgical procedures as well as the most routine. Incumbent will be required to provide direct care for open heart cases as well as many difficult vascular procedures. Incumbent will work with a staff of two anesthesiologists as well as six CRNA's. Position is Assistant or Associate Professor level.

Send CV and cover letter to:



**Paul Kurzejeski (SC)**  
**VA Hospital**  
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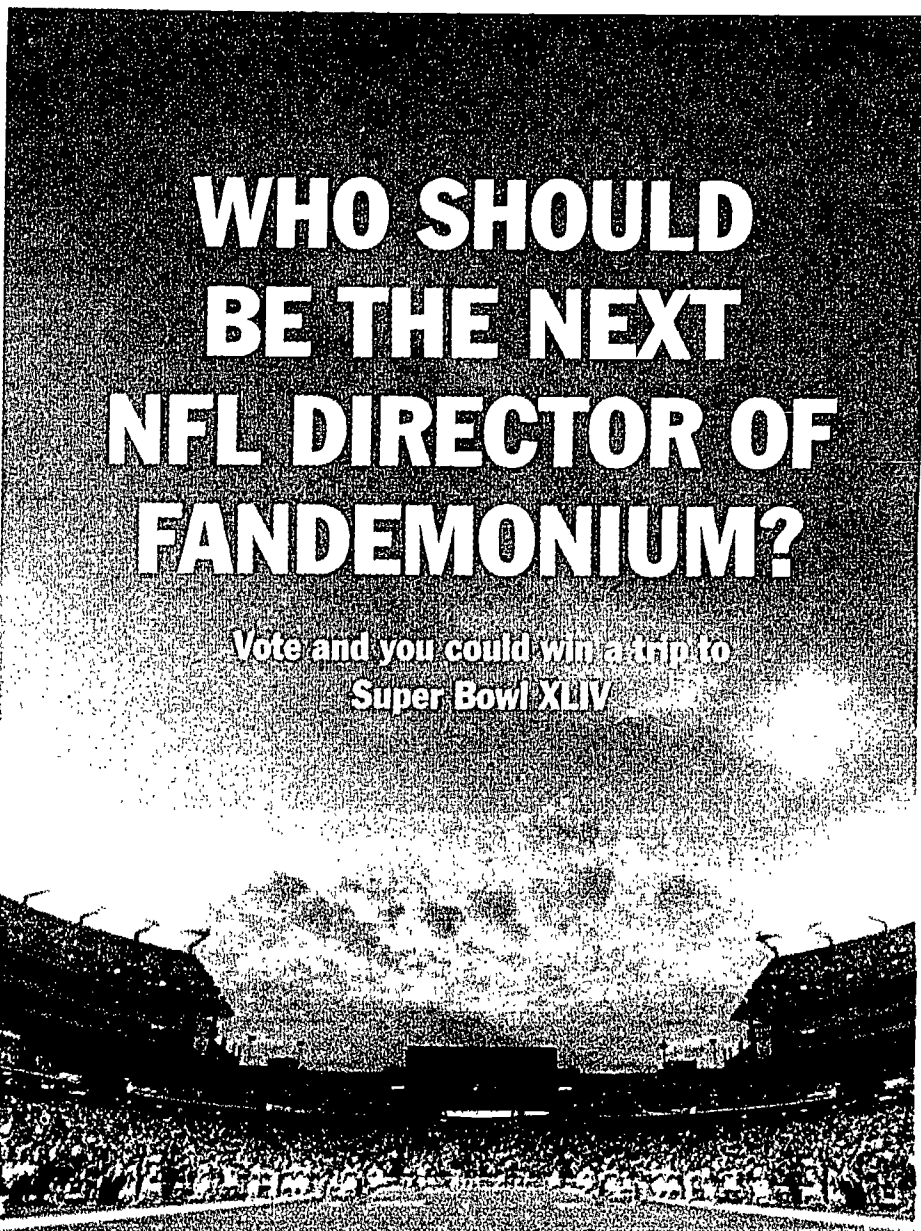
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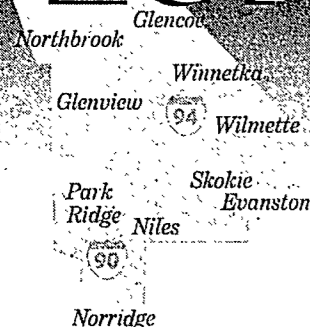








# 2010 Rising North Stars



Compiled by:  
Matt Harness  
Dennis Mahoney  
Dan Shalin  
George M. Wilcox

We believe these boys and girls will be making headlines in 2010 and beyond.

