HERO SANDWICHES? Plotr Debowski (right), of Niles, eats a steamed sub with Karol Grzebien (left), of Glenview, and Hubert Seksdnski, of Glenview, at Firehouse Subs, a new firefighter-themed restaurant in Niles, which opened Dec. 21. PAGE 7 | RYAN PAGELOW-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

UP ON THE FOOD FRONT
A look at the culinary trends expected this year PAGE 36

JUMPIN' BEAN JAMS
Lincolnwood native a hit with kids' songs IN DIVERSENS

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DISTRIBUTION 67

Pair of referendums seek tax hikes for programs, buildings

BY CATHRYN GRAN
cgran@pioneerlocall.com

Golf School District 67 will be seeking voter approval to increase funding for education and to make major improvements to its two-school buildings.

On the March 20 primary election ballot will be a referendum to increase by 3.42 percent to 2.401, from 2.068, the amount to be collected through property taxes to fund operations/education.

A second referendum seeks to allow the district to issue $57.2 million in bonds to, among other projects, replace the heating/ventilation/air-conditioning units, sprinklers, and plumbing at Golf Middle School, 9401 Waukegan Road, and Hynes School, 9000 Belleforte Ave.

For a Morton Grove District 67 resident, approval of the operations referendum will cost a property owner an additional $51 and $31 for the bond issue for each $1,000 and an additional $51 and $31, respectively.

The last time district voters approved a referendum was in 1969.

The district needs to raise $1.14 million to operate its education fund in the black, according to information provided by the district.

So far the district has cut staff, frozen salaries for administrators and some staff and reduced expenses for supplies by 25 percent.

The Golf Teachers Association also has made concessions.

DISTRIBUTION 64

Community Finance Committee to meet Jan. 17, 25

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 is reconvening its Community Finance Committee and is inviting community members to attend a one-hour preview meeting to learn about five topics that will be studied in the spring or to participate in a study group.

Community members may attend the Jan. 17 session or the Jan. 25 session. Both meetings will be from 7-8 p.m. at the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

Newly appointed CFC community coordinators are former District 64 School Board members Ares Dimanis and Genie Taddeo. According to the district they will provide an overview of the five subject areas to be studied in the spring: enhancing "taxpayer education tools"; reviewing assumptions in District 64's 10-year financial model and developing alternate scenarios; increasing financial transparency and reporting; refreshing a student-fees study from 2009; and identifying borrowing options and the impact on the district's budget as a new facility master plan is developed and maintenance projects are addressed.

The Community Finance Committee was created by the Board of Education in 2004. The district group researches financial issues and provides recommendations to the School Board.

For more information call (847) 318-4302.

FASHIONING FROSTY

BY TRACY GRIEVE

A memorial mass for Gordon Faller, one of the original board members of the Niles Chamber of Commerce, took place on Jan. 7 at St. Lambert Parish in Skokie.

Faller's family business, Faller Insurance, was one of the chamber's first members. Faller has served as Director Emeritus for the past few decades.

He died at age 83, and lived in Skokie.

"His calm presence," Doug Faller said of his father.

Stephen Faller, Gordon's other son, died last year.

Gordon is also survived by a daughter, Terri Faller; his wife, Fran Faller; and an older brother, Rudi.

Faller served on various boards, such as the Lincoln Park Lion's Club, Goodwill Industries and Chicago North Side Commission on Health Planning.

Faller was past president of the German American Singers of Chicago and chairman of the board of Martha Washington Hospital.

For more than 25 years he was a lector and commentator at St. Lambert in Skokie, where he was also a member of the choir.

"He had a calm presence," Doug Faller said of his father.

Some of his favorite hobbies were swimming, biking, golfing, camping, traveling and playing bridge.

GORDON FALLER

Business owner was one of founding members of Chamber of Commerce

BY TRACY GRIEVE

In 1956, Faller started Faller Insurance Agency and has been an active member of the Niles Chamber of Commerce for more than 60 years.

He received the Kenneth School Service award in 1991 and was described as "truly a model of what a chamber member can accomplish." He died at age 83, and lived in Skokie.

"His past president of the German American Singers of Chicago and chairman of the board of Martha Washington Hospital.

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GOLF MIDDLE SCHOOL

New students, staff mingle at school luncheon

New students and staff at Golf Middle School in Morton Grove were treated to a luncheon last month to give them an opportunity to get to know each other.

"We started this last year, when I came here," said Erin Stein, principal at the Golf District 67 school, of the Dec. 14 event. "We did it at my former school and the kids loved it.

"It's tough in middle school as it is, let alone if you're new. There was a lot of sharing of little things to help them see that there's other people who feel the same way."

Brianna Dempster, a fifth-grader at Golf Middle School, attends Dec. 14 luncheon for new students and staff of the Morton Grove school. | TAMARA BELL-SUN TIMES MEDIA

Sixth-grader Daniel Bacerra gives a thumbs up for the new-student luncheon Dec. 14. The luncheon helped new students and staff get to know each other. | TAMARA BELL-SUN TIMES MEDIA

MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING

No time to get in shape? Just try the 'Busy Mom' way

PIONEERLOCAL.COM
When Phillip Forfar and his brother, Alan, were looking into purchasing a franchise, it wasn't just what they determined to be high quality sub sandwiches that led them to Firehouse Subs. It was also what they saw as being the ambiance and meaningful culture of the restaurant and their desire to give back to the community. The company was founded in Jacksonville, Fla., by former firefighter brothers Chris and Robin Sorensen.

The Forfar brothers opened a Firehouse Subs restaurant at 9600 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, on Dec. 21, starting a whole new chapter in their lives. Phillip is a former accountant and Alan is an oral surgeon.

“We were looking for a market area,” Forfar said. “Niles fit our idea. It is a fantastic town. We thought we could capture a lot of it.”

While people are waiting in line to order some of their unique sandwiches - such as the Hook and Ladder, which is turkey and ham with provolone; the Firehouse Meatball; and the New York Steamer, pastrami and corned beef - they can look at a large mural of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Each Firehouse Subs restaurant features its own unique mural and the Niles location depicts Mrs. O’Leary rowing a boat with a cow in it.

“It’s a guilty-looking cow; it knows it started the fire,” Forfar said.

A reporter wrote a story that a cow started the Great Chicago Fire by kicking over a lantern in a barn, but later admitted that he made it up to make interesting copy.

Firehouse Subs has a foundation in which it collects money and invites local fire departments to apply for a grant and receive a variety of equipment.

Forfar said the eatery sells pickle buckets for $2, and that money goes toward the foundation to help support fire departments. Firehouse Subs has assisted more than 275 communities and has contributed $3.1 million to “hometown heroes.”

“We want to work with the community,” Forfar said, referring to Niles and noting that Niles Fire Chief Steve Borkowski expressed interest in applying for a grant.

Firehouse Subs steams its meats and cheeses, and toasts the buns separately, and then puts it all together. Forfar said the restaurant makes the sandwiches that way in order to lock the moisture into the meat.

“It’s a better-quality sub,” Forfar said.

In addition to a wide variety of sub sandwiches Firehouse Subs also features a unique Coca-Cola machine that offers 130 flavors, such as raspberry and strawberry.

“It’s fun,” Forfar said of running his new restaurant. “Every day is a new thing.”

The restaurant is open from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.
**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Niles police chief weighs in on new ’12 state laws**

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

More than 200 new state laws came into effect on Jan. 1, including stricter penalties for seat belts.

The new law requires every driver and adult passenger to wear a properly adjusted safety belt, in both the front and back seats of a vehicle.

Previously only the drivers and adult front-seat passengers were required to wear seat belts, as well as children younger than 8 and passengers younger than 19 when the driver is younger than 16.

“This is a necessary thing,” Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki said of the stricter regulation.

Failure to comply with this law, which was named House Bill 219, could result in a fine not to exceed $25.

Strzelecki said some skeptics may feel the law is merely a way to collect more revenue, but insisted that the statistics speak for themselves, showing that people who wear seat belts are safer.

Another new law this year is House Bill 1689, which creates tougher penalties for criminals who take advantage of senior citizens through financial exploitation.

For example House Bill 1689 defines a Class 1 felony as one in which the value of the property is $50,000 or more instead of $100,000 (the amount it was previously) or more; or if the victim is older than 70, and the property is $15,000 or more or if the victim is 80 years old or older and the property is $5,000 or more.

They are such easy targets,” Strzelecki said of senior citizens. He said he supports any legislation that increases the punishment for criminals who target the elderly.

**DISTRICT 71**

**Culver School hopes to start a cheerful chain reaction**

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

A chain reaction of kindness has started in Niles.

Rachel’s Challenge, a national anti-bullying program in honor of Rachel Scott, a teenager killed in the Columbine High School shootings, is picking up steam in the village. Scott's diary entries revealed her strong desire to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion.

An inspirational presentation about Scott and her mission to spread kindness was held at Emerson School earlier in the school year and Culver School is planning a similar presentation Jan. 24. A presentation will be held during the day for the students and at 6 p.m. for parents and other community members.

“*This is kind of taking on a life of its own,*” said Culver School Principal Peggy Maniscalco.

Maniscalco said representatives from the Park District, library, senior center, fitness center and local businesses have all become involved in promoting Rachel’s Challenge across the Niles School District. The groups will host positive activities in the future that are related to Rachel’s Challenge. A proclamation to promote Niles as a Rachel’s Challenge community will likely take place at the Jan. 24 village board meeting.

Some staff members from the library and other community organizations will be part of a special training session at Culver on Jan. 24. A group of students at Culver School will continue to promote the message of anti-bullying at the school and in the community.

“So many students spend time here,” said Niles Public Library Director Linda Weiss, who said she is pleased that the library is involved in the program. “It seemed like a natural partnership.”

Maniscalco said: “Community leaders will be there as role models.”

Maniscalco said Rachel's Challenge goes along with the "Bucket Brigade" at Culver School, which promotes a mission of filling other people's "invisible buckets" with good thoughts by saying nice things and aiming to make people feel good during the day.

“The hope is to keep the momentum going,” Maniscalco said of other community schools and groups taking part in the chain reaction.
Rehab center aims for upscale-hotel feel

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

When you step into the dining room at Regency Rehabilitation Center in Niles, you may feel like you've entered an upscale restaurant. The rehabilitation center that changed owners a few years ago has received an award from Long Term Living Magazine for Best in Category for remodeling their dining room.

The dining room features white table cloths, a serving buffet and offers a wide variety of entrees and fresh salads, soup, and fruit.

"The food is definitely upscale from the average nursing facility," said Lori Barrish, administrator at Regency Rehabilitation Center, 6631 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The dining room offers a four-week seasonal menu cycle, providing a variety of options for residents. Eating together in the dining room is a great bonding opportunity for residents, according to staff.

In addition to the dining room, various areas of the center were remodeled and the work was completed in May. The center features on-site dialysis, a cardiac unit and a therapy unit for people that have various medical issues, such as hip and knee replacements. The center provides physical, occupational and speech therapy to residents.

Each day residents line up to receive frosty treats at the popular ice-cream parlor, and volunteers work at the candy store in order to keep busy.

Rooms feature upscale appointments, such as flat-screen TVs and granite counter tops. The facility also features five patio areas.

According to Ron Nunziato, vice president of SIR management, the goal was to make the facility feel like home or a nice hotel.

In fact, just like at upscale hotels, residents will be able to order room service straight from the TV. There are also microwaves and refrigerators in the rooms.

The therapy unit features various areas where residents can practice everyday actions, such as cooking their favorite recipes, grocery shopping and climbing stairs.

Caryl Kiser, marketing director of Regency Rehabilitation Center, said residents love to cook meals that they make at home, and share their food and stories with other residents.

Nunziato said the center is also looking at offering outpatient therapy so former residents can continue to receive therapy from the same people they worked with while living at the center.

"We are looking at this as a holistic way to meet the needs of the community," Nunziato said.
The Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE) located in Morton Grove held a holiday sing-along on Dec. 21. The school provides an array of specialized programs that create optimum learning experiences to meet each child’s specialized needs. The school serves the North Side of Chicago and areas of Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles and Skokie.

Teacher Stacy Markovitz and student Christian Tesija sing during the Niles Township District for Special Education sing-along.

Alex Filskov plays the sticks during the NTDSE’s holiday sing-along last month.

Jahsean Miller plays the triangle during the music activity in Morton Grove on Dec. 21.

Photos by Tamara Bell Sun-Times Media

Anthony Rodriguez watches his classmates play the triangle during the event.
The Niles Township District for Special Education (NTDSE) in Morton Grove held a holiday sing-along Dec. 21. Hanaifa Zakeria plays the sticks during the event.

Teacher Sharon Sanfilippo and student Joel Kazeze play the bells during the NTDSE’s Dec. 21 music activity in Morton Grove.

The Niles Township District for Special Education in Morton Grove held a holiday sing-a-long Dec. 21. Jahsean Miller plays the tambourine.

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COMMUNITY FUND

Charity’s 2012 fundraising gets early boost from businessman

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com

A fundraising challenge from a Park Ridge native and suburban business owner recently netted more than three times the amount of donations he called upon citizens to raise.

Eric Nelson, owner of Nelson Automotive in Mount Prospect, promised to donate $7,000 to the Park Ridge Community Fund if the charitable organization was able to raise the same amount from other donors by Dec. 31.

“Park Ridge stepped up to the challenge and more than $25,000 came in during the last two weeks of the year,” said Gail Haller, executive director of the Park Ridge Community Fund.

“I decided the Community Fund was a good way to give to a couple of different organizations and do it through one gift,” Nelson explained.

Haller accepted Nelson’s $7,000 check Dec. 30.

Nelson, a 2004 Maine South graduate who still lives in Park Ridge, said he made the decision last year to donate to charity a minimum of $200 for each used car his business sold. TechNoServe, which helps men and women in developing countries build their own businesses, received a $3,000 donation, while Nelson opted to match $7,000 in donations to the Park Ridge Community Fund.

“I was extremely surprised by how much they were able to bring in and extremely happy,” Nelson said.

Haller said she was “ecstatic” to see the community’s response and praised Nelson for choosing the Park Ridge Community Fund to support.

“I was thrilled,” she said.

“Of all the nonprofits he could have donated to in Park Ridge, he thought of the Community Fund,” Haller added that the fundraising challenge sparked interest from LIN-MAR Motors in Morton Grove, which agreed to match half of Nelson’s $7,000 contribution.

The Park Ridge Community Fund’s annual fundraising goal is $130,000, Haller said. The new fiscal year began Sept. 1.

“It looks like, right now, we are ahead compared to last year,” Haller said of the Community Fund’s proceeds.

Next month volunteers will hear funding requests from local nonprofits and charities and make recommendations to the Community Fund’s Board as to how much money each should receive.

Eric Nelson, owner of Nelson Automotive in Mount Prospect, hands a check to Gail Haller, of the Park Ridge Community Fund. Nelson offered to donate $7,000 to the Community Fund if citizens matched or exceeded that amount. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

Charity's 2012 fundraising gets early boost from businessman
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SWANCC

New law makes e-waste recycling a requirement

As of Jan. 1 state law does not permit local garbage collector Groot to collect TVs, computer monitors, desktop/notebook computers and other e-waste.

If Groot identifies any of these items at the curb, it is required by state law not to collect it. Groot will adhere an orange informational sticker to the item.
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

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GLENVIEW
1026 Castilian Court Apt 204: Jitka Petrasova to Sang Chon Do, $92,000, Dec. 8
1033 Dearlove Road Apt 2C: Aleksandr Bektimirov to Ali Chechelnitskiy, $61,000, Dec. 10
1549 Meadow Lane: George H Matsubara to Jiyoun Bae, $270,000, Dec. 12
2009 Ammer Ridge Court Unit 102: Wire Trust to Carol A Malow, $605,000, Dec. 15

1605 Courtland Avenue: Michael C Teuer to Denise Lollino, $177,000, Dec. 13
1709 S Ashland Avenue: Lyle F Poole to Patricia Scafidi, $248,000, Dec. 7
2150 W Bowler Street App 405: Kozi Kotsugi to Craig Woroch, $200,000, Dec. 12
2800 Mayfield Drive: Mohammed Siddiqui to Azhar Sayed Uddin, $400,000, Dec. 13

512 Edgemont Lane: Dione S Seu to Alexander Forowycz, $165,000, Dec. 15
8231 Howell Avenue: Kulinder Singh to David R Cook, $185,000, Dec. 13
8231 Howell Avenue: Michael M Martin to Lisa L Beckers, $430,000, Dec. 13
8521 Lotus Avenue: Wells Fargo Bank Trustee to Alfred Critor, $400,000, Dec. 7
8549 Monticello Avenue: Kiva Theisen to Sherwin Ramos, $225,000, Dec. 8
9100 Keystone Avenue: Ely Latink to William Lennon Shari Helft Lennon, $935,000, Dec. 5
9409 Karlov Avenue: Michael Olevic to Leonard Fensterheim, $480,000, Dec. 13
9715 Woods Drive Unit 506: Daniel Zurakov to Jiyoun Bae, $270,000, Dec. 13
1605 Courtland Avenue: Michael C Teuer to Denise Lollino, $177,000, Dec. 13
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9715 Woods Drive Unit 506: Daniel Zurakov to Jiyoun Bae, $270,000, Dec. 13
Remodeled Colonial

2-story comes with updated kitchen

5441 Washington St., Morton Grove - $375,000

This 1,902-square-foot Colonial, built in 1952, sits on 0.17 acres in a quiet neighborhood. It features a number of updates including a kitchen with stainless steel appliances, decorative track lighting, a wraparound breakfast bar and granite countertops.

The dining room features hardwood floors, a custom chandelier and a large bay window. A stone fireplace is found in the living room, which comes with hardwood floors, exposed lighting and a bay window.

The rear of the property features a sunroom. This property provides a single-car garage and is just over a mile east from the Morton Grove Metra station.

Listing agent: Jane Powell, Baird & Warner, 847-881-2324, jane.powell@bairdwarner.com

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MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

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</tr>
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Home Integration
Custom Design and Installation

HDTVs and recessed speakers are just the beginning. Our experienced home theater designers, sales and installation specialists create and implement entire smart home networks. Our team can link multiple systems in your home, including set-up of wired or wireless A/V components, video walls, computer networks, central vacuum systems, climate control and lighting, motorized window shades and more.

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WYOMING DISTRICT COURT

Dismissal sought in grizzly bear death suit

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Attorneys for the U.S. government are asking a federal court judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the widow of a Park Ridge man killed in a Wyoming grizzly bear attack in 2010.

A motion filed Dec. 29 in Wyoming District Court states that the U.S. government cannot be held liable for the June 2010 death of Erwin Evert, 70, in the Shoshone National Forest based on state laws that grant immunity to landowners.

The suit, filed by Evert's widow, Yolanda, accuses the federal government of negligence because members of a government grizzly-bear research team had removed warning signs from the forest stating that bears had recently been captured, tranquilized and then released.

The government's motion to dismiss the lawsuit states that under a Wyoming statute private landowners are not required to provide warnings of potentially dangerous conditions to individuals entering the land “for recreational purposes.”

“The United States, as landowners of the Shoshone National Forest, owed no duty to warn Mr. Evert, who was hiking in Shoshone National Forest,” the motion states.

The motion also contends that the plaintiff has not presented the facts necessary to back up the negligence claim.