By no means is this collection of athletes definitive. Some are complete unknowns, while others are on their way to even more prolific seasons.

Either way, keep an eye out on the horizon for these names.

## BASEBALL

**Brett Synek, Glenbrook North junior**

As a sophomore, the shortstop earned team MVP honors by leading the Spartans in all offensive categories. The Division I-A prospect also pitches.

**Nick Wheeler, Niles West junior**

## BOYS BASKETBALL

**Andrew McAuliffe, Glenbrook North freshman**

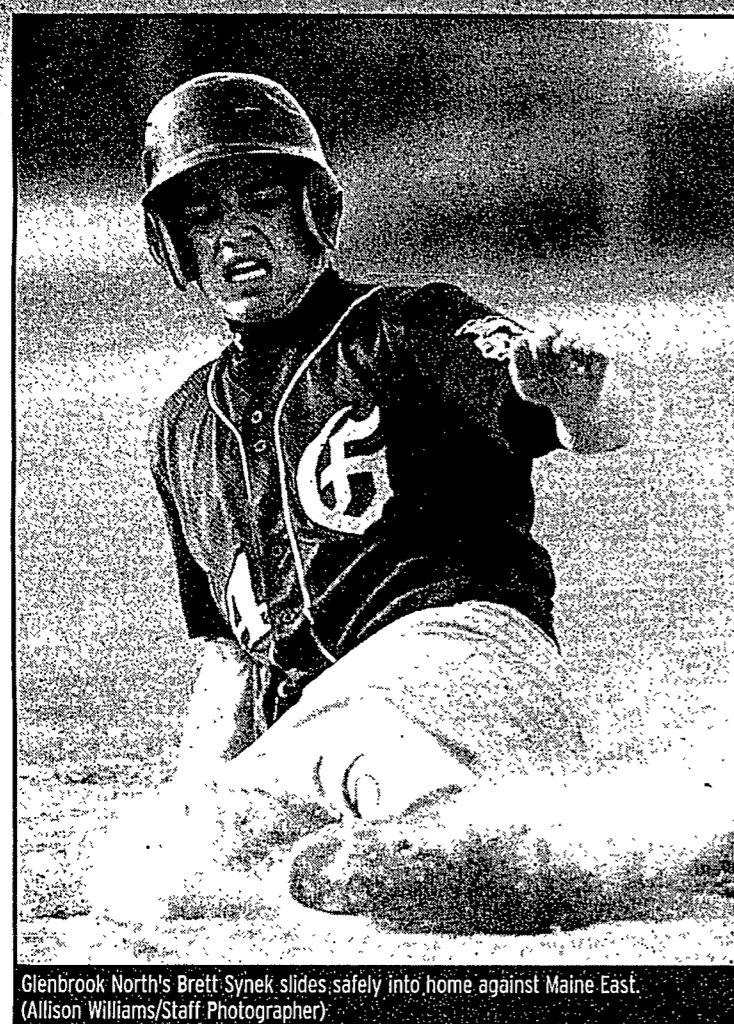
This Spartan vaulted to the varsity this spring after an impressive summer. The 6-foot-7 McAuliffe began the season coming off the bench, but should contribute more as he gains experience.

**Royale Ewing, St. Patrick freshman**

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

**Colleen McDonagh, Glenbrook South sophomore**

The Titans forward has earned her way into the starting lineup in her first varsity season. Usually drawing the toughest defensive assignment, McDonagh has shad-



Glenbrook North's Brett Synek slides safely into home against Maine East. (Allison Williams/Staff Photographer)

owed such players as Niles West's Jewell Loyd and New Trier's Maggie Lyons.

**Michelle Maher, Maine South sophomore**

## BOYS BOWLING

**Michael Thomas, Evanston junior**

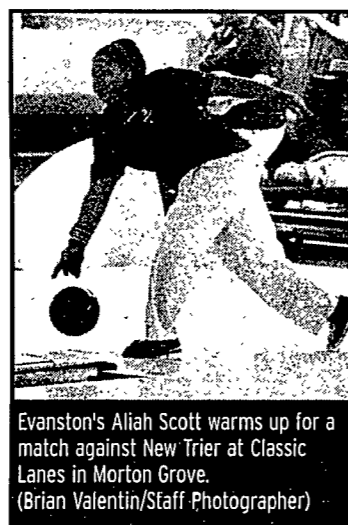
In the Wildkits' first-ever bowling season, Thomas is the one to watch. While he's known in bowling circles as one of the best junior players in the country, Thomas is only beginning to make a name for himself on the prep level.

**Justin Sanetra, Notre Dame junior**

## GIRLS BOWLING

**Aliah Scott, Evanston sophomore**

In the recent showdown with rival New Trier, Scott shared team honors with a 452 series. She's one



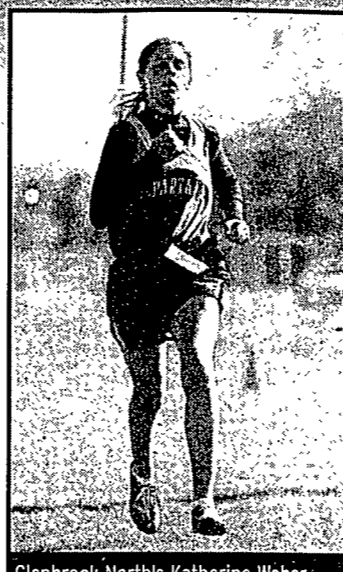
Evanston's Aliah Scott warms up for a match against New Trier at Classic Lanes in Morton Grove. (Brian Valentin/Staff Photographer)

of four Wildkits who have participated the past three years in the junior program at Classic Bowl in Morton Grove

**Jacklyn Canova, Resurrection junior**



Glenbrook South's Colleen McDonagh (right) drives during an AAU all-star game at the Libertyville Sports Complex. (Joe Shuman/for STM)



Glenbrook North's Katherine Weber, nears the finish line at the CSL cross country championship meet, where she placed fourth. (Allison Williams/Staff Photographer)



Glenbrook North's Andrew McAuliffe slams home a dunk during the Spartans' win over Highland Park. (Brian O'Mahoney/Staff Photographer)

## BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

**Aron Sebat, Niles North sophomore**

Running against some of the state's best competition, the underclassman helped the Vikings advance to the sectionals, where he finished 47th. Sebat started his postseason run with a 26th-place finish at the CSL meet before taking 17th at the regional race.

**Brad Berg, Glenbrook South sophomore**



Niles North's Aron Sebat (239) approaches the finish line at the Niles West Sectional. (Allison Williams/Staff Photographer)

## GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

**Katherine Weber, Glenbrook North freshman**

The Spartan followed the advice of coach Bob LeBlanc and took a break from club soccer to concentrate on running. The result: Weber placed 13th at sectionals and earned an at-large berth for the Class 3A State Meet.

**Michelle Karp, Niles West freshman**

## FOOTBALL

**Luke Lenti, Maine South sophomore**

Nephew of legendary Mount Carmel coach Frank Lenti, the linebacker was called up to the varsity for the playoffs and immediately made an impact for the Class 8A state champions. The sophomore intercepted a pass and recorded a sack in the team's 41-17 win over Marist in the title game.

**Daveed Carter, Loyola sophomore**

## BOYS HOCKEY

**Garrison Sanipass, Glenbrook North**

This freshman center is the biggest player on the Spartans and maneuvers on both the second and third lines as the team continues to challenge New Trier Blue in the Metro North.

**Greg Smart, New Trier hockey**

## GIRLS HOCKEY

**Nina Puch, Loyola sophomore**

After tying for 67th at the state golf meet, she's helped Loyola start off 14-2-2 heading into the holidays. In the lone Metro North defeat against rival New Trier, Puch dealt the helper on the Ramblers' goal. She's a big reason why Loyola held a 56-9 goal differential against opponents.

**Mackenzie Martin, New Trier junior**

## BOYS LACROSSE

**Robert Peterson, Maine South sophomore**

**Geoff Harty, Glenbrook South junior**

## GIRLS LACROSSE

**Carrie Kenyon, New Trier junior**

## FIELD HOCKEY

**Kim Kahnweiler, North Shore Country Day sophomore**

The defender was new to the sport as a freshman but quickly established herself once on varsity. Also a basketball and soccer player for the Raiders, Kahnweiler earned plenty of recognition for her efforts on the field in the