According to the lawsuit, a member of the U.S. Geological Survey's Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team found Evert's body about 21 yards away from where a bear, captured earlier in the day, had been left to recover after it was tranquilized.

DNA tests on a bear shot and killed by searchers following Evert's death proved it was the same bear that had mauled Evert, the Park County Wyoming Sheriff's Office said.

Erwin and Yolanda Evert were residents of Park Ridge who also owned a cabin in Cody, Wyoming's Kitty Creek drainage area, about 2 miles from where Ervin, a botanist, was attacked.

The lawsuit contends that Kitty Creek residents, including the Everts, were not notified by researchers that bears were being trapped near their homes.

Yolanda Evert's lawsuit seeks $5 million in damages.
Trio of crashes blamed on icy roadways

Icy roads caused three motor-vehicle accidents reported to Park Ridge police the morning of Dec. 29.

A 27-year-old Hickory Hills man was exiting an alley onto Belle Plaine when his 2001 Ford pickup truck slid on ice and struck the rear passenger side of a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban driven by a 49-year-old Park Ridge man.

The impact reportedly pushed the Suburban up onto a parkway. No tickets were issued.

Talk about a real estate market crash!

The lure of a property sale was too much for a Park Ridge man who allegedly struck an unmarked Park Ridge Police car when he backed up in the middle of a residential street to get a better look at the site. The 69-year-old man told police that on the morning of Dec. 28 he was driving north on Engel Boulevard from Belle Plaine Avenue when he noticed a vacant lot for sale.

He stopped his 2006 Toyota Prius and backed up to view the lot when he struck the front of a 2005 Pontiac Grand Am driven by two Park Ridge police officers.

Neither vehicle was damaged in the collision and no injuries were reported, according to the accident report.

No tickets were issued to the driver of the Toyota.

Motorist strikes parked car while snoozing at wheel

A man listed as having addresses in Chicago and Joliet was arrested Dec. 17 after he allegedly fell asleep behind the wheel of his car and crashed into a parked vehicle.

Israel Garciduenas, 27, was charged with driving without a valid license, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, driving an uninsured vehicle and damage to city property.

Garciduenas reportedly told police that at 12:15 a.m. he was driving west on Devon Avenue approaching Western Avenue when fell asleep.

His 2004 Lexus struck a 2002 Chevy Astro van parked along Devon Avenue, pushing the van over the curb and into bushes outside a home at 131 S. Western Ave., police said.

The collision resulted in extensive front-end damage to Garciduenas' vehicle and rear-end damage to the van, according to police.

A "no parking" sign was also reportedly destroyed.

The accident caused damage to the vehicle's front wheel, police said. No tickets were issued.

Less than 30 minutes later another crash blamed on icy pavement was reported in the area of Belle Plaine and Prospect avenues.

According to police a 27-year-old Hickory Hills man was exiting an alley onto Belle Plaine when his 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer reportedly hit a patch of black ice and skidded at 7 a.m. while eastbound on Devon Avenue near Dee Road.

The vehicle left the road, striking a speed-limit sign and then a tree, police said. No injuries were reported.

An hour later a 27-year-old Hickory Hills man was ticketed for driving too fast for conditions after his 2005 Chevrolet Suburban skidded at 7 a.m. while going eastbound on Devon Avenue approaching Prospect Avenue after his 2005 Chevrolet Suburban skidded at 7 a.m. while going eastbound on Devon Avenue approaching Prospect Avenue when he allegedly fell asleep.

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According to police a 22-year-old Hickory Hills man was exiting an alley onto Belle Plaine when his 2005 Chevrolet Suburban skidded at 7 a.m. while eastbound on Devon Avenue near Dee Road.

The vehicle left the road, striking a speed-limit sign and then a tree, police said. No injuries were reported.

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POLICE BLOTTER

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

DUI
Bong Kwon, 31, of 8809 Golf Road, was arrested Jan. 6 on the 7600 block of Golf and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. An officer observed the subject swerving on the center yellow line multiple times. He has a court date Feb. 23.

Suspect, 29, of Osceola, was arrested Jan. 6 and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He has a court date Jan. 24.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE
A woman, 29 years old, allegedly ran out of a store Jan. 3 on the 5600 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Police said the store owner was also carrying a large duffel bag that appeared to be full.

DISTURBANCE
Two teenage boys, ages 14 and 15, told police they were attacked by four males while walking home the afternoon of Dec. 22 near Home Avenue and Home Circle. Police noted that the victims had red marks on their faces, but they refused medical treatment. The case was turned over to investigators.

BURGLARY
A resident of Crestwood condominiums and apartment on the 10100 block of Holly Lane told police she returned home the afternoon of Dec. 21 and discovered a video-game system and games missing from her living room. There were no signs of forced entry to the residence, police said.

THEFT
An 8800 air-conditioning unit was discovered missing Dec. 20 from a foreclosed residence on the 9500 block of Park Lane. The theft was discovered by a man contracted by a bank to winterize foreclosed properties the bank owns, police said.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Toys collected for children
The Niles Fire Department coordinated an effort to provide toys to children at Lutheran General Children's Hospital just in time for the holiday season. The Fire Department created various drop-off locations for toys throughout Niles so that community members could be involved with this effort. Then, on Dec. 6, the toys were delivered to children who were in the hospital. Village officials, firefighters, and Marines also visited with the children while they passed out toys.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

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

BATTERY
Tadeusz Zdanowski, 50, of 8206 Catino, was arrested Dec. 30 at his home and charged with battery against his neighbor, Zdanowski, who allegedly shoved him to the ground. The suspect told police he shoved the victim to defend himself because the victim was threatening him with a cane. He has a court date Feb. 23.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

CRIMINAL DAMAGE
A 29-year-old Skokie man said that on Jan. 1 on the 8200 block of Dempster, someone threw a brick at his front passenger-side door. The estimated amount of damage was $1,000. An unknown man, 20 to 30 years old, wearing dark clothing, was seen running away from the scene, police said.

POLICE BULLETIN

REPORTS

TROUBLE
A woman, 25 to 30 years old, allegedly ran out of a store Jan. 3 on the 5600 block of Touhy with an unspecified number of North Face jackets valued at $1,500 to $3,000. Police said the woman was also carrying a large duffel bag that appeared to be full.

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An 8800 air-conditioning unit was discovered missing Dec. 20 from a foreclosed residence on the 9500 block of Park Lane. The theft was discovered by a man contracted by a bank to winterize foreclosed properties the bank owns, police said.

HIT-AND-RUN
A hit-and-run accident was reported Dec. 26 on the 8800 block of Robin Drive.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Niles police share tips on preventing auto burglary

The Niles Police Department would like residents and visitors to the village of Niles to take extra care.

Take the time to remove items from plain view such as GPS units, radar detectors, laptop bags, purses and backpacks.

Below are some helpful hints to reduce the risk of an auto burglary. As a reminder, if you observe a crime in progress, call 911 and report any suspicious activity.

Do not leave valuables in the car. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target. If you choose to leave your car open, do not leave anything in it - not even the key. If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously.

Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your car the minute you are out of sight. If you cannot take them with you, at least lock the items in the glove compartment (if capable of locking and large enough) or your trunk.

Do not leave any "sign" that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations, phone chargers or connector cables. Leave nothing in "plain sight" that might make your vehicle worth "investigating" by a thief - not even loose coins or a CD.

Try to park in busy, well-lit and well-traveled areas. Large, anonymous lots are hit by thieves much more often than parking immediately adjacent to residential housing or other occupied buildings. Auto burglars prefer breaking into cars where they will not observe or attract notice, and choose their targets accordingly.

Lock all of your vehicle's doors, even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every year, items are stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner was going to be gone "just for a second." It only takes seconds to steal. It is not at all uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked. Do not leave any window open or even cracked open, including vent/wing windows and sunroofs.

Set any alarm or anti-theft device. If you have one, use it. Many people believe that car alarms no longer make a difference, but they can be an effective deterrent to an auto burglar, who will most often choose the easiest target. If they have two cars to choose from, one with an alarm and one without, they will likely burglarize the one without (unless you have left out valuables just too good to ignore).

What items are most commonly stolen from vehicles? Backpacks, gym bags, briefcases; cash/coins, checkbooks and credit/debit cards, wallets and purses (even when hidden under a seat or in an unlocked glove compartment); laptop computers, iPods and MP3 players, (and docking stations), cell phones (and chargers); portable GPS navigation systems, stereo/CD players (and faceplates), amps, speakers (even when bolted down); jewelry, keys, mail (identity theft), tools; and anything of obvious value.

Mark your valuables. As a last line of defense (not really to prevent theft as much as to aid in recovery), record all serial numbers, even though many serial numbers are on removable "labels," rather than "engraved" into the valuable items. We suggest inscribing/engraving a "personal identifier" on all valuables. Do not use your Social Security Number (due to identity theft); use your driver's license number, prefixed by your DL state, such as "IL-B12345678910." With that marking, any police officer can trace your valuables back to you, wherever it is recovered, and the chances of being reunited with your stolen valuables is dramatically increased.

What to do if something is stolen out of your car?

As soon as you notice something's stolen (or that your car has been broken into), do not touch/adjust anything in, on or around the car. As soon as possible call the police to report the incident.

Report suspicious activity. If you see suspicious activity call 911. "Suspicious Activity" would include: Persons walking up and down the street or parking lots looking into cars or trying door handles; vehicles cruising the street or parking lots at very slow speeds for extended periods while observing parked cars; persons making any kind of mark or placing anything on parked vehicles; persons sitting in running parked cars for protracted periods; and vehicles dropping one person off while continuing to cruise the same area.

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Transfer anywhere.

It's no secret: Oakton Community College provides the perfect springboard for transferring to a four-year college or university. (In fact, Oakton students can be found at some 640 institutions across the country!) With more than 80 degree and certificate programs, Oakton provides boundless opportunities—close to home and within budget. Explore the possibilities for a great start—and a great finish. Apply and register for spring semester 2012 beginning November 14! Most classes begin January 17.
YOU JUST ATE 16 PACKS OF SUGAR.
All those extra calories can cause obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

PARK RIDGE POLICE
Neighbor's description yields sketch of burglary suspect

The Park Ridge Police Department has released a sketch of a man seen near a home that was burglarized the night of Dec. 23.

The break-in occurred on the 500 block of South Cumberland Avenue. The resident of the home reported that she was pulling into her garage via the alley about 9 p.m. when she saw a man loading a large object into a dark-colored sedan parked nearby, Park Ridge Police said.

When the woman entered her house she discovered the residence had been burglarized, police said. She reportedly went back outside to the alley, where she saw the sedan driving north through the alley at a high rate of speed.

Police said a large safe containing a "considerable amount of cash and jewelry" was reported stolen from the home.

While police canvassed the area, a neighbor told officers he was walking his dog when he saw an unfamiliar man emerge from between two houses about the time the burglary was believed to have occurred. The neighbor, who asked the man how he was doing, described the stranger as nervous and said he appeared to be sweating.

A Cook County Sheriff's Department composite artist used the neighbor's description of the man to create a police sketch. The suspect was further described as between 35 and 40 years old, about 6 feet tall and weighing 200 pounds.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Park Ridge Detective Tim Meenan, (847) 318-5268.

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You won’t find me at Le Pretentious

BY PAUL SASSONE
Columnist

That reminded me.
I was watching the news.
The news reader was announc-
ing that the celebrated Charlie Trotter would close his world-
renowned Chicago restaurant in August to travel and study
philosophy.

And that reminded me I
should start fixing dinner.
Should I heat up the leftover
pizza or open a can of chilli?
As you can deduce, I am
not someone who has dined at
Charlie Trotter’s restaurant. My
cousin — who is a chef — has
dined there and says its reputa-
tion is well deserved.
I am sure it is. But I have
missed the restaurant’s first 25
years, and I am about to miss
the last few months.

For one thing, I can’t afford
to eat at Charlie Trotter’s. The
Grand menu, a multi-course of-
ering of such delights as roasted
Muscoy duck with candied
kumquats, is $165 per person.

Muscovy duck with candied
fering of such delights as roasted
Grand menu, a multi-course of-
to eat at Charlie Trotter’s. The
restaurant by certain criteria.

A restaurant is good if:
1. There is a little bowl on the
   table that contains more than 10
   pats of butter.
2. They bring water without
   you having to ask for it. And the
   water contains lots of ice.
3. There is more than one roll
   per person in the bread basket.
4. Each diner has a knife, a
   fork and a spoon. That’s enough.
   Less, and you can’t get the food
to your mouth. More, and you
   have to appear an oaf by asking
   which spoon to use to eat the
   meat.
5. There are two kinds of soup
   on the menu and one of them is
   not chicken.
6. Cucumbers are on top of
   the salad so they can easily be
   picked off.
7. They warn you that the
   plate is hot. This prevents burns
   and indicates the food has been
   properly microwaved.
8. They serve real mashed
   potatoes. Or if the mashed pota-
   toes are fake, at least they give
   you a lot of them.
9. The vegetable is always
   corn.
10. They don’t get mad at you
    and yell at you in French when
    you ask for your beef well-done.

But beyond the money,
I’m just not a fine-dining
kind of guy. I’m a simple
soul, shy and out of place
in fancy restaurants.

Navigating food fads
takes Herculean effort

BY CHERYL O’DONOVAN

Van Mom Strikes Again

Ever notice
that one mar-
ket trend
can engulf
five shelves
of competing
products?
Take yogurt,
for example.
A couple of
years ago, the
emphasis seemed to be on probiotic
products and Jamie Lee Curtis consoling
digestively challenged women on
health issues.
Now the trend in yogurt is Greek.
Health experts recommend the
Greek kind because it’s thicker,
creamier and contains less sugar.
Each bite packs more protein and
“good” bacteria.
This likely means my kids will
never eat it.

At the grocery store, I saw a
host of Greek-yogurt brands. I
looked over rows of brightly
designed containers, many with white
pillars and goddesses. One featured
a toothy guy with a bed sheet
wrapped around his shoulder.
A Greek-yogurt brand touted
it was the original and best. “This
yogurt sculpted away Apollodite’s
cellulite and helped forge democ-

dacy.”

Another brand touted: “Eat this,
tubbo, and walk home with a Sparta-
ian 300 six-pack!”

I picked up a container of a
boney-flavored kind. Its marketing
slogan: “So utterly Greek that it

“OK. I’m a little squirmy thinking
of eating something that
regards me as a ‘host
organism.’”

And “thought to be beneficial”
does not imbue me with confidence.
either. Coming out and saying, “We
took a Supreme Court oath; we
testified before Congress and our
grandmothers; we even pricked our
fingers and wrote it in blood. This is
most assuredly beneficial.” That’s a
product I’ll buy.

Probiotics are “consumed as
part of fermented foods with live
cultures.”
Isn’t this what Alexander Flem-
ing grew in his petri dish?
“Certain yeasts and bacilli may
also be harmful.”

Well, yeast helps make bread
dough, but I distrust anything
called “bacilli” that isn’t in the pasta
section.

According to further research,
the European Food Safety Author-
ity disputes claims about probiotic
products, saying they are unpro-
ven.

I drove over to Jamie Lee’s house
and asked what she thought. Her
security guards escorted me to the
gate.
Dear Fixer: I brought my Dell computer, which was under warranty, to the Best Buy Geek Squad for repair. When I returned to pick up the repaired computer, the case was badly scratched and gouged.

I had presented the computer to them in the original box, wrapped in towels, with no damage to the case. After much back-and-forth about sending it out to be rebuilt — it was only nine months old — they agreed to replace it.

However, the original model was discontinued, so they gave me a different one with equal capacity.

Here's the problem: My original computer's software was installed by the Geek Squad at no cost to me. They promised to do the same with the new unit — until I accepted the replacement. Then, I was rudely told that no further action would be taken.

I called customer relations and was given the name of a person to speak with to try to get this resolved. I left messages six times and have not gotten a call back. Either this person does not exist or she is ignoring me.

I have a new computer sitting in a box, totally useless to me as I do not have the skills to set it up or transfer my old files. This has been the situation for the past three weeks.

I called Nezworski, the executive resolution specialist, who chopped time you were diagnosed and denied, it was too late for a Plan B.

The out-of-pocket cost through the hospital was $6,000 and the cost to backdate a COBRA policy would have been $12,000 with a $3,500 deductible, neither of which you could afford.

Thankfully, you started treatments in December, after you missed two months.

We asked Blue Cross Blue Shield for an explanation, and they said the application you signed indicated that pre-existing conditions would not be covered. They also said they take seriously any complaints from consumers that they were misinformed by sales agents. Blue Cross Blue Shield did refund you $390.40 for October and November, so that's some small consolation.

We wish you all good thoughts as you go through your treatments. Please stay in touch.

Sharon Minarik

Dear Mark: The Fixer didn't want your new computer to turn into an expensive footstool, so we decided to return the new unit (which you tried to contact and go straight to Best Buy's corporate offices in suburban Minneapolis). There, we found Jill Nezworski, senior executive resolution specialist, who chipped through this silly red tape in less than a day.

A tech is scheduled to come to your home this week to set up your computer, and Nezworski also threw in a complimentary $50 gift card to try to make up for the hassle.

Dear Fixer: My problem started last spring. My husband was planning on retiring on July 1, which would leave me with no health insurance (he would be on Medicare). We were contacted by an authorized agent for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Through them, we purchased both his Medicare supplement policy and a temporary policy for me.

I was told that I could take this policy for up to six months. This was perfect, since I only needed five months' coverage until I could go on Medicare on Dec. 1.

I also was told that I didn't have to pay for the entire five months at that time, but could pay for three months (July, August and September) and then pay for the remaining two months before Oct. 1. The way it was explained, it sounded like a simple payment plan, so I paid for the first three months, which would start July 1. Now comes the nightmare!

In July, I became ill with what I thought was a simple cold. When I didn't feel better after 10 days, I went to my doctor. To make a long story short, I was diagnosed with lung cancer, which was not curable but could be controlled with chemo.

When the time came to make the remaining two payments on my health insurance policy, I was told that it was not just a payment plan, but the policy would have to be renewed, which Blue Cross would not do because I now had a pre-existing condition.

If this had been explained to me, I would have just paid for the whole five months at the start. Although I have never had a serious illness before this, I am not a gambler!

So now I stood with no health insurance at all for October and November, without which I could not afford to have the chemo treatments — but also had the additional worry of what would happen if I had an accident or became sick for any other reason. After many phone calls and letters, the president of the agency that sold me the policy agreed to continue my basic coverage for the two months, but said Blue Cross Blue Shield would not cover any cancer care for that period.

I don't think anything can be done at this point, but I hope this can serve as a warning to anyone else needing temporary insurance coverage.

Mark Stubitsch

Dear Sharon: Reading your letter made us throw our hands up in despair. Why, in a great country like this, a person's cancer treatment can hinge on the words of a sales person for an insurance company is truly beyond me.

When we first spoke in early November, you told us you had been a Blue Cross Blue Shield customer for years and are a good person who pays her bills.

Something is very wrong here.

You told The Fixer you were prepared to pay for the first three months and two more later. By the time you were diagnosed and denied, it was too late for a Plan B.

The out-of-pocket cost through the hospital was $6,000 and the cost to backdate a COBRA policy would have been $12,000 with a $3,500 deductible, neither of which you could afford.

Thankfully, you started treatments in December, after you missed two months.

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We wish you all good thoughts as you go through your treatments. Please stay in touch.
No time? No money? No problem!

Try the ‘Busy Mom’ workout

BY BETH ENGELMAN
Mommy on a Shoestring

Getting in shape has never been easier with this at-home, full-body workout. Designed by personal trainer John Balitchik (johnbalitchik.wordpress.com), this 30-minute workout is the perfect antidote to those days when you just don't have time to go to the gym. To get started, find a spot where you can spread out. You'll also need a 6-pound medicine ball and a half-dome Bosu ball, which you can buy at any sporting goods store. If your workout area is carpeted, you'll need two large furniture moving sliders (available at office supply or hardware stores).

However, if you're exercising on hardwood floors, two dishtowels work equally as well. This workout consists of two circuits, each of which includes a number of different exercises. Be sure to complete each exercise three times before moving on to the next circuit. If you are confused at any time, visit www.pioneerlocal.com/mommy where we have step-by-step video instructions.

CIRCUIT 1

Mountain climbers
(with furniture moving sliders/towels)
Place feet on sliders or towels with left leg bent forward and right leg extended long. Keep hands firmly in place while quickly sliding the position of your feet so that your left leg is now extended and your right leg is bent.
Continue sliding legs backwards and forwards (in opposite directions) for 30-60 seconds.

Plank jacks
(with furniture moving sliders/towels)
Get in “plank position” with forearms on floor and legs extended long.
Place feet on sliders or towels.
Slide your feet into a wide "V" (as though you were doing a jumping Jack). Then slide them back to starting position.
Continue to slide legs out and in while forearms remain firmly in place for 30-60 seconds.

Planks
Get in “plank position” with forearms on floor and legs extended long.
Tighten core as you hold this position for 30-60 seconds.

Backward lunge, high knee lift
(with 6-pound medicine ball)
Get ready to feel like a Rockette!
Stand with feet shoulder width apart.
Hold the medicine ball in front of you.
Slowly lunge backwards with your right leg being sure to bend your knees up to 90 degrees.
Push your right foot off the floor and raise your right knee high in the air before placing your foot back to its starting place.
Continue the exercise until you have done 15 reps on each leg.

CIRCUIT 2

Bosu push-ups
Get in Bosu push-up position with feet on Bosu and hands on floor (shoulder width apart).
Slowly do a push-up so that your arms bend at least 90 degrees before pushing back up. Repeat exercise until you have completed 15 push-ups.

Single leg toes taps (on a Bosu)
Get in Bosu push-up position.
Keep your right leg straight as you slowly lift it up and tap the floor to the right of the Bosu.
Return your leg to starting position and repeat.
Continue exercise until you have done 15 reps with both legs.

Alternate knee tucks
Get in Bosu push-up position.
Slowly tuck your knee into your body so that it almost touches your chin.
Return foot to the top of the Bosu and repeat with other leg.
Continue alternating knee tucks for 30-60 seconds.

Single leg raises
Get in Bosu push-up position.
Slowly raise your left leg off the Bosu, high into the air.
Return leg to starting position and repeat.
Continue movement until you have done 15 raises with each leg.

Squats
End your workout by sitting down (well, almost).
Stand with your legs shoulder width apart.
Slowly squat as though you were going to sit on a low chair.
Be sure your core is tight, your back is flat and your knees do not pass your toes.
Do 20 reps.
A quartet of activities for the coming week

1. “Black Pearl Sings!”, Jan. 13-Feb. 19 at Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 6501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Featuring a cappella renditions of rare American folk songs, the play tells the Depression-era story of two women dependent on one another to gain acceptance in a divided society. Tickets are $35-$60; $25-$40 for previews, Jan. 13-19. Tickets for those 25 and under are $10, subject to availability. Call (847) 673-6000 or visit www.northlight.org.

2. Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players present “Freedom and Folk Songs,” a concert honoring the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at 3 p.m. Jan. 15 at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 206 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. The program includes “Five Negro Melodies” by English composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor; Erno von Dohnanyi’s Serenade for String Trio, Opus 10; and Antonin Dvorak’s Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Opus 87. Tickets are $15 in advance, $10 seniors; $20 at the door, $15 seniors. Admission is free for students. Visit www.chicagophilharmonic.org or call (847) 666-6888.

3. Hoeye Folk Arts hosts a concert byautoharpist Bryan Bowers at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake St., Evanston. $15 general admission; $8 for seniors; $5 for students; free for children under 12. Advance tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com. For information, visit www.hoeyefolkarts.org.

Jellybean People' are Sweet Treat in Skokie

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Kids will realize how bad sweets can be after they see "Mileep and the Attack of the Jellybean People." The original science fiction musical is being presented by the Young Actors Ensemble at Mayer Kaplan JCC in Skokie, blends lessons with fun for young audiences.

"Mileep and the Attack of the Jellybean People," presented Jan. 19-29 by the Young Actors Ensemble at Mayer Kaplan JCC in Skokie, blends lessons with fun for young audiences.

For details, call (847) 692-3359 or visit www.prparks.org.

Flight plan

The name of the event says it all: It's a Paper Airplane Contest! Kids in first through sixth grade will fold paper to create an aircraft, 1:30-2:45 p.m. Monday at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. After that, there will be a test flight to see which designs work best in terms of distance, accuracy and flight time. A grownup has to stay with first- and second-graders. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

Weasel your way in

That will be easy at Wily Weasels, 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. Kids and parents are invited to learn about these playful creatures, create a related craft and meet a member of the family that lives at Wildwood. Cost is $15 per family.

For details, call (847) 692-3570 or visit www.prparks.org.

Zoo to you

Kids will have hands-on experiences with animals when Scales and Tales Traveling Zoo visits the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., 11 a.m.-noon Jan. 21. Register by Jan. 19.

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or visit www.skokielibraryinfo.
MOVIE REVIEW

A leaden ‘Iron Lady’

BY BRUCE INGRAM

Film Critic

THE IRON LADY

★ ★ 1/2

Though Meryl Streep's performance as the iron-willed (and occasionally iron-fisted) British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is richly detailed and compelling, the same can't be said for this superficial and unfocused bio-drama.

As a political leader, Thatcher was a wildly polarizing figure, much loved and much hated. You might expect that “The Iron Lady” would reflect one or the other of those sentiments, but screenwriter Abi Morgan (“Shame”) and director Phyllida Lloyd (“Mamma Mia”), fails to live up to the promise of Streep's performance.

That's an interesting setup: One that's not that far removed from our first view of the aged and diminished Charles Foster Kane in “Citizen Kane.” But “Iron Lady” doesn't seem to have any easily identifiable agenda. At least, not in terms of juxtaposing Thatcher's glory days as a powerful player on the world stage with her latter days as a forcibly retired redundancy, who has to be reminded she is no longer the prime minister and chides her husband for getting into bed with her shoes on.

No, nothing that obvious, or that useful, as a means of putting Thatcher's life into some sort of perspective, however arbitrary, is going on here. Instead, “The Iron Lady” suggests that Thatcher's relationship with her husband is the one thing that's really on her mind years after her political life has ended — along with fond memories of her grocer father, a great believer in English self-sufficiency and pluck who inspired her political ideals.

That's kind of a sweet idea, and it does serve to provide a through line for her political career, since he proposed to her after her first failed bid for Parliament in 1950 and it does serve to provide a through line for her political career, since he proposed to her after her first failed bid for Parliament in 1950 and was indeed her closest supporter until his death. And Streep's scenes with the always-welcome Jim Broadbent — who has been dead for years.

That's an interesting setup: One that's not that far removed from our first view of the aged and diminished

Jim Broadbent stars opposite Meryl Streep in “The Iron Lady,” a biopic of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The film, written by Abi Morgan (“Shame”) and directed by Phyllida Lloyd (“Mamma Mia”), fails to live up to the promise of Streep's performance.

Worse, it means that we get a little sense of what it must have taken for Thatcher to break down the barriers of gender and class and battle her way to ultimate power. Only one scene (in which her humiliation of a cabinet member leads to a palace coup) shows that Thatcher had teeth and claws and was more than willing to use them.

Instead, “Iron Lady” presents Thatcher as a sterling example of old-fashioned, stiff-upper-lip values, whose determination to do great things, combined with fierce self-discipline and determination, allowed her to triumph over the old-boy network, trade unions and more, eventually paying off with a portrait in 10 Downing Street, right next to those of Winston Churchill and Lloyd George.

And Streep, pulling out all the stops as she did playing Julia Child in “Julie & Julia,” is convincing enough to make us believe it. Almost.

Surely, there is much, much more to be revealed about the Right Honorable Baroness Margaret Hilda Thatcher.

JIM BROADBENT AND MERYL STREEP IN "THE IRON LADY."
**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

Rated: G
Stars: Jerry Orbach, Angela Lansbury, Robby Benson
After conquering Broadway, Disney's 1991 animated classic returns for a victory lap — in 3-D yet.

**CARNAGE**

Rated: R for language
Stars: Jodie Foster, John C. Reilly, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz
Roman Polanski's adaptation of Yasmina Reza's savagely satirical Tony-winning dark comedy isn't nearly as funny as the brilliant production mounted last year at the Goodman Theatre, but it's got the savage thing down cold. That will probably please Reza, who intends her dissections of bourgeois pretense (as in her 1998 Tony-winner Art) to be tragedies and is annoyed when her victims find them amusing. Essentially a comedy of inadequate manners, CARNAGE pits two sets of upper-middle-class parents against each other in an attempt to deal like civilized adults with a schoolyard flight between their two 11-year-old sons. Very soon, polite discussion devolves into open hostility, projectile vomiting, heavy drinking and generally appalling behavior that leaves no one unscathed. If you're conflict-averse, this may not be for you, but it's a wicked treat watching Reilly, Foster, Waltz and Winslet revel in Reza's scathing dialogue — especially Foster, whose turn as a holier-than-thou liberal humanitarian gradually giving in to appallingly must be seen to be believed.

**CONTRABAND**

Rated: R for violence, pervasive language and brief drug use
Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Giovanni Ribisi, Kate Beckinsale
After going straight, a former smuggler (Wahlgberg) is drawn back into the trade to make good on a deal botched by his brother-in-law — and to protect his wife (Beckinsale). Icelandic actor/director Baltasar Kormakur (The Sea) directed the crime drama.

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL**

Rated: PG-13 for sequences of intense action and violence
Stars: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton
When they are shut down after being falsely accused of an attack on the Kremlin, the IMF team goes rogue to restore its reputation. Brad Bird (Up, The Incredibles) directed.

**WAR HORSE**

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of war violence
Stars: Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Peter Mullan
Steven Spielberg's epic World War I drama about the soul-connection between a farm boy and a thoroughbred stallion-turned-plowhorse — turned-wartime-beast-of-burden, is beautifully crafted, grand in scope and deeply moving at its best. Two things, though, prevent War Horse from achieving the sort of emotional impact Spielberg is famous for: a storyline that struggles to reconcile material best suited for young audiences, especially E.T., with hard-hitting anti-war statements, a la Saving Private Ryan; and a detached point of view that makes it difficult to identify closely with any of the characters. That said, War Horse is never less than visually dazzling, and its pacificist message, along with the general idea that life is precious, regardless of class or nationality or species, are driven home by effective performances across the board.

**THE ARTIST**

Rated: PG-13 for a disturbing image and a crude gesture
Stars: John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo
A silent-movie star (Dujardin) worried about the effect sound movies will have on his career falls in love with a young dancer (Bejo). Michel Hazanavicius (OSS 117) directed the romance. In French with subtitles.

**THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO**

Rated: R for brutal violent content including rape and torture, strong sexuality, graphic nudity and language
Stars: Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Stellan Skarsgard
A magazine publisher (Craig) joins forces with a computer hacker (Mara) to track down a serial murderer. David Fincher (The Social Network) directed.

**THE IRON LADY**

Rated: PG-13 for some violent images and brief nudity
Stars: Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent
Years after being forced out of office, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher reflects on her life and the sacrifices she made for power. Phyllida Lloyd (Mamma Mia) directed the bi-drama. Reviewed in this section.

**JOYFUL NOISE**

Rated: PG-13 for some language including a sexual reference
Stars: Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton, Keke Palmer
The star performers (Latifah and Parton) of a small-town church choir have conflicting ideas about the best way to participate in a national competition. Todd Graff (Bandslam) wrote and directed the comedy.

**THE STILL PLAYING**

**THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN**

Rated: PG for mild thematic material, some action/peril and smoking
Stars: Asa Butterfield, Chloe Grace Moretz, Jude Law
The most lavishly realized film in director Martin Scorsese's long career, Hugo is a gorgeous and dazzling movie to behold. Hugo is all about secrets and dreams and work and family and time and magic and movies, especially about movies.

**STILL PLAYING**

**GHOST PROTOCOL**

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Stars: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton
When they are shut down after being falsely accused of an attack on the Kremlin, the IMF team goes rogue to restore its reputation. Brad Bird (Up, The Incredibles) directed.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movie Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>We Bought a Zoo (PG)</td>
<td>Fri 1:15-4:30</td>
<td>Mon-Thur</td>
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<td>Sat 1:15-4:30</td>
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<td>Sun 1:15-4:30</td>
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**WHEN TO SEE:**
- **War Horse (PG-13)**
  - Fri 4:45-7:20
  - Tue-Thu 2:15-4:40-7-9:50
  - Sat-Tue 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:15
  - Sun 4:45-6:50-7:30-9:30
- **A Dangerous Method (R)**
  - Fri 1:15-4:30-7:45
  - Tue-Thu 2:15-4:40-7-9:50
- **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (R)**
  - Fri 3:65-6:55
  - Sat, Sun 3:30-6:35
- **Beautys and the Beast (G)**
  - Fri-Sun 11:15 a.m.
  - Mon-Thu 6-8:15-10:30
- **The Iron Lady (PG-13)**
  - Fri 1:15-4:35-7:10-9:55-12:30
  - Sun 11:20-1:40-3:55-7:10-9:55
  - Mon 1:45-4:35-7:10-9:55
  - Dino Dan and Mighty Machines (NR)
  - Sat, Sun 11:25 a.m.
- **The Devil Inside (R)**
  - Fri 11:10-1:35-3:55-6:10-8:30-10:50
  - Mon 1:45-4:35-7:10-9:55
- **Sherlock Holmes: The Game of Shadows (PG-13)**
  - Fri 1:35-4:25-7:25-10:15
  - Sat, Sun 10:45-13:45-25-7:25-10:15
  - Mon 10:45-13:45-25-7:25-10:15
  - Fri 1:45-4:45-7:15
  - Tue-Thu 4-6:45-8:15
- **Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13)**
  - Fri 1:45-4:45-7:15
  - Tue-Thu 4-6:45-8:15

**CONTACT:**
- **Renaissance Place**
  - 850 2nd St., Highland Park
  - (847) 251-7411
- **Orchard**
  - 150 W. Dundee Rd., Highland Park
  - (847) 208-0000
- **Norridge**
  - 55. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge
  - (847) 262-4386
- **Wilmette**
  - 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette
  - (847) 251-7411
NEW ON VIDEO

Brad Pitt throws a curveball

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

MONEYBALL

★★★½
Rated: PG-13 for some strong language
Stars: Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman
- Instead of a typical, root-of-the-undertow sports movie culminating in a miraculous triumph, "Moneyball" offers something more interesting: A bit of a miracle, but with a built-in anticlimax, and a qualified triumph by a complicated character who is not necessarily motivated by a love of the game. Pitt is at his best here as Oakland Athletics general manager Billy Beane, who decided in 2001 (after his best players were hired away by richer teams) to radically rethink the way baseball is played. With the number-crunching help of a Yale economics grad who has never played the game (a nice performance by Hill), Beane gambles his career by using his limited budget to buy under-valued players who seem at first to be insane choices. In the process, he antagonizes fans, coaches, players, scouts and sportscasters by appearing to threaten baseball's cherished traditions. Ultimately, "Moneyball" gives us a story about stubborn determination and willingness to defy conventional thinking that is inspirational in itself. Bennett Miller ("Capote") directed the drama from a script by Oscar winners Aaron Sorkin ("The Social Network") and Steven Zaillian ("Schindler's List").

THE SCORPION KING 3: BATTLE FOR REDEMPTION

Rated: PG-13 for sequences of violence and action throughout and for sexual and crude references
Stars: Victor Webster, Ron Perlman, Billy Zane
- Hope reigns eternal if you have the patience whatsoever for action craziness of the sort made surprisingly entertaining by the first two installments in this archaeology-gone-wild franchise, 1999's "The Mummy" and 2001's "The Mummy Returns." After "The Scorpion King," though, featuring a notable early performance by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and a little-known entry called "The Scorpion King: Rise of a Warrior," which jetisoned Brendan Fraser and Rachel Weisz as well as any meaningful continuity, there's not a whole lot for mummy fans to get excited about. Someone named Victor Webster is filling in for Johnson this time, and he's kept busy rushing from one confusing set piece to another as an assassin-for-hire helping out a buddy of the King of Egypt (Ron Perlman, believe it or not) in some place that looks suspiciously like Thailand. Many muscles are flexed, many heads are bashed, but, unfortunately, there's little sting left in the Scorpion King.

ALSO NEW

BOARDWALK EMPIRE: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON
- Martin Scorsese executive-produced and won an Emmy for directing the pilot episode of this HBO series about Prohibition-era Atlantic City politician/gangster Nucky Thompson (Steve Buscemi). This five-disc set features all 12 first-season episodes plus commentaries and mini-docs including one that details the construction of the 300-foot vintage Boardwalk set.

COLUMBO: MYSTERY MOVIE COLLECTION

1994-2003
- This three-disc set features all of the feature-length "Columbo" specials produced during the nine-season run of the NBC detective series, including "Butterfly in Shades of Grey" (1994), "A Trace of Murder" (1997), and "Columbo Likes the Nightlife" (2003). Guest stars include George Wendt, William Shatner and Patrick McGoohan.

DOCTOR WHO CLASSIC: INVASION OF THE DINOSAURS
- Sure, young Matt Smith is all the rage these days as the Time Lord, but once upon a time Jon Pertwee had a nice run as the third incarnation of the BBC's time-travelling doctor — as in this vintage series involving invading dinosaurs, no less. Extras include commentaries and a photo gallery.

HIGHER GROUND
- A close-knit spiritual community is thrown into crisis when one of the group (Vera Farmiga) questions her faith. Farmiga makes her directorial debut with the drama. Rated R for some language and sexual content. Extras include commentary by Farmiga and deleted scenes.

KILLER ELITE
- When his mentor (Robert De Niro) is captured, a retired British Special Air Service operative (Jason Statham) sets out on a personal rescue operation. Gary McKendry (Oscar-nominated for the short film "Everything in This Country Must") makes his feature debut with the action thriller. Rated R for strong violence, language and some sexual content.

NEXT WEEK
- If you're looking for good, clean, wholesome entertainment, you might want to look the other way next week when the salacious offerings include "Bucky Larson: Born to Be a Star," "Dirty Girl," and Luis Bunuel's classic "Belle de Jour."
go.

What to do.
This week and beyond.

YOU WANT IN? HERE'S HOW.
» Submit go. events one week prior to the date of publication.
» Entries must be typed. We're sorry, but we can't take it over
the telephone. We prefer e-mail submissions, please.
» go. listings are free! Include brief description of the event,
time, date, address, price and phone number.
» Submit go. events one week prior to the date of publication.