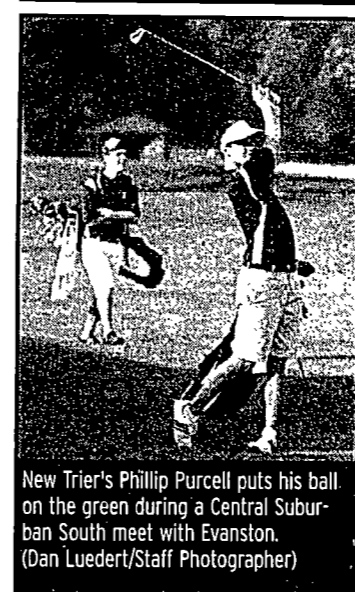
**Pat Cermak, St. Patrick, junior**

## GIRLS GOLF

**Callie Nelson, New Trier freshman**  
In her rookie season, Nelson



Glenbrook North's Garrison Sanipass (32) celebrates after scoring against Libertyville-Vernon Hills. (Joe Cyganowski/for STM)



New Trier's Phillip Purcell puts his ball on the green during a Central Suburban South meet with Evanston. (Dan Luedert/Staff Photographer)

fall, when NSCD finished the regular season 11-0.

**Annie Rojas, New Trier junior**

## BOYS GOLF

**Phil Purcell, New Trier junior**

He was the Trevs' second finisher at the Class 3A State Meet, tying for 13th place with 79-76-155, as New Trier took second behind defending champion St. Viator.

**Pat Cermak, St. Patrick, junior**

## GIRLS GOLF

**Callie Nelson, New Trier freshman**  
In her rookie season, Nelson



New Trier's Callie Nelson hits the practice range prior to the Class AA State Meet at Hickory Ridge Public Golf Center in Carbondale. (Matt Marton/STM)

worked her way into the starting lineup and helped the Trevisions take second at the Class AA state tournament, where she shot 80-83 and tied for 28th.

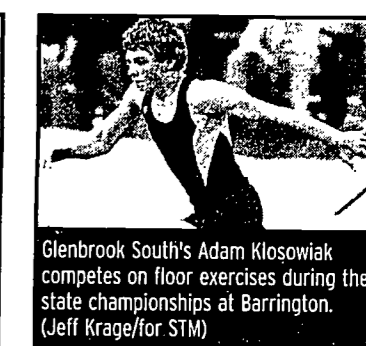
**Ashley Hong, Glenbrook North freshman**

## BOYS GYMNASTICS

**Adam Klosowiak, Glenbrook South junior**

He vaulted onto the radar screen last year, capturing the all-around championship at the Central Suburban meet, in addition to titles on floor and high bar, as the Titans secured their second-straight league crown.

**Haleigh Sir, Maine South freshman**



Glenbrook South's Adam Klosowiak competes on floor exercises during the state championships at Barrington. (Jeff Krage/for STM)



Loyola forward Laura Gardner (right) turns to celebrate after drilling a shot past St. Ignatius goalie Nora Benson at Toyota Park. (Tom Cruze/STM)

## BOYS SOCCER

**Jason Rodriguez, St. Patrick junior**

Four days after tweaking a hamstring, Rodriguez convinced coach Dave Nowak to let him play. Rodriguez showed why, as he entered the match in the second half and scored twice to lead the Shamrocks to a 6-1 victory over Nazareth.

**Alex Johnson-Bice, New Trier junior**

## GIRLS SOCCER

**Laura Gardner, Loyola junior**

The team's second-leading scorer a year ago, the forward should have the offensive stage all to herself in the spring now that Allison Suhey has graduated.

**Olivia Pappalardo, Maine South sophomore**

## BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

**Javed Avdic, Niles North freshman**

Rookie has made an immediate impact for the Vikings, showcasing his talents in freestyle events as well as his versatility by competing in the 200 IM.

**Kevin Tom, Maine East freshman**

Rising Stars, PAGE 28

## Rising Stars

Continued from PAGE 27

### GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

#### Olivia Smoliga, Glenbrook South freshman

Finished third in the 100-yard backstroke at the State Meet, but she was often overlooked on her own team by Duke recruit Kelly Hagerty, a former state champion. Smoliga will get her time in the spotlight in 2010.

**Lauren Buszydlo,**  
Maine South freshman

### BOYS TENNIS

**Bill Angel,**  
Glenbrook North sophomore  
Paired with then-senior Bryan Kandelman for the state doubles tournament. The Spartans tandem advanced to the fourth round of the consolation bracket. Angel also placed runner-up at third singles during the CSL North meet.