CD RELEASE CONCERT

Andrew Dennen and Tracy Friend will celebrate the release of
"God is Near," their new CD, with a concert that's part of
the Greater Chicago Jewish Festival's Mini Series, at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave.,
Skokie. "God is Near" is a collection of original, liturgical-
based songs ranging from pop to jazz, in styles ranging from
ballad to Middle Eastern. The two have been collaborating
since 2009, and provide music for Kol Shabbat, an alterna-
tive Saturday morning worship service at Congregation BJBE
in Deerfield. Tickets for the concert are $20 and available at
(847) 933-3000 or jewishfestival.org. The CD will be avail-
able on iTunes, CDBaby and oySongs.

STAGE

"Black Pearl Sings!," Jan. 13-Feb. 19 at Northlight
Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Perform-
ing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd.,
Skokie. Featuring a cappella
renditions of rare American
folk songs, the play tells the
Depression-era story of two
women dependent on one
another to gain acceptance
in a divided society. Per-
fomances on Tuesdays at
7:30 p.m. (Jan. 17 and Feb. 7
only); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (ex-
et Feb. 1) and 7:30 p.m. (ex-
et Feb. 8); Thursdays at
7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.
(except opening on Jan. 20
at 7:30 p.m.); Saturdays at
2:30 p.m. (except Jan. 14)
and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at
2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except
Jan. 22 and 29 and Feb. 19).
Tickets: $25-$60; $25-$40 for
previews, Jan. 13-19. Tickets
for those 25 and under are
free to previews. Call (847)
673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

"The Girl in the Yellow
Dress," presented by Next
26 at the Noyes Cultural Arts
Center, 927 Noyes St., Evan-
ston. Tickets: $30-$54. Call
(847) 675-1757 or visit www.
nexttheatre.org.

"Home/Land," presented by
Albany Park Theater Proj-
ect Jan. 20-Feb. 25 in the Lau-
ra Wiley Theater at Eugene
Field Park, 5100 N. Ridgeway
Ave., Chicago. Children under
12 will not be admitted.
Tickets: $5-$22. Advance
purchase recommended. Visit
www.aptpchicago.org or call
(847) 838-3006.

"Pump Boys and Dinettes"
will be presented by Theo
Ubique Cabaret Theatre
through Jan. 15 at No Exit
Café, 6970 N. Glenwood,
Chicago (Rogers Park).
Performances are at 7:30
p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday
and Saturday; and 7 p.m.
Sunday. Tickets: $29-$34,
with discounts available for
groups, students and seniors.
Optional dinner package for
$20 excluding beverages,
taxes and tips. Visit www.
theoubique.org or call (800)
595-4849.

"Ten: A Celebratory Festi-
val of New Work," a perfor-
mance of short pieces, will be
presented at 7:30 p.m. Jan.
12-13; 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14; and 2:30 p.m. Jan. 15
at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N.
Milwaukee (Jefferson Park),
Chicago. Admission is free.
For information, visit www.
thegifttheatre.org.

CLASSICAL

Chicago a cappella pres-
ents "Wade in the Water," a
celebration of African-Ameri-
can spirituals, at 8 p.m. Feb.
11 at Nichols Concert Hall,
1490 Chicago Ave., Evan-
ston. The program includes
the world premiere of a new
commission, "Nobody Knows
the Trouble I've Seen," by
Grammy Award-winning ar-
ranger Joseph Jennings; Jon-
athan Miller's new cycle, "Old
Testament Spirituals; and ar-
rangements by Robert Morris,
Moses Hogan, and Oak Park
composer Paul Carey. Tickets:
$26 and $35; $22 senior
citizens; $12 students. Call
(773) 281-7820 or visit www.
chicagoa capella.org.

The Chicago Chamber Mu-
sicians showcases two of its
founding members - hornist
Gail Williams and violinist
Joseph Genualdi - in "Twilight
Music," CCM's Signature
Series concert at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday. Tickets: $29-$34,
$28 and $35; $22 senior
McGowan, and Oak Park
citizens; $12 students. Call
(773) 281-7820 or visit www.
chicagoa capella.org.

SEE GO, PAGE 10B

"Cleverly updated... smart... zany."
—Chicago Sun-Times
Art inspired by nature at Emily Oaks

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

Three artists inspired by nature are exhibiting their work in “Rituals” at Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie.

The exhibit is curated by Mimi Peterson of Chicago, who formulated the idea after talking with Katherine Cajandig of Chicago and Dankha Zomaya of Skokie last spring when the two of them exhibited in a Skokie Art Guild show at the nature center.

Peterson said that the show’s title is “a metaphor for what we translated into our artwork to represent environment or ecology. At least half of the work will be new, to emphasize our theme of rituals inspired by nature. We each have a different interpretation.”

At press time, Peterson planned to exhibit eight or nine pieces — depending on space. She will definitely include three small photo collage pieces that combine photos that she has taken with images from contemporary advertisements.

Natural objects

Peterson’s piece, “Painted Wood,” is an actual portion of a hollowed out tree trunk that she painted. The artist frequently works with such objects from nature.

“I lived in Michigan for ten years,” Peterson explained. “I would find my objects in my walks.”

She will also feature a couple of other photo collage pieces, plus a few three-dimensional creations, including one inspired by health insurance issues that incorporates pill bottles and other health-related objects.

Peterson, who earned a master’s degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has exhibited extensively in the Chicago area and in Michigan and has curated a number of shows.

Catherine Cajandig also attended the Art Institute of Chicago, earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art education there. In addition, she holds a master of fine arts degree from the University of Guanajuato, Mexico, where she studied because of her interest in creating murals.

Although she works in a variety of mediums, the retired art teacher will only be exhibiting mixed media works on paper. She plans to bring seven to nine of her large, colorful pieces.

“I work with a combination of different types of prints,” Cajandig said, emphasizing, “They’re all one of a kind. Sometimes I go back and retouch the prints with other types of paints and also I combine a couple of them with linocuts.”
Cajandig said that her work fits the theme because, even though some of the images may appear abstract, the majority of them are based on plants. Sometimes she even "borrows" plants from her sister's garden and runs them through the press "as a basis for my drawings.

Cajandig taught art at Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago for 18 years, chairing the art department there. She also worked with students preparing to be art teachers at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Illinois. Cajandig continues to share her knowledge by doing workshops for area art leagues. That's how she connected with the Skokie Art Guild.

Zomaya, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture from Damascus University, exhibited extensively in his native Syria, and has also had exhibits in Canada, Sweden, Lebanon, Iran and Bulgaria. Zomaya will exhibit four hanging pieces, two oil paintings and two three-dimensional artworks. One of those three-dimensional pieces, "Another Form of Nature," is a glass vase with a vivid scene of nature painted on it.

Zomaya said that his pieces fit the exhibit's theme because he "used things from nature" as well as found objects that he recycled. The sculptor said his work is compatible with that of the other two artists because "We're all working under the same theme, which is nature, but everyone has his own way."

Peterson concluded, "What better place than a nature center to exhibit art that's inspired by nature."
'Show Boat' was not always the show you know

BY J.T. MORAND
jmorand@pioneerlocal.com

"Show Boat" set the standard for today's musical, and if you've ever wondered why, Charles Troy will tell you. He'll also explain why that show underwent changes of its own. Many of the answers are found in the lyrics.

Troy, of Mundelein, will present "The Creation of 'Show Boat'" on Jan. 17 at the Open Door Repertory Theatre in Oak Park and on Jan. 18 at the Wilmette Theatre in Wilmette.

Using photographs, video clips, audio tracks and narrative, Troy provides his audience with 90 minutes of information on the story behind the making of America's first modern musical and how it has evolved.

The presentation coincides with the Lyric Opera of Chicago's first-ever run of "Show Boat," Feb. 12 through March 17.

Troy provides a unique perspective and one that is black and white. He once aspired to be a lyricist before he became a graphic designer, so he focuses on the words of the songs.

"My orientation is as a lyricist, not as a musician or a composer," he said. "What I do is kind of look at a piece from the word point of view. How did it get written? Why are these particular songs important? What was going on at the time that prompted these songs to be written?"

Serious themes

"Show Boat," based on the 1926 novel of the same name by Edna Ferber, follows the lives of people working and traveling on the Cotton Blossom, a show boat that paddled its way up and down the Mississippi River between 1880 and 1927. The story also deals with love, and the strong racial prejudice of those times. The music was written by Jerome Kern and the lyrics were penned by Oscar Hammerstein II.

The themes of musicals plays up to that point were largely comedic and lighter fare. "Show Boat" ushered in a new age for the musical

through a whole history that reflected all the racial issues around respect for blacks throughout the 20th century.

It's kind of a window into history of the 20th century.

• In the stage musical of the 1920s, the woman who played Queenie, an African-American female character, was actually a white actress named Tess Gardella.

"It was a time when white people played blacks routinely," Troy said. "That was her niche."

Troy has done more than 45 presentations on more than 20 Broadway shows in nine years. His latest, on "The Wizard of Oz," will take place at 1:30 p.m. March 7, at the Wilmette Theatre.

Love of lyrics

Once an aspiring lyricist, Troy decided to take a more practical career route after college and became a graphic designer. But his passion for the words in the songs never went away, and while taking a continuing education class on musicals, he figured out a way to pursue both visual and musical art, creating "Broadway Musicals and Their Creators Multimedia Presentations."

He first fell in love with musicals while listening to a radio show that played cast albums when he was a freshman at Evanston Township High School.

"The album being played that night was a new show called 'Fiorello,' and almost immediately I was transfixed by how clever and how heartfelt the lyrics were," he said. "I was fascinated by the idea of telling the story in song."

"I hope they take away from it the fascinating story of how something was created," he said. "It doesn't just plop on the stage, it isn't just inevitable. It's the result of a number of decisions, large and small. I want people to see how events, in the case of this particular show, 'Show Boat,' added up to make it the great show that it became."
Chamber fest features top local and international stars

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

Beat January's chill with transporting music from Northwestern University's Winter Chamber Music Festival. While icy waves from Lake Michigan batter the shore of NU's landfill campus, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall beckons, warm and bright with the promise of the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Dvorak, Frank, Penderecki and Shostakovich, among others, played by top professional musicians from around the country and beyond in Friday and Sunday evening concerts.

This is the 16th annual event, with programs and performers that are far from predictable.

On Jan. 15, high-profile cellist Lynn Harrell will make his third appearance with the festival, this time playing with the Chicago Symphony's new associate concertmaster Stephanie Jeong and seven other CSO musicians. The program includes Villa-Lobos' enchanting "Bachianas Brasileiras," as well as music by Menotti, Beethoven and Dvorak.

More local talent takes the stage on Friday, Jan. 20. The Lincoln String Quartet, consisting of four current and former members of the Chicago Symphony — violinists Lei Hou and Qing Hou, violist Lawrence Neuman, and cellist Kenneth Olson — will perform.

Musical family

"We started in 1997 and we're almost a family quartet," said Neuman. "Lei is my wife and Qing is her sister. We play with various cellists, but for this concert we're playing with Ken."

Joining them will be pianist Alan Chow, clarinetist Steven Cohen, hornist Gail Williams and bassoonist Christopher Millard for a program that includes Quintet for Clarinet and Strings by British composer Sir Arthur Bliss and Janacek's Concertino for Piano, Two Violins, Viola, Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon.

"Lei and I have a son who is six," Neuman added. "He's studying piano and cello. If he takes up the cello seriously,
then we will really have a family quartet.”

Concluding the 2012 Winter Chamber Music Festival on Jan. 22 will be the St. Lawrence String Quartet. “The quartet originated in Canada,” said its cellist Christopher Costanza, but they now live and work at California’s Stanford University.

Players include violinists Geoff Nuttall and Scott St. John, violist Lesley Robertson and Costanza, who played with the Chicago Chamber Musicians from 1996 to 2003.

As big fans of Haydn quartets, the four will play the composer’s fifth string quartet at the festival. “Haydn really invented the string quartet,” Costanza insisted. “He distributed the prominent material among the players, so that the music is more interesting texturally.”

The St. Lawrence also will play a new string quartet, written by Argentine composer Osvaldo Golijov, whose “St. Mark Passion” and “Ainadamar” have been performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival.

The quartet has collaborated with the composer since they first met him at Tanglewood in 1992, and they have recorded his “Yiddishbuk” for EMI Classics. “His music is not gnarly,” the cellist promised, reassuringly, “but he does tend to supply his score page by page until the last minute.”

“It may be a cliff-hanger,” Milton said, echoing the cellist’s concern. “Golijov is a very dynamic individual and whatever he writes will be inspired and challenging. But the new work may be played in parts if it isn’t complete.”

Growing success

The Winter Chamber Music Festival was a success from the moment the first note was played. “We were just putting up a trial balloon in 1997,” said Blair Milton, NU faculty member, festival founder and a violinist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1975. “But we have a tremendously loyal and growing audience.”

“There is a yearning out there for this kind of music, a hunger for it,” he continued. “People are quick to talk about the demise of classical music, but I can’t see it.”

There may be another reason why live performance is so irresistible, declared Newman of the Lincoln. “Yes, the players are very good and the music is beautiful,” he said, “but I also think people enjoy hearing instruments generating sound without electricity. That’s pretty rare these days.”

Dorothy Andrews review of the Cecelia Quartet’s performance at the festival is online at pioneerlocal.com.
Brotherhood Chorale of the Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) $10 general admission; $15 song writer less Godwin.


Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 823-3164. Let the church office at 4 (847) 933-3000 or visit www.jewishfestival.org.

Hogeye Folk Arts hosts concerts at Lake Street, 607 Lake St., Evanston. All concerts start at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. $15 general admission; $13 for senior citizens; $5 for students; free for children under 12. Admissions are limited; call in cash or by check, or by credit card in advance from www.brownpapertickets.com. For information, visit www.hogeyefolkarts.org. Jan. 14: Bryan Bowers. Jan. 28: Mark Dvorak, Michael Smith, Barbara Barrow and Chris Walz.

Jan. 12, 7 p.m.: Drake Bell (pop).

Oakton Community College's Footlight Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 845-1900. Jan. 27, 8 p.m.: “The Music ofABBA,” featuring the Loya Academy Jazz Band. $5 for general admission; $3 for students and seniors.

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, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemont-theatre.com.

The menu includes specialties like Coca-Cola fried Amish chicken wings, roulade of poached turbot, and Victor Trevino Jr. will be on display. Through Feb. 16.
“Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World,” a free five-part seminar examining the role of women in Jewish literature, will meet from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 25-May 9, at Oakton Community College, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Presented by the Oakton Library, the series of readings, lectures, and group discussions will be led by Benjamin Goluboff, associate professor of English. Copies of the books may be borrowed from the Skokie campus library. Participants are not required to attend all sessions. Selections include Jan. 25: Tevye the Dairyman by Sholem Aleichem, Feb. 22: Bread Givers by Anzia Yezierska, March 22: Park Avenue: A Memoir by Anne Roiphe, April 18: American Pastoral by Philip Roth, May 9: Bee Season by Myla Goldberg. To register, contact the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at (847) 982-9888 (press 3).


Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. (847) 253-5675. Jan. 20-22: Mount Prospect Friends of the Library winter book sale, Friday is Friends Member Only Night from 6:30-9:30 p.m.; $5 memberships available at the door. The general public sale will be from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon-4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Rhino/the Poetry Forum invites all poets to its next Fourth Sundays Poetry Workshop & Peer Exchange, to be held from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Jan. 22 in Room 108 at the Evanston Public Library, Church and Orrington streets. Roger Reeves, assistant professor of poetry at the University of Illinois, will discuss collage techniques towards building poems that are “in conversation with other media as well as other poems.” Attendees are encouraged to bring 17 copies of a poem to be critiqued, and participate in a discussion of poetry and poetics. $5-$10 donation.

Child’s Play Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405, www.nileslibrary.org. Jan. 28, 2 p.m.: Screening of “Mr. Popper’s Penguins.” 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.

March 4, 2 p.m.: The Fresh Beat Band, Nickelodeon’s preschool music group and stars of the television series of the same name. Tickets: $22, $27, $32. Fresh Beat Band Party packages, which include a meet and greet with the band, also available. "The Wizard of Oz" will be presented by Christian Youth Theater Feb. 10-19 at Prairie Lake Theater, 515 E. Thacker, Des Plaines. Tickets are $9-$12 in advance; $11-$14 at the door. Call (847) 516-2298 or visit www.cythroaticago.org.

Comedy Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. www.maynestage.com. (773) 381-4554. Feb. 17, 8 p.m.: Chicago Dance Crash KIF presents "Love is a (Dance) Battlefield." CDC’s longest running production, Keeper of the Floor (KIF), is a dance competition that welcomes all comers, from breakdancers and ballerinas to belly dancers. $10 general admission.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. www.northshorecenter.org. (847) 673-6300. Jan. 26-29: Political satirists The Capitol Steps. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 3 p.m. Sunday. $45.50-$49.50. Feb. 25, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.: Lily Tomlin. $42-$76. 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. March 10: Gabriel Iglesias Stand-Up Revolution Tour, presented by Comedy Central.

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Exelon and the Auditorium Theatre present
The Auditorium's annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Saying good-bye to the ‘Children’

BY LORI RACKL
lrackl@suntimes.com

“All My Children” fans have a chance to share some laughs — and a few tears — when half a dozen cast members of the recently axed soap swing through town Sunday on a tribute tour.

Walt Willey, the Ottawa, Ill., native who came on board “All My Children” as the dashing Jackson Montgomery in 1987, described the tribute event as a “sea of love.”

“There’s a definite family dynamic among viewers of daytime drama and those of us who have plied our craft in it,” Willey said. “When that love is just splashing against you, it’s amazing.”

Headed for Rosemont Theatre, “A Tribute to Pine Valley” will be more celebration than funeral for ABC’s long-running sudser, which went off the air in September after a 41-year run.

Fans get to grill the actors during a Q&A session, try to stump them with “AMC” trivia and hear behind-the-scenes stories from the likes of Willey, Cameron Mathison (Ryan), Alicia Minshew (Kendall), Vincent Irizarry (David), Darnell Williams (Jesse) and Jacob Young (JR).

During what’s billed as the most emotional part of the event, “A Walk Down Memory Lane,” the audience and actors relive some of the ups and downs of Pine Valley’s perfectly-coiffed denizens.

Fans remember

“Fans are heartbroken and I don’t think that’s too strong a word,” Willey said. “This has been such a presence in people’s lives. It’s memories of grandma, memories of college days. It has a deep emotional meaning for them.

“Some people treat the actors and the show like it was part of their family, their best friends.”

Soaps decline

Since then, the daytime soap graveyard has only been getting more crowded as ratings continue to slide and TV execs look to replace scripted dramas with less expensive chat fests.

CBS’ “As the World Turns” bit the dust in 2010. Next was “All My Children,” which, for a while, looked like it might live on via the Internet. That plan eventually fizzled.

ABC filled “AMC’s” television time slot with “The Chew,” a food-focused talker that’s been netting roughly the same number of viewers as its predecessor — but with lower production costs.

The bell now tolls for ABC’s “One Life To Live,” whose one life is over as of Friday.

It, too, is turning over its longtime home to a new talker manned by a panel of co-hosts. “The Revolution,” which has a health- and lifestyle-focused bent, premieres Monday.

Don’t worry, fans. Gold’s already on the case.

“We’re doing ‘Loving Llanview,’ a goodbye to ‘One Life To Live,’ too,” he said. “It’s going to come to Chicago. We’re just working on dates.”
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**RICCARDO MUTI,** Music Director

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1:30**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 8:00**

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**Beethoven and Dvořák**

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**Manfred Honeck**

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Beethoven and Dvořák**

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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 8:00**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 8:00**

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**Mitsuko Uchida**

**[CSO**

**Riccardo Muti**

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**An Acoustic Evening with the BoDeans**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 8:00**

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**Bartók Suite for Piano, Op.14**

**Debussy Images for Piano, Book 1**

**Chopin Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47**

**Chopin Selected Waltzes**

**Chopin Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62, No. 1**

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Artists, prices and programs subject to change.

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**La valse**

**Haydn**

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**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 8:00**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 8:00**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 8:00**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 11,3:00**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 8:00**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 8:00**

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 8:00**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 8:00**

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Artists, prices and programs subject to change.
Four years after Criss Henderson graduated from the University of Chicago, Barbara Gaines asked him to work with her at her fledgling Shakespeare Repertory Theater. “Barbara had this wild idea that in this great city of ours, a theater dedicated to Shakespeare could not only exist but thrive,” Henderson said. Henderson, who had produced a few commercial shows, signed on in 1990, thinking it would be an interesting project for a couple of years. Twenty-two years later, the Evanston resident is still on board, serving as executive director of what is now called the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and overseeing a greatly expanded operation.

We spoke with Henderson about Chicago Shakespeare’s past, its exciting 25th season and the company’s future plans, in his Navy Pier office with its panoramic view of Lake Michigan.

Henderson indicated that initially the company was all about the work. “Barbara gathered around her these amazing actors and shared with the audience Shakespeare like they had never seen it before — well spoken, highly theatrical and, in many respects, very Chicago style,” Henderson said. “That’s still true, but everything else about the organization — except the two principals — has changed.

Growing up

Henderson initially worked in a small apartment office on Broadway. “Barbara worked on the plays from her home for the most part,” he said. The company’s first few performances were at the Red Lion Pub. Then they became a resident company at the Jungle Theater before moving 12 years ago into their own stunning building on Navy Pier, with a 500-seat Courtyard Theater and another 200-seat theater. Overseeing the construction of the building is one of Henderson’s proudest accomplishments. The theater company is hardly a two-person operation these days. There are about 80 full-time staff members and a large number of part-time ticket agents and house staff. And Chicago Shakespeare is the largest employer of Chicago actors.

“It is such a different organization than it was 25 years ago but I think the spirit of the organization is the same,” Henderson said.

Henderson spoke of the role the Board of Directors has played in the continuing growth of the company, describing them as “so entrepreneurial in their vision and their ability to let this company take on great challenges and artistic risks.”

The Executive Director noted that the company has a strong commitment to presenting international artists in its productions and through its World’s Stage Series. “My role working with Barbara to curate the World’s Stage program has been thrilling,” he said. “To get to travel the world and meet and spend time with and plan with the great theaters and the great theater artists of the world and to share them with Chicago audiences has been extraordinary.”

The next World’s Stage Series production, National Theatre of Scotland’s “Long Gone Lonesome,” runs from Feb. 2-4.

Henderson is pleased that because of the CST Family Series and the theater’s education programs, “One in four audience members of Chicago Shakespeare every season is under the age of 18 years old.”


Another upcoming collaboration will join Chicago Shakespeare Theater with Redmoon Theater for “The Feast: an Intimate Tempest,” Jan. 18-March 11. “It will be played out for 90 minutes or so by three actors and any number of puppets and objects and an incredible table,” Henderson said.

Audiences are also sure to enjoy Gary Griffin’s upcoming production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” Feb. 7-April 8. Henderson described it as a “really creative new telling of the piece.”

Also on the 25th anniversary schedule is a CST Family Series production of “Short Shakespeare! The Taming of the Shrew” (Feb. 25-April 7) and Barbara Gaines’ staging of “Timon of Athens” (April 24-June 10), starring Scottish-born actor Ian McDiarmid.

New projects

“We’re working hard on trying to figure out next season,” Henderson said. “That’s one of the things that’s so much fun in my job.”

Henderson reported that there are “a lot of new projects in the works.” He spoke about the most public one — the upcoming celebration of Navy Pier’s centennial in 2016. “As part of that, there’s a project to develop a new performance venue for Chicago Shakespeare,” Henderson reported. The space will seat from 450 to 1,000 audience members.

Henderson said that he has stayed with Chicago Shakespeare so long because there are always new challenges. “My great professional life’s work has been building the company,” he said. “As long as I can continue to do it, where else would I go? Chicago is the greatest city in the country for theater, and Barbara and I have been great partners. There’s every reason to stay.”

For more information on Chicago Shakespeare Theater productions, call (312) 595-5600 or see chicagoshakes.com.
GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15B


Happy Twirlers Dance Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. the second Saturday of the month, through May 2012, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Thacker and Lee streets, Des Plaines. $6 per person. For information, call (773) 685-8407.

Happy Twirlers Square Dancing Club offers square dancing lessons from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and 13 at the Summit of Uptown, 10 N. Summit, downtown Park Ridge. First lesson free. Call (773) 685-8407.

Line dancing for all ages is held from 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Beginner lessons are at 7:30 p.m. and new dance or review at 8 p.m. Admission: $7; $5 for ages 17 and under. For information, call (847) 965-6353 or e-mail at somedaydd@att.net.

FILM


WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. Jan. 19 and Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Songwriters’ Group meets. All songwriters are invited to bring new or nearly new songs to play live and get feedback from others in the group.

Skokie Art Guild offers figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

The Actors Gymnasium presents “Lost and Found: A Recycled Circus,” featuring aerial acrobatics and live music, Feb. 12-March 11 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays; 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $15; $10 for children 12 and under and students with 10. Gala opening night will be Feb. 11; tickets are $100 each, which includes a post-show reception. Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com or (800) 838-3006.

For information, visit www.actorsgymnasium.com.

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. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. Jan. 15, 3 p.m.: “A Tribute to Pine Valley,” a fan event dedicated to ABC’s soap opera “All My Children.” The event includes question-and-answer sessions, behind-the-scenes stories, photos and autograph signings. Participating cast members include Wilt Willey (Jackson), Cameron Mathison (Ryan), Vincent Irizarry (David), Darnell Williams (Jason), Alicia Minshew (Kendall) and Jacob Young (JR). Tickets are $35-$125.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woodside Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.ihl holocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through Jan. 15: “The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946.” Jan. 15, 12:30 p.m.: Reader’s Theatre presents “Judgment at Nuremberg.” A full dramatic reading will be performed by the original cast of Shattered Globe Theatre’s award-winning 2003 production of the classic courtroom drama. Discussion follows with eyewitness Peter Less, one of the interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials. $14 (includes museum admission); $6 for museum members. Reservations required. Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m.: “Memorialization and Memory,” a special program in recognition of the International Day of Holocaust Remembrance. In partnership with the Illinois Holocaust & Genocide Commission, the museum presents two leaders in the field of memorialization, James Young and Cliff Chanin. Young, a professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, served as a World Trade Center Site Memorial jury member. Chanin, the curator of the Illinois Holocaust Museum’s Legacy of Absence galleries, is 9/11 Memorial Museum Education Director. Free with museum admission; reservations required.
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5 things you never knew about camp

Camp has become a staple of the summer
season. Each year, millions of children, youth
and adults head to the hills, lakes, valleys and parks to
participate in the time-honored tradition of camp. While most people easily conjure up images of
campfires and canoeing, the camp experience is
much more. Here are ten of the things you may
ever have known about the camp experience.

1. Camp is older than dirt, almost literall.

Started in 1861, the camp experience turned an
impressive 150 years old in 2011. The secret
behind the longevity? "Camps are constantly
adapting to meet the changing needs of today’s
families,” said Peg Smith, chief executive officer
for the American Camp Association. “And yet,
in essentials, camp is very much the same as
it was 150 years ago; kids still have authentic,
life-changing experiences.”

2. Camp is worth its weight in gold, and then
some. The camp experience is life changing:
developing friendships and memories that last
well beyond the final campers. Camp is literally
for every budget. Often camps offer special
pricing for financial assistance, and some camp
experiences qualify for tax credits or for pay-
ment with pre-tax dollars. Visit www.camppa-
rents.org/affording-camp for more information.

3. Green is Zen. Research shows that first-
hand experience with nature reduces stress in
children and help them better handle stress in
the future. In addition to teaching children how
to be good stewards of the environment, camps
are teaching children how to enjoy the world
around them and take a minute to breathe deep
and feel the nature, which ultimately teaches
them how to de-stress the natural way.

4. Mommies and daddies do it too. Camp is
not just for children and youth. Family camp
experiences, and camps for single adults,
senior adults and any adult that wants to relax
and enjoy all camp has to offer are available.
Adults benefit from the same sense of com-
unity, authentic relationships and self-discovery
that children do. Camp is an excellent vaca-
tion option, allowing adults to try a variety of
new activities in a safe and fun environment.

5. Try this on for size. Camp is a great place
to try new activities and hobbies. Afraid of rock
climbing? According to ACA research, 74 percent
of campers reported that they tried new activi-
ties at camp that they were afraid to do at first.
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ported that their child continued new activities
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With winter break behind us, the time is right to begin looking ahead to the sun and fun filled days of summer. Choosing to enroll your child in summer camp for the first time can be a time consuming process for a parent. Once you have discovered the right camp for your child, your work has only just begun. It is important to introduce your child to their camp and to begin the process of acclimatization so that the transition to camp in the summer will be a smooth one. Fortunately, camps provide ample opportunities to ensure that your family can enjoy a smooth passage into the camp season.

Hopefully, by the time you have chosen a camp, you will have already visited its website, met with the staff and toured the facilities. If your child did not partner with you on your search, make plans to change that. Most camps offer photos and videos on their websites. Let your child see the fun that awaits them at camp. Typically camps offer a New Camper Orientation Day; a chance to see the grounds, meet the staff, and begin feeling a part of their summer home. Many camps also offer various off-season events and activities. Try to attend a few of
these events with your child so that you may begin the process of enjoying camp together. Most importantly, never pass up an opportunity to call the camp office to ask a question if one arises. By introducing your child to camp, you should be able to help soften many of the most common transition issues. By their very nature, camps are places of fun, but occasionally issues can emerge that may require a little helping hand. Camps are well equipped to deal with the most common issues that occur when your child enters a new venture. Things like being homesick, the uncertainty of what to do and where to go, as well as the trepidation that comes with something new are all obstacles that quality camps conquer every day. Camps are staffed with caring, fun-loving counselors and administered by child-focused professionals. Never hesitate to contact your camp if you think your child may be having trouble. In all likelihood, they will already be aware of what is going on and working to improve things. Continual communication between parents and the camp, combined with a camp's willingness to do whatever possible to make your child's camp experience the very best possible, is the best medicine to combat any summer camp troubles.

A child's association with camp can provide a lifetime of skills, memories and friends. The benefits realized from a quality camp can continue to enrich their lives well into adulthood. There's no reason to wait for the bus to pull up on that first morning to begin your child's relationship with camp. Take the time to introduce your child to their camp and become an active partner in the camp life.

5 more things you never knew about camp

5. Manners matter, and often linger. The camp experience teaches more than just archery or lanyard making. The entire experience is made of teachable moments; perhaps one of the biggest is how to live with a group of people. Campers learn to pick up after themselves, respect each other's property, and to say “Please” and “Thank You.”

4. Veggies taste better with friends. Hollywood and fictional novels may have given camp food a bad reputation, but in truth, camps are constantly exploring healthy food options, and often are at the forefront of things like allergy specific diets, healthy snack options and vegetarian meals. According to ACA's 2011 Emerging Issues survey, 80.7 percent of responding camps indicated that healthy eating and physical activity was an important or very important issue.

3. If everyone else went to camp, maybe there's something to it. Camp has played an important role in the lives of some of the most talented people in history. ACA's family resource site offers a list of notable campers, including business professionals, celebrities, artists and great thinkers.

2. Camp gets those neurons pumping. Education reform debate and concern over summer learning loss have pushed academic achievement into the spotlight. Research shows that participation in intentional programs during summer months helps stem summer learning loss. In addition, camp provides many opportunities for developmental growth, which is a precursor to academic achievement. Because of the hands-on nature of camp, often children who struggle in traditional education settings do well at camp.

1. Camp builds leaders for the 21st century and beyond. Independence, resilience, teamwork, problem-solving skills and the ability to relate to other people: these are the skills that tomorrow's leaders will need, and the skills camp has been adept at building for 150 years. "Tomorrow's leaders will not be those who can type or text with lightning speed, they will be those who can have a face-to-face conversation and articulate their thoughts, ideas, and values," Smith said. "Tomorrow's leaders will be able to relate globally and find common ground with people who are vastly different from themselves: people from different backgrounds and cultures. Tomorrow's leaders will be made and educated by experiences like camp."

For more information on preparing your child for an independent, fun-filled summer, visit ACA's family resource page at www.camps-parents.org. Follow ACA on Facebook and Twitter for helpful hints and camp information.

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How to know your child is ready for overnight camp

BY MARCY MARRO
For Sun-Times Media

If the option to attend overnight summer camp is on your child's table, you need to ensure that he or she is ready to be away from you and home for an extended period of time.

Listen
Children ready for overnight camp have often already attended day camp or scouting overnight.

"Kids who want to go to overnight camp are thinking that they can handle it and are looking for more independence," said Heidi Mable, associate program director at Camp Anokijig in Plymouth, Wis.

Not all children will be ready to go off to overnight camp at the same age. A child who is reluctant to go to overnight camp may not be ready just yet.

Meredith Stevens, program manager at Camp Echo, an overnight camp through the McGaw YMCA in Evanston, said that sometimes it all takes is for a few friends to come back from camp with positive experiences. She recommended not pushing a child if it's clear he or she is overly apprehensive.

"Children will know what they want to do and what they don't want to do," she said.

Keep your child involved while scouting out overnight camps. Oftentimes he or she will suggest or take an interest and willingness to attend an overnight camp. "Oftentimes, choosing an overnight camp is an easier decision for the child, but tougher for mom and dad," Mable said.

Transitioning to summer camp
To help make the transition to camp easier, Gary Deutsch, camp director at Decoma Day Camp in Northbrook recommended parents and children take a ride out to the camp and look around, possibly even setting up a time to meet their counselor prior to the first day of camp.

Stevens agreed and said this is especially useful if the child is hesitant to leave.

"I'll talk to the children and answer any questions they may have," Stevens said. "I'll show them a slideshow of camp and introduce them to some of the people they'll see at camp when they're there, and that often helps because then they'll have a familiar face when they get off the bus."

Summer camp offers the opportunity for children to try and experience new things that they can't do at home, such as sailing water skiing or horseback riding.

"There are a lot of things that city kids don't get to do normally that they get to do and experience and learn how to do over the summer," Stevens said. "When parents talk about camp in a really positive and exciting way, it will get kids excited about it as well."
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What can a grateful nation do for its veterans? How about give them a job?

Many companies across the United States are making a pledge to hire veterans and active reservists. It's a way to say thank you and, best of all, it's good for the bottom line.

And the job outlook for veterans could be getting better. In his recent tour to promote his jobs bill, President Obama announced that he will push for a tax break for businesses hiring veterans.

The proposed tax credit, called Returning Heroes, would offer up to $5,600 for companies hiring veterans who have been out of work for six months or longer; the Wounded Warriors credit would offer up to $10,000 for companies hiring wounded veterans who have been out of work for the same length of time.

"We ask our men and women in uniform to leave their careers, leave their families and risk their lives to fight for our country," Obama said. "The last thing they should have to do is fight for a job when they come home."

Veteran Job Protections

Veterans have job protection under the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. USERRA guarantees active reservists, guardsmen and veterans the right to keep their jobs, or be reemployed at similar jobs, during and after periods of service. It also requires employers to make reasonable accommodation for injured or disabled veterans who are returning to work.

For companies like LadderPort, a small manufacturing firm in Brighton, Mich., adhering to the law is both patriotic and sound financial policy.

"It can be profitable for your company," says Dick Dyk, LadderPort Director of Security. "But you need to think outside the corporate box."

Dyk is a volunteer for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Defense Department Agency that encourages employers to sign a pledge stating that their company will honor the law and reemploy veterans, active reservists and members of the National Guard. The ESGR also acts as an ombudsman, mediating conflicts in the workplace.

LadderPort Operations Manager Michele Oras says that 20 percent of the company's employees are veterans, active reservists and members of the National Guard. She stresses the benefits that military-trained employees have to offer companies, including specialized skills and abilities that are often hard to find in the civilian workforce, such as:

1. Specialized training

Many veterans have skills that place them in high demand for certain types of jobs in areas like engineering, manufacturing, security, and intelligence. But even the youngest and least senior members of the military have more training than the average entry-level applicant.

2. Team training

Members of the military are trained to work as a team. For manufacturing companies like LadderPort, that's a distinct advantage.

"We need guys that can work together without being on top of each other and willing to be part of the team, rather than I, I, I," says Oras. "The faster they can get our products out the door, the more money we make."

3. Personal responsibility

Returning veterans and active reservists understand responsibility better than most. Very young servicemen and women have huge responsibilities in the military, far beyond the obligations that most of us face at work.

"Everybody always says there's no 'I' in team. Well, that's junk," Dyk says. "It stands for individual responsibility ... And the military creates people that do that better than anybody else."

4. Financial considerations

Even if companies never see a dime in tax breaks, hiring veterans can contribute positively to a company's financial picture. In addition to providing free training in a variety of valuable professional skills, it may also help keep your company in the running for government contracts, says Oras.
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SCHNEIDER NATIONAL
EMERGING AREAS IN OT

By Megan Malugani, Monster Contributing Writer

The demand for occupational therapists (OTs) — professionals who help individuals with physical, cognitive or emotional limitations achieve independence in their daily living or working environments — is on the upswing.

After a period of layoffs and hiring freezes spurred by federal legislation that limited reimbursement for therapy services, the OT profession has bounced back and is branching out in new directions. While job opportunities in hospitals, schools and other traditional settings remain strong, many OTs are blazing trails in areas connected with the aging population. Carolyn Baum, a past president of the American Occupational Therapy Association, notes five aging-related practice areas that are spawning new business for OTs:

Support for "Aging In Place"

Older Americans prefer to stay in their own homes rather than enter long-term-care facilities, and OTs help make that desire a reality. OTs consult with elderly individuals, families and architects on designing or modifying homes so they are more accessible and less dangerous for people with poor mobility, vision loss or other limitations. OTs also work with architects and city officials to help them understand and incorporate the needs of seniors into city planning. In suburbs populated by large numbers of elderly people, for example, there is often a need for more senior-friendly parks, crosswalks and sidewalks.

Driver Assessments and Training Programs

Making sure older drivers do not injure themselves or anyone else on the road is another growth area for OTs. Because more physicians are addressing driver safety issues with their patients, the demand for evaluating questionable drivers is growing. OTs are equipped to perform driver screenings, evaluations and interventions. OTs also offer driver rehabilitation services.

Community Health and Wellness

More healthcare systems are launching community health initiatives, and OTs are getting involved. Specifically, OTs are taking the lead when it comes to educating people who have had strokes about how to manage their condition and prevent recurrences. Medical advances now enable more patients with chronic health issues to survive, and OTs are instrumental in helping these individuals lead productive, independent lives.