**Lawson Barter,** Loyola junior

### GIRLS TENNIS

**Jewell Loyd,** Niles West sophomore  
This Wolves athlete is best known for her exploits on the basketball court, where she's one of the state's best in the Class of 2012, but Loyd showed her versatility by advancing to the state tennis meet in the fall.

**Anna Kaplan,** New Trier freshman

### BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

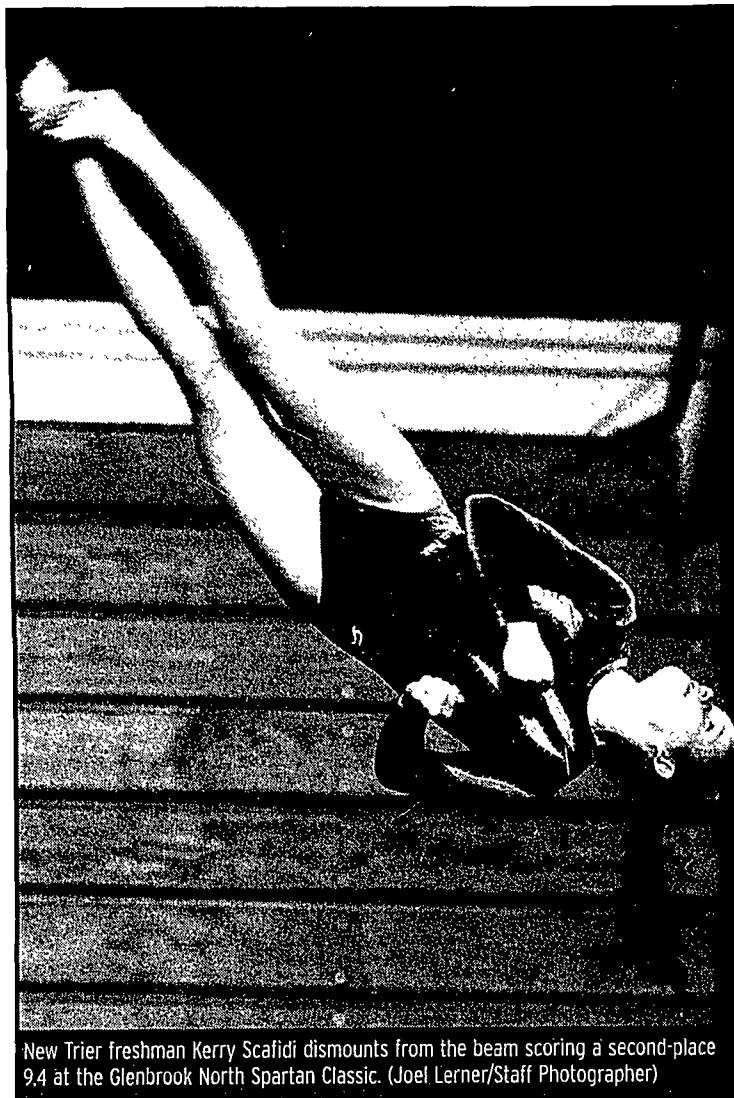
**Kyle Kwasniewski,**  
Glenbrook South junior  
The sprinter shined on the CSL's lower levels last spring as he won the 100-meter dash and placed in three other events. The Titans expect Kwasniewski to run with the 4x100 and 4x200 relays this spring.

**Marlon Stoby,** Evanston junior

### GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

**Danyale Griffin,** Evanston junior  
A relay whiz, Griffin helped the Wildkits win the 4x400 championship at the Class 8A State Meet. Earlier in April, she ran on the unit that captured the 28-team Bulldog Classic in Louisville.

**Veronica Szklarczyk,**  
Maine South junior



New Trier freshman Kerry Scafidi dismounts from the beam scoring a second-place 9.4 at the Glenbrook North Spartan Classic. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