Addressing the Needs of Children and Youth

About 30 percent of OTs currently work in schools, and the workload in K-12 education is increasing as special-needs students are expanded and extended. OTs help children with disabilities prepare to enter special-education programs and work to create the perfect learning and environmental conditions for children with conditions such as autism.

Ergonomics Consulting

Other workers make up one of the fastest-growing segments of the workforce, and OTs are working with employers to develop strategies that support workers' productivity. Furthermore, employers become more aware of the link between ergonomics and workplace injury. OTs are stepping in as injury-prevention and workplace-modification consultants.

Technology and Assistive-Device Development and Consulting

OTs are at the forefront in using technology to help individuals compensate for cognitive, functional or mobility limitations. For example, OTs are involved in developing robots that climb stairs and perform activities of daily living.

These areas represent just a small part of the profession's potential scope of practice. Baum says, "OTs' mission — to help people with limitations fully participate in life — can be accomplished in many settings and capacities. "Occupational therapists find it very hard to get bored with their work," says Baum, who is also professor of occupational therapy and methodology at Argona University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "There are always new places to take their knowledge."

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tive bidders makes no representation as to the quality or quantity of the subject property. The property in question is located at 211338 15W030 CHASE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE, IL 60053. The property is subject to sale on February 6, 2012, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM, 24th Floor CHICAGO, IL, 60077 NOTICE OF POSSESSION.

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(4), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(Q-1). If you are a mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring rights in and to the residential real estate after confirmation of a certificate of sale that will be issued, you may have further recourse against the Mortgagor, the judgment creditor, or other lienor as set forth in the Judgement of Foreclosure and Sale entered on July 15, 2010, in the above cause on July 16, 2010, in The Circuit Court of Cook County, 14th Judicial Circuit, Division 15-1701(C). If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring rights in and to the residential real estate pursuant to its confirmation of the certificate of sale, unless the condominium unit is part of a condominium or other community with a municipality relief fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the real estate taxes, special assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium or other community in which the property is located, as set forth in the certificate of sale.

The property is further subject to confirmation of the certificate of sale by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring rights in and to the residential real estate. If the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor is not the highest bidder, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the Condominium Property and any personal property that may be included in the sale, without any representation as to quality or quantity of title, if any. No representation is made as to the quality or quantity of title of the real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the real estate, unless the property is a condominium unit which is part of a condominium or other community with a municipality relief fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the real estate taxes, special assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium or other community in which the property is located, as set forth in the certificate of sale. The sale is further subject to confirmation of the certificate of sale by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring rights in and to the residential real estate. If any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquires rights in and to the residential real estate after confirmation of the certificate of sale, the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor shall pay the amount bid by the highest bidder, as set forth in the certificate of sale, to the Judicial Sales Corporation. If the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquires rights in and to the residential real estate prior to confirmation of the certificate of sale, the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor shall pay the amount bid by the highest bidder, as set forth in the certificate of sale, to the Judicial Sales Corporation. The sale is further subject to confirmation of the certificate of sale by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring rights in and to the residential real estate. If any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquires rights in and to the residential real estate after confirmation of the certificate of sale, the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor shall pay the amount bid by the highest bidder, as set forth in the certificate of sale, to the Judicial Sales Corporation. If the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquires rights in and to the residential real estate prior to confirmation of the certificate of sale, the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor shall pay the amount bid by the highest bidder, as set forth in the certificate of sale, to the Judicial Sales Corporation.

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TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CHANCERY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY
CASE NO. 10-CH-036620 RE: CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY
ADAMS AS TRUSTEE OF THE SHEILA ADAMS TRUST
BENEFICIARIES OF SHEILA ADAMS TRUST
1555 STATE OF ILLINOIS AVENUE
NORTHFRONTAGE ROAD
SCHUMANN, CHICAGO, IL 60603

NOTICE OF PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE: Pursuant to the Order of
Residential Property Relief Fund, which is calculated on the
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Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
Linearwood, in the circuit court of Cook County, Illinois, County Department - Chancery Division

The sale is further subject to confirmation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to any judgment creditor, or other lienor, judgment creditor, or other lienor, judgment creditor, or other lienor, judgment creditor, or other lienor, judgment creditor, or other lienor, judgment creditor, or other lienor.

The sale is further subject to confirmation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to any judgment creditor, or other lienor.

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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above-captioned matter, the subject property is to be sold by the Cook County Sheriff's Sales Office, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, sell at 12:30 PM on Thursday, January 12, 2012, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, 1001 North Wells Street, Suite 1401, Chicago, IL 60606, in accordance with Section 14-10-320 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The subject property is a property located at 9117 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL 60077.

The subject property is a residential property and is not subject to any real estate taxes, special assessments, or other liens. All real estate taxes, special assessments, or other liens will be paid by the successful bidder at closing. The purchase price for the subject property shall be paid in the amount of the high bid, as set forth below, which shall be the successful bidder.

The subject property is subject to any mortgage, judgment, or lien recorded against the property and shall be sold subject to any mortgage, judgment, or lien recorded against the property. The subject property is subject to any other liens, assessments, or other charges against the property, and such liens, assessments, or other charges will be paid by the successful bidder at closing.

The successful bidder shall be responsible for the payment of all costs and expenses of the sale, including any and all fees and expenses incurred by the Sheriff's Sales Office, the Judicial Sales Corporation, and any other parties involved in the sale.

Upon payment in full of the purchase price, the Sheriff's Sales Office will issue a Certificate of Sale to the successful bidder. The successful bidder will then have 30 days from the date of the sale to make an application to the Circuit Court of Cook County for an order of possession.

Upon receipt of the order of possession, the Sheriff's Sales Office will issue a Notice of Entry of Judgment to the successful bidder. The successful bidder will then have 30 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Entry of Judgment to file an application to the Circuit Court of Cook County for an order of possession.

The subject property is subject to all covenants, restrictions, and agreements of record and shall remain subject to any and all covenants, restrictions, and agreements of record.

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five bidders are admonished to check the address prior to bidding. If a property is a condominium, the buyer shall receive a Certificate of Sale that will evidence title and without recourse. The certificate shall be issued in accordance with the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 90/101."
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, Public Storage Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage #2565 & 2566 1/2 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60645 - 708/W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60645 on January 17, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. On the premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #2565 & 2566 1/2 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60645.

Goods must be removed at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of sale.

To Be Held At: The Lock Up Storage Facility, 1500 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60640 - 708/563-1065. On the premises where property has been stored, which are located at The Lock Up Storage Facility, 1500 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60640.

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Maine East alumni raise $15,000 for school health center

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

The Maine East High School Class of 1971 reunion was much more than a dinner and a chance to catch up with old high school friends.

The Reunion Committee raised $45,000 for the School-Based Health Center at Maine East in Park Ridge. The check was presented at a recent Maine Township High School District 207 school board meeting.

The School-Based Health Center for District 207 serves students at all three high schools.

"The teachers at Maine East cared deeply about our well-being," said Dr. Marjorie Getz, a 1971 Maine East graduate. "It's a natural thing to give back to the school.

Getz is a member of the Reunion Committee and the School-Based Health Center Committee. She does educational consultation in the pediatrics department at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

Getz said that as a result of the $150,000 donation, 700 physicals will be given to District 207 students who are uninsured.

"We are so appreciative," said Kathy Malyszko, mental health counselor at the School-Based Health Center. "Adolescents are the most underserved population as far as healthcare goes."

The health center provides all the services students would receive at a doctor's office, such as physcials, sports physicals, immunizations, diagnosis of chronic illnesses and more.

Mental health services to treat eating disorders and individual and family counseling services are also provided free of charge.

Malyszko said that the health center receives money from a state grant, but continues to have a $40,000 deficit each year. The center depends on fund-raising and donations to successfully serve the students. Students also collect money themselves for the health center.

"We take everything we can get," said Malyszko. "Every little bit helps."

Malyszko said that Getz is very enthusiastic and is one of their "biggest champions."

Getz said she had just moved in and was extremely happy, Nelson to the Community Fund. Haller offered to donate $7,000 in donations to the Park Ridge Community Fund.

Haller added that the fundraising challenge sparked interest from different organizations and do it for the community.

"It looks like, right now, we are ahead compared to last year," Haller said of the Community Fund's proceeds.

Next month volunteers will hear funding requests from local nonprofits and charities and make recommendations to the Community Fund's Board as to how much money each should receive.
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As a matter of public records ...

A few years ago, my son found something in the basement. He acted as if he had just discovered a lost treasure buried away in the bowels of the National Archives. It was my long-lost record collection.

All on vinyl, the collection went from America to Warren Zevon. It began in 1971 with the purchase of two great albums — Rod Stewart’s “Every Picture Tells A Story” and Santana’s “Santana III.” The price of each was $5.50 (about $18 today) at a record shop in Chicago’s Logan Square.

The collection ended in 1986 with the purchase of Joe Jackson’s “Big World” at my favorite record store: Val’s Halla in Oak Park.

By then compact discs were the way to purchase music. The heyday of the CD lasted about another 15 years, until iTunes was introduced in 2001.

But today I read that albums on vinyl are making a comeback. LP sales jumped 14 percent from 2009 to 2010, when some 5.8 million vinyl albums were sold. That number jumped to 3.9 million sales in 2011.

Does that indicate a comeback for vinyl record albums? I don’t know. Part of me hopes not, having invested in digital music only since 1986. I found it galling to replace my favorite albums with CDs and it seems downright crazy to replace my digital playlist with vinyl right now.

But there are things I miss about vinyl. All of us old fogs who grew up with albums miss the album cover art. From the simplicity of the Beatles’ so-called “White Album” to the complexity of “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” cover art was part of the experience of buying music when it was on vinyl. The album cover would lure you in and set the tone for the music you were about to hear. You could touch it, study it and read the liner notes. You could learn the names of the musicians and many times read the story lyrics right there on the album. You would often do so while listening to the album for the first or second time. It made the whole listening experience much greater than just the music. It was sound, art and poetry all at once.

You just can’t get that in a shrunken-down CD jewel case.

Still, today I hear a song, I have an app that identifies it if I don’t know the name of the song or the artist. I hop on the Internet, I search for it and buy it. Very convenient.

But I also miss going to Val’s and searching through the record bins starting with A and working my way to Z, looking for what I don’t know, and finding something different, something intriguing, pulling it out and asking Val about it. Then taking it home, unwrapping the album and slowly studying it as the sound comes from my stereo.

It was the art of discovery, which is vastly different from the art of the search.
Niles, Elk Grove Village, and the northwest corner of the 41st Ward of Chicago.

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

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

Classes

The Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, offers a variety of classes for the adults in the horticulture, garden design, nature studies and botanical arts by Garden staff and other experts. For information or to register, visit www.chicagobotanic.org/school or call (847) 835-8261.

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc., is now offering “Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy” dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Donda King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (847) 736-9021, for information or to register.

Clubs

The Sweet Singers of Congregation Ezras Israel which entertains at nursing homes, retirement facilities and charitable organizations, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Rosenberg Auditorium of Ezras Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join. Call the Ezras Israel office at (773) 764-9320.

Volunteer Threshold Singers meet every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7600 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis). Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, Korea and WWII are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamesbong5762@ yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

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

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) 965-9390.

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 are taught to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

Community

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County and its member communities are offering a Holiday Light Recycling Program at no cost to residents. All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off at various locations throughout northern Cook County. Garland, live green, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program. SWANCC and the participating communities have partnered with Elgin Recycling Inc. to recycle the lights and cords. The strands are separated and baled and sent to be chopped or shredded and sold as a commodity to foundries and mills in the United States. Niles, recycling program is in effect from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays, up to Feb. 29 at the Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900; and at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, through Feb. 29 - 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays, and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, (847) 588-7900. Visit www.swanco.org.

The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, (847) 967-4800, www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Museum admission prices: General Admission, $12; seniors (65+), $8; students (ages 12-21), $6; children (ages 5-11), $6. - Through Jan. 15: The Art of German Exhibit showcases arts and crafts made by Japanese-Americans in U.S. internment camps during World War II; free with museum admission. Jan. 15, 12:30-3 p.m.: Reader's Theatre - "Judgment at Nuremberg," a full dramatic reading will be performed by the original cast of Shattered Globe Theatre's award-winning 2003 production of the classic courtroom drama. Discussion follows with eyewitness Peter Less, one of the interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials. Tickets are $14, general (includes museum admission); $6 (museum members); reservations required; purchase online, https://tickets.iholocaustmuseum.org/public/ or call (847) 967-4899.

Jan. 26, 6:30-8 p.m.: Special program — Memoriamization and Memory in Recognition of the International Day of Holocaust Remembrance. The museum presents two leaders in the field of memorialization, James Young and Cliff Duval. Contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900.

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Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

**Donations**

The Polish National Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Women's Alliance, the Polish Falcons of America, along with the affiliations of the PNA, the Polish Daily News (Dziennik Zwiazkowy), WPNA 1490 AM Radio, and both PNA Bank locations, are joining in the support of the "Cell Phone for Soldiers" program. The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers a price cut for the service, and also asks for the Lutheran General discount will receive a gift card from the company. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.

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Additional services at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital include free blood-pressure screenings offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Oskar Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenyon at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505.

A local dialysis clinic, Fresenius Medical Care Niles, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave., has started a new night-time program for dialysis patients. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.

Senior Advocate of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital offers free blood-pressure screenings 10 a.m.-noon on the first Wednesday of every month at the hospital's Patient Resource Center, 8820 W. Dempster St., Niles (across from the hospital). No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7277.

**Health**

Advocate Medical Group is now providing immediate care and occupational health services at the Advocate Medical Group Patient Center, 7255 N. Caldwell Ave. in Niles. This will provide convenient, quality medical care including treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses such as: Cuts and burns, sprains and bruises, eye injuries, flu symptoms, sore throats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, ear aches, respiratory and urinary tract infections. The center provides easy access to X-ray and laboratory services to assist in diagnosis and treatment of these and other ailments. In addition, the clinic provides international travel medical services including those planning a trip out of the country. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call, (847) 647-0355.

Golf Mill Hearing Aid Center, 8856 N. Milwaukee Ave., is offering free hearing evaluations. All who come in will receive a comprehensive audiological evaluation. Call (847) 296-3344.

Pediatric developmental screenings offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Oskar Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenyon at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505.

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See pioneerlocal.com/monster to find a job at the intersection of both.

Wouldn’t you like a job that fulfills you both professionally and personally? With Monster’s new filtering tools, you can quickly hone in on the job that’s right for you. So visit pioneerlocal.com/monster, and you might find yourself in the middle of the best of both worlds.

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CALENDAR

Continued from page 32

Business owners and anyone considering starting a small business can help with a wide variety of business issues. These experienced businesspeople offer one-hour sessions of business coaching. SCORE is a nonprofit association of volunteers. Weekly sessions are held on alternating Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To set up an appointment online, visit the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org. If there are questions, call (312) 353-7724 or e-mail info@scorechicago.org.

Youth programs on a drop-in basis - Babylife: 11 a.m. on Mondays, for babies 2 and under. Continuous year-round drop-in program for children with an adult. Includes stories, songs, fingerplays and extended playtime afterward. Rise & Shine Storytime: 10 a.m. on Thursdays, ages 2-6 with caregiver; enjoy stories, songs and more.

Maine Township

Maine Township’s Fish (Friends Indeed Serve and Help) is in need of volunteer drivers to provide residents free transportation to medical facilities. Volunteers may choose how much time they wish to devote. Requirements include a current driver’s license and proof of auto insurance. The program requires residents in need to be mobile, or be able to use a cane or walker. FISH also asks that appointments be set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver, call Ed Olsen at (847) 696-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek at (847) 297-2510, Ext. 283.

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

Niles

Niles Park District New 3’s Preschool is offered at Niles Park District is for children who turned 3 after Sept. 1, 2011, missing the deadline for the regular 3-year preschool. Classes are held from 12:30-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center. Session runs to May 17. Call (847) 967-6633.

Niles Park District is offering private piano lessons (30-45 minutes) for beginning and intermediate students Wednesdays and Thursdays at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard St. Lessons will focus on the fundamentals of technique, music theory and good practice habits. Call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.

Golf Maine

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

First through third grade Youth Basketball League - Introductory league for young participants to learn the skills of basketball. At Feldman Recreation Center. Fourth- to Sixth-Grade Basketball League - Games are on Fridays and/or Sundays at Feldman. Registration deadline Jan 21.

Family Movie Night - 7-9 p.m. Jan. 2 at Feldman. Free. Soda and popcorn will be sold.

Family Cosmic Bowl - Grab the family and sign up for an evening of bowling, pizza, music and games. Meet At Classic Bowl in Morton Grove. Jan. 14, 6-9 p.m.

Over the Rainbow - Young children will have fun learning the colors of the rainbow through stories and songs at Dee Park on Fridays. For ages 3-5 years.

Before & After School Child Care - Children attending Mark Twain, Apollo or Stevenson schools in District 63 can sign up for childcare. Call for details.

Zumba - Fun and easy Latin-inspired workout to get in shape. Ongoing classes at 7:15 p.m. Mondays or Tuesdays at Feldman (nine weeks).

Ballet & Tap - Ages 3 years to adult. Ongoing classes year round. Dee and Feldman
Parks.
The Painting Studio classes for adults: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and 9-11:30 a.m. for a variety of gym games at Dee Park.

Preschool - There are still spots available for second-semester preschool (for 4-year-olds). Offered are morning (five days per week) and afternoon classes (Mondays through Thursdays). All classes are at Dee Park.

Tae Kwon Do - Popular martial arts classes for children (ages 7-15) and adults offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all year round.

Various rooms/gyms are available for rental for parties, meetings or ongoing activities. Call (847) 297-3059.

The Golf Maine Park District offers a selection of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale to the public from a Lights for Learning kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of every bulb will directly fund the scholarship program sponsored by the district. The scholarship program allows children the opportunity to attend camp when they may not have the resources to do so on their own. The kiosk will also house the Lights for Learning teacher tool kits, designed for educators and organization leaders, to provide informational materials on the overall Lights for Learning Program. ENERGY STAR Activity Books for children, as well as ENERGY STAR home energy-conservation and electronics information, will also be available. A recycling bin for used CFLs will also be available.

CFLs may be purchased at Feldman Park, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Call (847) 297-3000.

The Golf Maine Park District offers the community an opportunity to recycle paper products. A recognizable green-and-yellow container supplied by AbitibiBowater was dropped off in the Feldman Park lot, 8800 Kathy Lane, near the corner of Western Avenue and Kathy Lane. Products that can be recycled in this container include: newspapers, magazines, office paper (fax and copy), shopping catalogs, mail and envelopes, catalogs, folders, colored paper and shredded paper (bagged); no cardboard or phone books. All money raised will fund the scholarship program, allowing children to attend summer camp and other programs. Call (847) 297-3000 or go to www.paperretriever.com.

**Religion**

Enjoy three free weekly classes on the modern Jewish take on Spirituality, Values, and Community, hosted by Temple Judea Mizpah.

The course is free and is for people seeking to learn more about Judaism who are not currently affiliated with a congregation. All are welcome, Jewish or not. To register, contact Felicia Ross at fross@ujr.org or go online at www.curiousaboutjudaism.org/ or call (847) 239-6988.