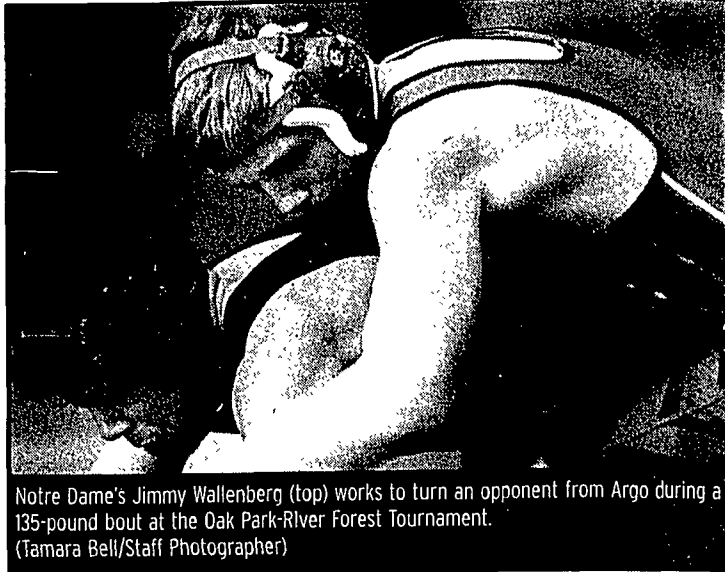
**Spencer Groessi,**  
Maine South junior  
Started on the state runner-up last spring, but he hardly was the focus of attention. He finished fourth on the 35-7 Hawks with 146 kills and near the top in blocks and aces. Should be among five guys back this spring with significant experience.

**Lukas Rytel,**  
Glenbrook South junior

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

**Casey Durham,**  
Evanston sophomore  
This 6-foot-3 player's best performances in the fall were against CSL South rival and the state's third-place team Glenbrook South. Although Durham came off the bench, coach Pam MacPherson is excited about what the underclassman will bring to future teams.

**Shannon Sullivan,**  
Loyola sophomore



Notre Dame's Jimmy Wallenberg (top) works to turn an opponent from Argo during a 135-pound bout at the Oak Park-River Forest Tournament. (Tamara Bell/Staff Photographer)



Niles West No. 2 singles Jewell Loyd blasts a backhand during her win against Maine West. (Shaun Sartin/for STM)

### BADMINTON

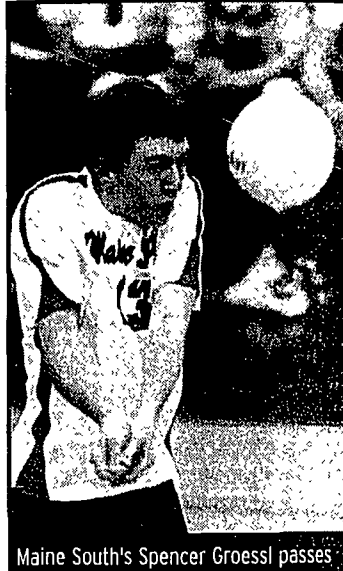
**Mari Georgiadis,** New Trier junior  
New Trier, which placed third at the State Meet last May, will get a lift this spring with the return of Georgiadis. She and partner Lauren Stephenson won the third doubles title at the Featherfest Invitational in April.

**Emily Schnoll,** Evanston senior

### SOFTBALL

**Colleen Mullane,** Loyola junior  
Played in 12 games, including both Downstate as a pinch-runner, for the Class 4A state champion Ramblers. While she only batted six times and got two hits in 2009, she should figure more prominently into the lineup this spring.

**Jessica Loy,**  
Niles North sophomore



Maine South's Spencer Groessi passes the ball against Evanston. (Brian Valentin/Staff Photographer)



Evanston's Casey Durham (10) hammers a kill during CSL South action against Glenbrook South. (Buzz Orr/Staff Photographer)

## THIS WEEK MAINE EAST

**Today**  
Girls gymnastics at Glenbrook North, 5 p.m.  
Wrestling hosts Ida Crown Jewish Acad., 6 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Boys swimming at Glenbrook North, 5 p.m.  
Boys basketball at Glenbrook North, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls basketball hosts Glenbrook North, 7:30 p.m.  
Wrestling at Deerfield, 6 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Girls gymnastics at Evanston Invite, 1 p.m.  
Boys swimming at Elk Grove Invite, 9 a.m.  
Wrestling at Leyden Tourn., 9 a.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Girls basketball hosts Ridgewood, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls gymnastics at Niles North, 5:30 p.m.  
Boys swimming hosts St. Patrick, 5 p.m.

## NILES NORTH

**Today**  
Girls gymnastics at Highland Park, 5:30 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Boys swimming at Highland Park, 5:30 p.m.  
Wrestling hosts Highland Park, 6 p.m.  
Boys basketball at Deerfield, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls basketball hosts Deerfield, 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Wrestling hosts Prospect/Lake Park/HE, 9:30 a.m.  
Girls gymnastics at Evanston Invite, 1 p.m.  
Girls basketball hosts Ida Crown, 8 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Girls gymnastics hosts Maine East, 5:30 p.m.  
Boys basketball at Willowbrook, 7:30 p.m.

## NILES WEST

**Friday**  
Boys swimming at Evanston, 5:30 p.m.  
Wrestling hosts Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.  
Boys basketball at Waukegan, 7:30 p.m.  
Girls basketball hosts Waukegan, 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Wrestling at Glenbrook S. Quad, 9 a.m.  
Boys swimming at Evanston Relays, 1 p.m.  
Girls gymnastics at Evanston Invite, 1 p.m.  
Girls basketball at Lincoln Park, 1:30 p.m.  
Boys basketball hosts Buffalo Grove, 7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Girls gymnastics hosts Evanston, 5:30 p.m.

## NOTRE DAME

**Today**  
Bowling vs. St. Patrick at Habetter Bowl, 4:30 p.m.  
Swimming at St. Viator, 5 p.m.  
Hockey vs. Benet Academy at Niles-Balard, 8:15 p.m.  
**Friday**  
Wrestling at Carmel, 5:15 p.m.  
Basketball hosts St. Viator, 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Basketball at Benet, 7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday**  
Bowling Habetter Bowl, 4:30 p.m.  
Swimming at St. Rita, 5 p.m.

# Return of Bahrmasel bolsters Wolves

### Back from injury, senior shines at quad

By DAN SHALIN  
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

**WRESTLING** – The new year began positively for Niles West (11-11), who went 2-1 in Saturday's Buffalo Grove quad event.

Perhaps more importantly for the Wolves, they regained the services of Mike Bahrmasel.

The senior won a regional championship last season but has been out with injury since Thanksgiving. Though he is not yet in tip-top shape, the 135-pounder went 3-0 Saturday, improving his season record to 6-0.

"(Bahrmasel) was off the mat completely for four weeks, and we just got him back for practice. He only had a couple of days on the mat," said Niles West head coach Anthony Genovesi.



Niles West 152-pounder Eric Ronning (right) won a pair of matches last weekend at the Buffalo Grove quad. (Brian Valentin/Staff Photographer)

"It will take him a while to get back in match-shape. But he went 3-0 and beat a kid from Crystal Lake Central who is honorable-mention in (IHSA) Class 2A."

The Wolves actually dropped its match with Crystal Lake Central 44-17, but defeated Zion-Benton

33-17 and the host Bison 34-31.

Niles West was forced to forfeit at 285 pounds, which hurt the team against full-strength Crystal Lake but had less of an effect against the other two opponents which also counted forfeits. Wolves senior 119-pounder

# Avdic, Mlynarski reaching for the stars

### North fresh shine in sprint pentathlon

By DAN SHALIN  
dshalin@pioneerlocal.com

**BOYS SWIMMING** – By respectively finishing fifth and seventh at Saturday's Don Davis Invite, Niles North freshmen Javed Avdic and Karol Mlynarski proved yet again they are rising stars.

But Vikings head coach Seth Orlove is not rushing the duo, nor any of the program's other talented youngsters.

"I'm not in a rush as far as how far I can take them this year. I have the long term in mind when I'm working with them," Orlove said.

"They understand my expectations. It's going to be a progression over time. As important as it is to create a sense of urgency, there is not so much when you are dealing with a young team. We are laying the groundwork right now."

Meanwhile, the Vikings' program continues to show signs of its upward mobility. During the six-team Davis Invite in Highland Park, North scored 505.5 points and finished second to Mundelein (668) in the varsity division. North won the JV division.

The meet was a sprint pentathlon, with each team entering six swimmers in the varsity division and six in the JV. All swimmers competed in 50-yard races of each stroke and then a 150-yard freestyle race.

Points were accumulated according to a swimmer's place in each event.

Mlynarski tied for first in the 50 backstroke (27.04) and finished second in the 150 free (1:20.08). Avdic was third in the 50 butterfly (26.21) and fourth in the 50 free (23.48). North sophomore Richard Gomez came in ninth in the varsity division.

Niles North placed four swimmers in the top seven of the JV division. Senior Eric Tanaka was second, junior Chris Moon was third, sophomore Matt Latin finished sixth and sophomore Ammar Shah was seventh.

Diving on Dec. 29, North senior Arsen Sarkisian scored 422.60 and took second at the New Trier Winter Classic, an 11-dive event

that brings together most of the state's top competitors.