**Temple Judea Mizpah**

8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will offer its K'tonim (groups). Call (847) 875-9900.

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church**

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

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:15 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church personage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship.

**Reunions**

The Roosevelt High School Athletic Fund is holding an all-year reunion May 4 in the school cafeteria, 3436 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago. There will be a buffet dinner and musical entertainment. Cost is $60 per person. Call Arnie Kamem, class of 1950, at (847) 432-2773; visit www.roosevelthschicago.org.

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lryder@jbschool.org, and submit their name, year graduated, address, phone number, maiden name (if applicable) and e-mail address, and may share a story or tell how St. John Brebeuf made an impact on their life.

**Maine Seniors**

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

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

**Senior Center**

The Niles Senior Center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older.

See calendar, page 37.
Mel's 12 food trend predictions for 2012

1. The Elevated French Dip: I'll back up the Huffington Post on this one! Rethinking this classic combination of beef au jus will offer chefs an endless array of creative cooking options. Make French dips at home, but look for fusion versions to start popping up on restaurant menus, too.

2. Home cooking for the family table: Folks will be eating less take-out and on weeknights in 2012. Dust off your crock pots, pressure cookers and quick-cook recipes to help serve up homemade family fare on your busiest nights.

3. Hyper-local home cooking: Keeping backyard chickens and beehives in urban and suburban yards is on the rise. Combining the birds and the bees with a robust vegetable and herb garden, suggests city farmers will go from "farm to table" without leaving their postage stamp-sized lots in 2012.

4. Shopping the farmers market: As our hyperlocal instincts kick in, our commitment to shopping at our local farmers market will grow as well in 2012. Mark your calendars; the Oak Park Farmers Market opens May 19. Check out your village's calendar and circle the date for your farmers market opening.

5. Gluten-free restaurant fare: With an estimated 10 percent of the American population suffering from some form of gluten sensitivity, restaurants are sure to pick up on the need for more menu items meeting their dietary restrictions.

6. Macarons: Miniature desserts are dwindling in popularity, but I predict macarons are here to stay for a while. Get those thoughts of sticky coconut macaroons out of your head! French macarons (note the spelling difference) strike a delicate balance between sweet cream filling and soft cookie bliss. Pick up a dozen in assorted flavors at Vanille Patisserie located in Chicago's French Market.

7. Asian dumplings: Whip up an assortment of Asian dumplings is my favorite thing to do in the kitchen. I'd love to see more local restaurants get on board with serving up my favorite dish. You can head to Urban Belly in Chicago to try some of the best around.

8. Death of the kids' menu: Restaurants are caring more about the health of the kids they feed. Dropping the sugar- and sodium-laden kids' menus is a grand way to show it! Down go the "chicken" dinosaurs.

9. Pink pork: Just the other day a waiter asked my daughter if she wanted her pork chop medium rare. The FDA reduced the safe cooking temperature for pork by a whopping 10 degrees in 2011. Diners should expect chefs to take full advantage of the opportunity to serve pork with more than a little blush of pink in the center.

10. Doughnuts: Ditch the drive-through and give some gourmet doughnuts a try. This trend has been steadily growing over the past two years. High-end restaurants are embracing doughnuts with gusto; I recently enjoyed the "France"ing and Doughnuts at Next Restaurant in Chicago, and I predict we'll see scratch-made doughnuts making appearances all over the place in 2012. Visit The Depot American Diner in Oak Park/Berwyn to learn how good fresh doughnuts really are.

11. Communal restaurant tables: Party of six or a table for one? It doesn't matter! When upscale restaurants offer communal tables there is room for everyone. Shy diners may have to adjust to sharing a meal next to strangers, but social folks will appreciate the opportunity to meet new people over a memorable meal. Watch for this European trend to grow in the United States during the coming year.

12. Retro fare: People crave an emotional connection with their foods. Building on the diner trend of the past several years, I predict we'll see restaurant menus including more variations on retro-inspired diner dishes like fried chicken, meatloaf and fruit pies.

Melissa Elsmo is an Oak Park mom, wife and chef/foodie. She speaks regularly about reclaiming the family dinner hour with nutritious meals. Check out her food blog at www.outofmelskitchen.blogspot.com.
Thursday of the month from 1-2 p.m., starting Jan. 5. Diabetic Man-
of-the-month from 1-2 p.m. $10, members; $15, nonmembers. Cost per group is
herb dressing, gravy, cran-
breads, chef’s soup of the
will feature freshly baked
26. Lunch prior to the show
Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon.
1-3 p.m.; Social Scrabble,
Wood Carving, Thursdays,
Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; Drop-in
9-11:30 a.m.; Social Mah-
1:30-3 p.m.; All American,
every other Wednesday,
I-3 p.m.; Social Mahj-
ong, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.;
Drop-in Ceramics, Thursdays,
I-3 p.m.; Social Scrabble,
FrIdays, 10 a.m.-noon.
Take a trip to see “Gypsy”
at the Drury Lane Oakbrook,
from 10 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Jan.
26. Lunch prior to the show
will feature freshly baked
breads, chef’s soup of the
day, roast turkey breast with
herb dressing, gravy, cran-
berries, dessert, and coffee.
Cost is $36, members; $68,
nonmembers.
Niles Senior Center of-
ers a wide variety of support
groups. Cost per group is
$10, members; $15, nonmem-
bers. Weight Management
meets the first Thursday
of the month from 1-2 p.m.
starting Jan. 5. Diabetic Man-
age meets the second
Thursday of the month from
1-2 p.m. starting Jan. 12. V-
irtually Impaired Motiva-
tors (VIM) meets the third
Tuesday of month, 10:30 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m. starting Jan.
17. Cancer Survivor Group
meets the third Thursday
of the month, 1-2 p.m., starting
Jan. 19.
Arthritis Foundation
Exercise Classes winter term,
rules, to June 25 – Level 4
Advanced, meets 9-10 a.m.
Mondays; includes weight
training with 3-pound
weights, standing and sit-
ting exercises. Level 1 Beginners/
Fat Management meets
10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays;
includes gentle stretching,
most chair exercises. Cost
for each session is $10,
members; $15, nonmembers.
Contact Sue Friedman.
Niles Senior Center and
the Niles Public Library
are looking for volunteers to
assist seniors and low-income
residents in preparing 2011
taxes. AARP Foundation Tax-
Aide volunteers will receive
free tax training at the Niles
Senior Center in January and
will help taxpayers at the
Center as well as provide
client facilitators. Tax preparers
beginning Feb. 7 to April
12. Niles Senior Center
tax appointments are based
on volunteer availability and
generally are offered Monday
through Friday mornings
and afternoons. Volunteers
choose the day(s) and time(s)
they are available.
Niles Public Library is also looking for volunteers for evening
or weekend assistance.
For more information, contact
Mary Ann Borucki at the Niles
Senior Center (847) 588-
8240 or Judy McNulty at the
Niles Library (847) 663-6431.
The Sudoku Club meets
from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on
the second and fourth Mon-
days of the month. Admission
is free for members; $12 for
six months for nonmembers.
Seniors
Mother’s—More than a
Cafe, 7134 N. Higgins Ave.,
invites adults $5 and older
to experience professionally
taught, free-to-moderate-
priced programs such as
lifelong learning programs,
fine classes, free blood-
pressure checks and health
screenings, free consumer
seminars, special-interest
workshops, special events
and day trips. Call (773)
774-4804 for more informa-
tion, except where noted.
Chess Club for checkmate chumps and new people
who want to learn the rules and
and basic strategies. Sessions
are Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Jazzercise — Jazzercise is a
fitness program that
combines aerobic exercises
with elements of jazz dance.
A series of dance routines is
set to popular music while
incorporating yoga, Pilates,
cardio-kickboxing, and other
fitness styles. The classes
move incrementally through
different intensity levels, so
anyone is welcome to join.
Classes are held at 11 a.m.
on Wednesdays and the cost
is $5.35. Line Dancing is
offered at 11:15 a.m. on the
first and third Tuesdays
of each month. Each class costs
$3.25. A variety of exercise
classes fit for every level is
available. Try the gentle-
moderate exercise class,
11:15 a.m. on Mondays and
10 a.m. on Tuesdays that fea-
tures a combination of seated
and standing exercises for
a complete cardiovascular
workout. The moderate-high
class is at 11 a.m. on
Thursdays and Fridays,
giving more of a challenge
with cardio, strengthening,
stretching, and dance routines.
Each class costs $3.25.
Computer Classes — All
classes are four weeks and
meet once a week for two
hours. Begin with level one
and advance through to level
four. Classes are regularly
forming and are offered every
month.
Golf Mill Shopping Center
is hosting “Feats of Fitness,”
a mall-walking program Mon-
days through Saturdays, to
enable seniors to walk within
an enclosed environment.
The program is sponsored
by Bethany Terrace, Golf
Mill Shopping Center, Maine
Township MaineStreamers
and Partners in Healthcare
(North Shore Physicians
Group). Health seminars and
blood pressure screenings
will be offered throughout
the year every month on the
second Wednesday. Call the
Golf Mill management office
at (847) 699-1070.
CJE SeniorLife is accepting
applicants for its Robinoue Resi-
dence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in
Skokie. Robinoue offers
residential community
composed of 24 affordable
units in a one-story building,
in a warm, friendly setting
designed to serve seniors,
62-years and older, who may
need a helping hand. Staff is
available on-site, 24 hours
a day, in case of emergency.
Additional support servic-
Advertorial
THE FAMILY DOG
Readers: During this time of the year, new puppies are often given as gifts. With this in
mind, the following Q&A is being re-printed.
Q: How do I introduce a crate to my new puppy?
A: In time, a crate will provide your puppy with a sense of his own. Done correctly, crate
training will also offer comfort and safety to your puppy.
Upon bringing your puppy home the second place your dog should visit will be the crate,
after you have taken him to the yard to pootty. Initially, sit on the floor with your puppy
directly in front of the crate with the door open. Show him a piece of food. Ideally, use a
liver treat, a piece of cheese or some other soft treat. If none of these are available, break up
a dog biscuit into small little pieces.
Show him the treat and place it on the floor in front of the crate opening. Allow him to eat
the treat off the floor. Repeat this procedure 5-7 times. Then put the treat in the crate at the
front. Encourage your puppy to take the treat from the crate. Do this several times. Once
your dog is taking the treat willingly begin to place the treat farther in the crate so the dog
has to really stretch to retrieve the treat. Be patient with this procedure. Do not show any
anger at all.
Once your dog is entering the crate to get the treat, shut the door. After a few seconds open
the crate and allow your dog to come out if he chooses. Gradually, increase the time the
door remains shut while your puppy is inside. Repeat these steps several times a day.
Eventually, you will be able to leave your puppy inside the crate while you move around
the area. In time you should be able to go out of sight for short periods of time and then
return so your dog can see you.
I cannot stress enough how important it is to take your time and be patient. Your puppy
needs you to help him gain the confidence he will need to enjoy his crate.
Jeff Green, owner of Total Recall Dog Training, has been involved in dog training and
competitive obedience since 1992 and has won multiple top obedience competition awards
throughout the mid-west with his Border Collies.
Our readers are encouraged to submit no more than 2 questions to info@trainmydog.com.
Each month, he will answer questions that he feels present the most interesting or common
issues among dog owners. If you would like to inquire about Jeff’s services, he can be
reached at 847-721-0234 or visit his website at www.trainmydog.com.
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Fourth-grader Daniela Marin plays the recorder during Carpenter School's Holiday Sing on Dec. 22.

HOLIDAY SING

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bar Association fundraiser Jan. 28
“LawLawPalooza,” the Chicago Bar Association’s 88th annual Holiday Spirits Revue, will hit the stage at 8 p.m., Jan. 28 at Oakton’s Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. LawLawPalooza showcases some of Chicago’s best legal minds taking a satirical look at the political, sports, and celebrity newsmakers of 2011. All proceeds from this performance benefit Oakton’s Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are $50, which includes a post-performance reception, and may be reserved by calling the Educational Foundation at (847) 635-1893.

Info session on nursing courses
A free information session on nursing will be given at 4 p.m. Jan. 17 at Oakton’s Des Plaines campus, 1600 East Golf Road (Room 1610). According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for registered nurses is expected to increase by 22 percent from 2008 to 2018, faster than the average for all occupations due in part to technological advances in patient care. The seminar showcases Oakton’s degree and certificate programs in this field. Faculty will be on hand to discuss course requirements and industry trends.

To reserve a spot, visit www.oakton.edu/healthcareers or call (847) 635-1700.

Emeritus Passages program resumes
Join local experts for “Passages Seminar,” a series of potpourri lectures offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton. The eight-week series meets 1-2:30 p.m., Tuesdays starting Jan. 17, and kicks off with “How Painters Paint,” which details how an American Impressionist painter transforms a sheet of white paper into a work of art. Other lectures include “From Snow Bird to Song Bird: The Art of Phoebe Snow” (Jan. 24); “Israel Now: Art, Architecture, and Parks” (Jan. 31); “Les Miserables” (Feb. 7); “George Orwell: Writer and Fighter” (Feb. 14); “Alexander: The End of an Empire” (Feb. 21); “Poetry: The Warp and Weave of Life” (Feb. 28); and “Modern China’s Architecture” (March 6).

Lectures take place at Oakton’s Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave. The series-only fee is $40 for in-district residents age 60 and over, and $55 for out-of-district residents and those under age 60. All registrants will be charged an $8 non-refundable processing fee at the time of registration. However, students who register online will only be charged once per semester for an unlimited number of courses. Those registering in person, by mail, or fax will be charged an $8 fee with each registration form.

For more information about the Emeritus Program, call (847) 635-1414 or call (847) 982-9888 and press 3. For a complete list of Emeritus classes and events, visit www.oakton.edu/emeritus.
**Emeritus slate**

Start the new year off by delving into art, religion, or history by enrolling in classes offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton.

**Sketching and Painting with Watercolor or Acrylic (ART D07-71)** - Learn how to create a masterpiece from an American impressionist artist. All levels welcome. Eight-week course meets 4-6 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 18. Course fee is $128.

**The New Testament: Who Really Wrote the Gospels? (HUM E02-71)** - This new course explores the identities of the authors of the four gospels and how they were chosen by the early church. Six-week course meets 1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays, starting Jan. 19. Course fee is $64.

**Beat the winter blues**

Beat the winter blues by enrolling in challenging noncredit courses offered at Niles North High School through the Oakton Alliance for Lifelong Learning:

**Public Speaking with Confidence (COM B02-01)** - Learn how to organize a speech, make impromptu presentations, and improve delivery. Eight-week course meets 7:30-10 p.m. Mondays starting Jan. 23. Course fee is $160.

**Polish I (LPO B01-01)** - Learn why the short vowels are always pronounced. Eight-week course meets 7:30-10 p.m. Mondays starting Jan. 23. Course fee is $154.

**European Pastry Baking (HEC C05-01)** - Entertain friends and family by discovering how to serve delicious homemade pastries including meringues, éclairs, tiramisu, and French tarts. Four-week course meets 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 25. Course fee is $94.

**Role of women in Jewish literature**

How do Jewish literature portray the role of women in society and their relationships with their fathers? Find out by attending "Fathers and Daughters In a Changing World," a free six-week seminar at Oakton. Presented by the Oakton Library, the series of readings, lectures, and group discussions will be led by Benjamin Goluboff, associate professor of English and winner of Lake Forest College's Great Teacher Award.

The cultural exploration meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays starting Jan. 25, and concludes with "Tevye the Dairyman" by Sholem Aleichem. Other presentations include: "Bread Givers by Albina Yezierska (Feb. 22); Park Avenue: A Memoir by Anne Ralph (March 21); American Pastoral by Philip Roth (April 18); Bee Season by Myla Goldberg (May 9)." "Fathers and Daughters In a Changing World" is made possible by a generous grant from the Oakton Educational Foundation and Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave. Copies of the books may be borrowed from the Skokie campus library. Participants are not required to attend all sessions.

Register by contacting the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at (847) 982-9888 (press 3).
Your Local Worship Guide

CHICAGO

Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m. Evensong,
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Traditions
9:15 a.m. Spirit Bridge
10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Ma Haider, Worship /Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Juvenile

North Shore Unitarian Church
Deerfield, IL Phone: 847-234-2460
www.nsuc.org
Every Sunday at
9:15AM & 11:15AM

Norwood Park Lutheran Church
5917 N. Nina Ave.
Chicago, IL
773-631-2860
Fax: 773-631-0142
Sunday Service 10AM
Sunday School 9AM
(September thru May)
Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor

DEERFIELD

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM
St. Paul Lutheran Christian Day
School, Pre K-Graide 8, SHARING GOD,
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

Morton Grove Community Church
PresbyterianChurch (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin) in Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2962
www.mgccpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

NORWOOD PARK

Putnam Park Lutheran Church
5917 N. Nina Ave.
Chicago, IL
773-631-2860
Fax: 773-631-0142
Sunday School 9AM
(September thru May)
Rev. Robert C. Johnson, Pastor

NORTHEAST

St. John Lutheran Church
7429 Milwaukee Ave., Niles
847-647-9867
www.st-john-niles.org
Sunday Service 9:30AM

NORTHSIDE

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Avenue
847-823-4135
www.parkridgepresby.org
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM

To showcase your House of Worship here
call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
beginning at 5 p.m. at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level. The building is handicap accessible. TOPS has helped individuals live healthier lives since 1948 with a combination of sensible eating, regular exercise, and ongoing support to help members achieve and maintain their weight-loss goals. Women, men, teens and preteens committed to exercising, and ongoing support to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call (847) 295-6543 or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

MOMS Club of Northern Chicagoland holds weekly activities (such as playgroups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicagoland or e-mail chicagomomsclub@gmail.com.

One Hope United, formerly Kids Hope United, is seeking foster, adoptive parents to provide homes for at-risk children. Call (847) 249-6543 or visit www.onehopeunited.org.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery is a safe haven for children, newborn to age 6, whose families are experiencing crises in their lives, such as job/medical issues, homelessness, domestic violence or other stressful situations. The nursery cares for children for up to 72 hours while parents concentrate on resolving the problems that are the root cause of the stress. There are no charges for services. Children are cared for by professionals and skilled childcare volunteers.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery is available to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 24 hour helpline number is (773) 205-3637. For additional information, call (773) 205-3600.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban, invites the public to attend its Family Support Group for families of individuals with a mental illness. Program is free and meets 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Niles Park District Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2252.

The local TOPS Club chapter meets at 5 p.m. Mondays at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level (handicap accessible). TOPS meetings are open to women, men and teens. Cost is nominal. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Call (847) 966-4871 to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call TOPS Headquarters at 1-800-932-8677.
The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance-Greater Chicago has free support groups for people with mood disorders and support groups for their families. Meetings take place 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Monday of every month at Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge, Evanston, in Rooms G952 and 954. Call Elaine at (847) 674-6376.

An Alzheimer’s Caregivers support group, co-sponsored by Advocate Medical Group and the Alzheimer’s Association, is offered monthly at the Nestes Pavilion on the campus of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Meetings are 1:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the lower-level conference room of Nestes Pavilion, 7775 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Meetings are free and no registration is required. Contact Sandy Guarse, (847) 318-2501.