"The meet is basically a great indicator of how everybody is going to stack up at the State Meet," said North diving coach Gary Ramirez. "(Sarkisian) did a great job. He is clearing up a couple things here and there, and is looking at another top-six finish this year for State."

Sarkisian finished fifth in last year's IHSA State Meet after placing ninth the year before. New Trier senior Jordan Dyson, who came in third at State last season, won last week's meet.

**Niles West Diving**  
Wolves senior Dylan Lovering (283.2) finished 13th at New Trier, while junior Zach Rothstein was 16th

(271.7) and senior Ryan Zimmerman 19th (258.1).

West (813.0) took third in the team standings behind host New Trier and Hinsdale South.

Niles West diving coach Lou Torres enjoys a deep program, which also includes talented senior Andrew Roberts. He will face a difficult decision next month.

"I have four divers who could conceivably (qualify for State). But only the top two can go (to the sectional)," the coach said. "Right now, Rothstein is the most consistent. (Lovering) is a senior (and a returning state qualifier) who is getting back into (form). He knows nothing is promised and that there is always somebody trying to take your spot."

But solid showings from a few non-seniors make Genovesi optimistic about the future. Junior 150-pounder Elias Shiheiber has compiled a 20-9 record, while classmate Bayar Barysaikhan (285) has gone 10-6.

# Wolves return to face one of state's best

### West to visit Pontiac champ Waukegan

By DAN SHALIN  
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**BOYS BASKETBALL** - After playing three tough games in the Pontiac Hol-

iday Tournament, Niles West will face that event's top team this week.

The Wolves (7-5) finished 1-2 Downstate, losing a close game to highly rated Joliet, defeating talented Plainfield North and falling by one point to the host. Niles West advanced to the consolation-bracket semifinals.

The Wolves get their

chance to meet the Pontiac champion when they visit Waukegan (11-3) at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The Bulldogs, who defeated Simeon in the tournament final, feature Illinois-bound superstar Jereme Richmond.

Niles West coach Bob Williams said his team is capable of beating the Bulldogs, and that the Wolves are relishing the opportunity to play one of the state's top teams.

"It's a big challenge, but something I think we're up to," said Williams, whose Schaumburg teams pulled a few stunners over the years. "What we've proven to ourselves is that if we do the things that we do and work the way we know we can, we can beat anybody. We're excited for it."

The Wolves return home to face Buffalo Grove at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Williams said he was pleased with his team's performance in the first two games at Pontiac, though disappointed with the effort in Game 3. Niles West was topped in the opener by Joliet 60-51 Dec. 28. The game was close for much of the first half until the Steelmen went on a 16-0 run that extended into the second half.

"There were times when we just didn't handle the ball well enough and some key turnovers that hurt us," Williams said. "For the most part, we played a strong game, but against a team like that, you have to do more than that."

Senior Chris McNichols led Niles West's balanced attack with nine points. Senior Lorenzo Fiol and junior Donte Logan scored eight points each.

A day later, Fiol put down 16 and senior Boris Cayemitte added 14 in the Wolves' 60-55 win over a Plainfield North team that already had played in its own holiday tournament.

"We had a solid game against them," Williams



Niles West's Boris Cayemitte, challenging Evanston's James Farr during CSL South action, will join the Wolves Friday in Waukegan to take on conference-leading Waukegan. (Brian Valentin/Staff Photographer)

said. "There were times the game was up in the air, and we could have quit. I was proud of the kids for (not doing) that."

On the final day, Williams kept a few regulars on the bench for a half, for what he stressed were "minor discipline issues." The Wolves were outscored 24-16 in the second quarter and, despite a second-half comeback, fell to Pontiac 62-61.

"I wasn't real happy with the effort for the third day, but there were

contributing factors. We were forced to change the lineup a little," Williams said. "(The temporary absences) hurt our consistency as far as flow of the game. We got crushed in the second quarter. We just didn't play well defensively. In the third and fourth, we got back into it. But the second quarter was brutal."

Senior Rodney Metellus led West with 13 points and Fiol added 10.

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**GAME BALLS RESULTS**

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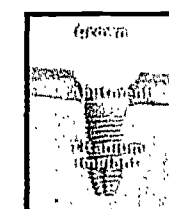


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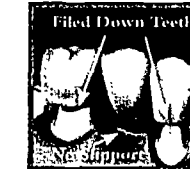
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