The Neptune Society, the largest independent cremation company in the nation based in Des Plaines, is bringing comforting teddy bears to Chicago area children who are hurt, frightened or alone. The Neptune Society Teddy Bear Program names a teddy bear in honor of every person whose death is handled by Neptune on the one-year anniversary of their death. The teddy bears are then donated to organizations such as Rainbow Hospice in Park Ridge and local fire departments to be given to a child in need.

The Les Turner ALS Foundation Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. For directions, call (847) 675-0951. Those attending are asked to notify Claire Owen, director of patient services, (847) 679-3311 or cowen@lusterneals.org.

Grandparents As Caregivers, a program sponsored by Children’s Home+Aid, will offer grandparents an opportunity to meet other grandparents, share concerns and talk about interesting topics that will help them care for their grandchildren. Meetings are 10-11:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Niles Public Library, 6950 Oakton St. Free child care is available with 24-hour notice. Meetings are monthly. Call Linda, (847) 640-9590.

The Stroke Club of Advocate Lutheran General Hospitals meets 3-4:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Outpatient Therapy Center, Church and Porter avenues, Des Plaines. Call Megan Potterfield, (847) 723-6690.

Holding Onto Hope - Rainbow Hospice is a monthly daytime group for widowed people grieving the loss of a spouse. It meets 1-2:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Park Ridge Non-Profit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. The fee is $5 per session. Call (847) 692-8884.

If you are interested in participating in this feature, please contact Call Bankrate.com Sales Department at 800-509-4636.

**Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide**

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![Mortgage Rates Chart](http://suburbanchicagonewspapers.interest.com)

**Legend:** The rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of (5/15/2002). © 2002 Bankrate, Inc. http://www.bankrate.com. The APR may increase after commitment and may vary. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The fees are for the maximum loan amount. All rates are based on Vanishing Balloon Mortgages. Conventional loans are based on a loan amount of $150,000, a 20% down payment, and a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. ARM rates are based on a loan amount of $150,000, a 20% down payment, and a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. ARM rates are based on a loan amount of $150,000, a 20% down payment, and a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. ARM rates are based on a loan amount of $150,000, a 20% down payment, and a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. ARM rates are based on a loan amount of $150,000, a 20% down payment, and a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. ARM rates are based on a loan amount of $150,000, a 20% down payment, and a 30-year fixed rate mortgage. 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Shah takes liking to new 120 weight class

BY GARY LARSEN
Contributor

A year ago, Maine East wrestler Aayush Shah finished 11-15 at 119 pounds as an underweight sophomore, placing fourth in an IHSA Class 3A regional to barely miss a berth at sectionals.

What a difference a year makes.

New filling out the weight in this season's new 120-pound division, Shah (19-1) entered Saturday's 36th Annual Leyden Invitational as the No. 1 seed in his bracket. The junior suffered his first loss of the year, and while he was disappointed with a third-place finish, Shah is a whole different wrestler in 2012.

"I'm happy that I'm setting up and finishing my moves better this year," Shah said. "I just worked harder over the summer. I did wrestling camp, and this year we have a bunch of kids around my weight and we just go crazy in practice. And I learned from the mistakes I made last year."

Shah opened with a 10-4 quarterfinal decision win, setting up a semifinal match against Oak Forest's Mousa Jodeh. Shah stayed aggressive throughout, but Jodeh countered well in constructing a 6-1 decision win. Jodeh went on to win the title at 120.

"I don't think he shot on me once," Shah said of Jodeh. "He scored off my moves and he caught me in a front headlock. I learned that I have to prepare well for every match. I really believe I could have been wrestling for first, but I didn't prepare well enough. I was prepared mentally, but not physically. It just wasn't my day."

Shah bounced back to win a hard-fought 6-5 decision against Leyden's Dom Miro for third place, and heads into the regular season's final few weeks with a winning record — and high expectations.

"He has his weight in his class, and he's wrestling better and looks stronger," said Maine East coach Emiliano Hernandez. "He believes in his moves a little bit more and he's also being a good leader for us this year. He wrestled slow in that semifinal and wrestled so much faster in his third-place match."

The Blue Demons only placed one wrestler at Leyden tourney last season, but saw three wrestlers climb the awards stand this time around: Shah, Pablo Lopez (145), and Jacob Studinski (136).

Unseeded junior Lopez crafted an 8-4 decision over Stevenson's Cody Conway to start his day, and then upset second-seeded Andy Cocozza of Leyden to reach the semis. Lopez lost his next two matches to finish fourth.

Studinski took the long way home in finishing sixth at Leyden. The junior pinned his first opponent before losing his quarterfinal match, but then won a pair of wrestleback matches to put himself in the fifth-place match before losing by decision.

"Pablo has struggled this year but he had a good tournament," Hernandez said. "And Jacob has to get a little more consistent with his technique, but he's coming around."

Maine East's Pablo Lopez (top) wrestles Stevenson's Cody Conway during a 145-pound bout at the Leyden Invitational. [JON LANGHAM/FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA]

Demons hope to honor seniors with a victory

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

When Maine East girls' gymnastics coach Amanda Harrison thinks back to 2011-12 season, it's safe to say she won't have very fond memories of the first two competitions of this calendar year.

Missing several gymnasts because of personal commitments and injuries, Harrison went into last week's dual with Deerfield and Saturday's Brickworth/Munch Invite in-Evanston with a severely under-strength squad. In fact, Harrison did not even have enough gymnasts to fill all the spots on the lineup card.

The Blue Demons scored just 70.100 in a loss to Deerfield on Jan. 6 and 78.000 to finish 10th in the 11-team meet in Evanston.

Harrison is understandably more upbeat about her team's chances in tonight's final home dual meet against Highland Park, which begins at 5:30 p.m.

"If I have my full lineup, we definitely have a chance (to win)," Harrison said. "I don't want to score 70 again. (After the dual) I hope to have a victory behind us. But we have to have a full lineup."

As of Monday, there were still questions about the health of junior Kathy Kolodziejski, who missed the Deerfield dual and Evanston invite because of a back injury. The talented Kolodziejski was injured while practicing over the holiday break. She rested initially, but eventually went to see a specialist.

"We're just waiting to hear back from the doctor," she said. "She had an X-ray on Saturday." Harrison said on Monday.

The Blue Demons did regain the services of senior Tori Walley against Deerfield, but only in a limited capacity.

"Walley, who had sprained her ankle during a dual meet in December, competed on bars and beam against Deerfield, though she did not perform all her beam skills. On Saturday at Evanston, Walley added a floor routine, though with a limited degree of difficulty."

Maine East entered just three competitors in each event at Evanston, where teams are required to count four scores.

"There were some solid performances by the Maine East gymnasts who were available. Junior Anne Kaczkowski scored a 27.2. In the all-around, which included an 8.1 on vault and a 7.45 on floor."

Maine East senior Shyla Avila scored a 6.25 on bars, coming in 30th.

"Shyla has a good bar routine," Harrison said. "We've been working on bars throughout the break, trying to work out the kinks. We still have some minor tweaks to make on bars, but it's coming along."

Another positive for Maine East this season has been the performance of its freshman team. The squad, coached by Abbey Bernardo, entered this week with just one loss in the CSL North.

Tonight's Highland Park meet also will include Senior Night celebrations honoring the team's two 12th-graders, Walley and Avila.

"They have both been varsity members for four years," said Harrison, who has been the head coach for the last two seasons. "(Walley and Avila) keep the team motivated. If anything is going on in the gym, they can help out, they do. They rarely miss a practice and they are attuned to the sport, always wanting to learn more. They are just great kids."

The Blue Demons will compete in the Niles North Invite at noon Saturday.
### IN THE POOL

Blue Devil Swim Club member Nicole Baclum competes in the Girls 11-12 100 Yard Breaststroke at the Glenbrook Aquatics Super Team Meet on Saturday. | MORIAN GLIVER-SUN TIMES MEDIA

### THIS WEEK

#### NOTRE DAME

**Today**
- Wrestling at St. Patrick w/Marist, 5:15 p.m.
- Hockey vs. Brother Rice at Oak Lawn, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday**
- Basketball hosts Loyola, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday**
- Basketball at Nazareth, 7:30 p.m.
- Bowling at Chicago Cath. League Champions at Willowbrook Lanes, 10 a.m.
- Wrestling at Grant, w/Lake Park, 9 a.m.

**Tuesday**
- Swimming at Lake Forest, 4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**
- Hockey vs. St. Viator at Niles-East, 5 p.m.

**Thursday**
- Wrestling at Highland Park, 5:30 p.m.
- Wrestling hosts Jda Crown, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday**
- Boys basketball hosts Niles North, 5 p.m.
- Wrestling at Deerfield, 7 p.m.

#### NILES WEST

**Today**
- Girls gymnastics hosts Maine South, 5:30 p.m.
- Wrestling at Niles North, 6 p.m.

**Friday**
- Girls basketball at Waukegan, 7:30 p.m.
- Boys swimming at Glenbrook South, 5:30 p.m.
- Boys basketball hosts Waukegan, 7:30 p.m.
- Wrestling hosts Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.

**Saturday**
- Boys dive at Hinsdale Central Invite, 8:30 a.m.
- Wrestling at Lincoln-Way East Invite, 8:30 a.m.
- Boys swimming at Glenbrook South Titan Relays, 11 a.m.

#### NILES NORTH

**Today**
- Wrestling hosts Niles West, 6 p.m.

**Friday**
- Wrestling hosts Highland Park, 6 p.m.
- Boys basketball at Deerfield, 7:30 p.m.
- Girls basketball hosts Deerfield, 7:30 p.m.
- Boys swim/dive at Maine East, 5 p.m.

**Saturday**
- Girls gymnastics hosts Invite, noon
- Girls basketball at Lane Tech, 2:30 p.m.
- Boys swim/dive hosts St. Viator, 10 a.m.
- Boys basketball hosts Leyden, 7 p.m.

### NILES WEST

#### THIS WEEK

**Friday, January 13**
- 10:00 Mike Hubert: Mexico's 4 Million Oaxaca's History of Oaxaca
- 2:00 Canadian & US Resorts Highlighted
- 4:00 Keyes Outdoors, Jpn Sails Display
- 5:00 Bucktail Burning Contest
- 7:00 Tony Grant: Spring Inland Sails

**Saturday, January 14**
- 10:00 Steve Hettig: Kansas Decades
- 11:30 Scott Kleinshmidt: AIW Express
- 1:00 Jim Saric: Hall of Fame Induction
- 2:30 Joe Bucher: Poolside Demo
- 4:30-6:00 Open Pool: Featuring All Exhibitors
- 4:50 Larry Dalberg: The Life of Paddles
- 5:15 Johnny DasTech: Chicago's North Sails

**Sunday, January 15**
- 10:00 Joe Bucher: Poolside Demo
- 11:30 Rollie & Helen's Poolside Demo: More Activities

**Monday, January 16**
- 7:00-9:00 Open Pool: Featuring All Exhibitors
- 2:00 Adam Oberfell: Change Your Tactics

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**Chicago Muskies Show**

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Players looking for answers during Niles West's skid

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

The message in the locker room after Niles West's disappointing 57-36 home loss to Glenbrook South on Friday was about the need to play with more heart.

But the words weren't delivered by Wolves head coach Bob Williams or his assistants.

The Wolves conducted a players-only meeting after the defeat, which was Niles West's seventh in a row and dropped the Wolves to 2-10, 0-4.

"Friday night was extremely disappointing and unexpected," Williams said. "We had been practicing and playing better. Things seemed to be going in the right direction. But it seemed like on Friday everything was going in the wrong direction.

"I'm not sure what happened (in the meeting), but I hope a lot of people stepped up and hopefully kids were honest with each other. We've had a difficult stretch, but there is no quit in the team. We've shown signs of being a good team and we've been competitive with some of the best teams in the state. We have that in us. Friday was a setback, but it was not the end of the season. We have time to work and get better."

Glenbrook South (3-1, 1-3) has experienced many of the same struggles as Niles West this season. In addition, it was the Titans' first game without starter Matt Powers, who suffered a season-ending injury earlier in the week.

GBS had dedicated the game to their fallen comrade and came out playing with a lot of emotion.

Niles West junior guard Joe Younan, who scored a team-high 10 in the fourth quarter, as GBS forward Justin Busiel (21 points) converted layup after layup.

The third quarter was more of the same as Glenbrook South upped its 12-point halftime advantage to 20.

Niles West junior David McCoy did have six of his game-high 21 points in the third quarter, but Niles West never got closer than 15 points.

"A lot of times (in the second and third quarters) we fell asleep. We'd miss a shot and we'd jog back and they'd get wide open layups, and that started their run," said Niles West junior guard Joe Younan, who scored nine points. "Once we got down, we just kind of died. There was no heart to come back into the game."

Younan said every player is responsible for correcting that problem.

"It's everybody... everybody has to bring the heart. You have to bring it every day to practice and every game," he said.

Williams pointed out that the long-term absence through injury of seniors Nate Sagett and Alek Biser likely have affected the team's leadership, in addition to robbing the club of two talented players. The pair only recently returned to the court, and both are still trying to get reacquainted with the flow they showed last season.

"I seldom talk about this, but Sagett and Biser have only been on the floor together for the last two games," Williams said. "That affects us. They are our vocal leaders, but they were not playing. When you get back after a long time, it's hard to get back into the flow and hard to be a vocal leader because you need to focus on your game and getting back into shape."

Up next, Niles West hosts Waukegan at 7:30 p.m. Friday before visiting St. Patrick at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.
Hawks get leg up on Dons at memorial meet

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

Memorial tribute or not, Notre Dame head coach Augie Genovesi lectured his team for 15 minutes after less experienced Maine South defeated the host Dons 30-27 on Saturday.

"That was disappointing. Some of our younger kids stepped in and did a good job, but some of our veterans did not perform up to expectations," said Genovesi.

The young Hawks (15-3) came up with pins down the stretch at 170 and 285 to offset pins by Dons seniors Kevin Stahmer at 182 and Ryan Walsh at 220.

Colton Kelly won a lopsided decision at 195, but could not deliver a fall. Maine South's Terry Calkins edged Scott Smith in a battle of returning state qualifiers at 120.

But this was hardly a lost weekend for Notre Dame (13-4, 4-0), which annihilated host St. Viator 78-0 and Nazareth 70-9 in an ESCC double dual on Friday.

Walsh, back from a sore ankle, was dominant in a 14-3 win over Nazareth senior Malcolm Watson, who was ranked No. 5 in Class 2A by Illinois Matmen.

Saturday's result was far less important than paying homage to former state qualifiers Kevin McCann of Notre Dame and Brett Barman of Maine South for the seventh consecutive year. Best friends since age 5, the two were fatally shot in an incident at North Carolina State University on Labor Day weekend of 2004.

"It's about celebrating the lives of two great kids," said an emotional Genovesi. "They were class acts and represented everything a wrestler is supposed to be about.

Many Dons and Hawks know each other from the Maine Eagles junior wrestling program. They met at a local establishment after the meet. The Dons also held a separate fund-raiser on Sunday.

Notre Dame is still missing four key wrestlers battling lengthy ailments. Junior Johnny Doyle, recovered from a back injury, looked good in his season debut Saturday despite a 7-4 loss. Junior Joe Cortese, a returning state qualifier, is on the mend from a slightly dislocated shoulder and should return to the 152-pound ranks in a week or so.

Genovesi's troops have patiently maintained a long-term goal of excelling in the IHSA state competition in their first season in Class 2A, where they are currently ranked No. 3. Three key Dons have made their desired weights. Smith is down to 113, senior standout Tim Donnelly is ready at 138 and on-the-rise junior Jimmy Bianco will finish at 132.

Notre Dame wrestles one absolutely stacked team and three strong ones this weekend. The Dons and St. Patrick visit defending ESCC champion Marist at 5:15 p.m. on Friday. The Dons take on host Grant and Lake Park on Saturday.

The Sun-Times moved Marist up to No. 2 in 3A after it knocked off Sandburg. Illinois Matmen ranks seven Redhawks, all underclassmen, between Nos. 3 and 12 in their respective classes, and three others honorable mention. Donnelly could meet St. Patrick junior Steve Gallardo in a battle between 2A's No. 7 and No. 6 at 138.

Notre Dame showed Sunday that it is the king of Iceland in Niles.

In a showdown between two teams that call the facility home, the "visiting" Dons stopped Maine 4-2.

The Dons started off sluggish as Maine jumped ahead 2-0 in the first period. The Dons came out looking like a new team in the second period.

Brandon Taylor started it off by stealing the puck in front of Maine's net and beating the goalie.

A few minutes later, Jack Golden received a pass from Steve Kavanagh, skated through Maine's defense and buried a shot into the upper right-hand corner.

Deadlocked heading into the third period, Golden snapped the tie with four minutes remaining. Vince Pergande intercepted a pass and fed Kavanagh for the empty-netter.

The Dons also trimmed Fremd 4-3 on Jan. 4 in Hoffman Estates. Notre Dame made the most of its 10 shots on goal as Taylor, (assisted by Kavanagh), Dan Reno (Michael Zelko), Kavanagh (Taylor, Pergande) and freshman Brendan Golden lit the lamp.

The Dons tumbled on Saturday to St. Rita, 6-0.
Niles West superstar Jewell Loyd scored early and late in a 53-40 win over Glenbrook South in Skokie on Friday.

In between two big scoring bursts, the senior deferred to her teammates.

Loyd hit four first-quarter three-pointers, and scored 16 points of her 28 points in the opening nine minutes, as the Wolves (15-4, 4-1) built an early double-digit advantage.

But after that, Loyd didn’t come alive again offensively until the fourth quarter, when her seven straight points stretched a precarious five-point Wolves lead to a nearly insurmountable 12-point edge.

“There was no need for me to push myself or force stuff (during the middle two quarters). I have confidence in my team. I trust them and they trust me,” said Loyd, who had 11 rebounds. “When it was crunch time, I looked up and I was like, ‘Alright, it’s time to go, time to put the cherry on top.’”

Late in the second quarter, Loyd left the floor briefly after twisting her ankle while attempting to block a shot. But the Notre Dame-bound senior insisted she wasn’t bothered by the injury after that.

Niles West sophomore Dashae Shumate scored 12 points in the contest, most of them coming during the stretch, when Loyd was silent. Shumate scored a key bucket midway through the third quarter after GBS (14-4, 9-2) had cut Niles West’s lead to just three points. She also turned a three-point play early in the fourth.

Shumate was strong going to the basket, and finished 6-for-9 from the free-throw line.

“Deshae, I’m excited for her. She’s come on and is getting better and better,” said Niles West head coach Tony Konsewicz. “I was really happy because she had some nice driving lay-ins that she converted. She’s been a little snakebit, missing a couple layups. But she battled in there.”

Konsewicz also has been pleased with Shumate’s play on defense.

“We told her that Jewell really turned it up defensively between (the start of) her sophomore and junior year,” Konsewicz said. “So we’d like to think Shay is starting to follow in those footsteps, where she can crank it up defensively.”

Defense had been a major focus for the Wolves in the week leading up to the Glenbrook South game, and they responded with a strong defensive effort on the perimeter, holding the Titans to just 1-for-7 shooting from three-point range.

Glenbrook South also helped Niles West’s defensive state by missing several open layups and shooting just 10-for-22 from the free-throw line.

Another key to Niles West’s performance on both sides of the ball was the return from injury of junior Molly Kleppin, who had been out since early December. Kleppin played three minutes off the bench in the first half.

“At halftime, she said she felt great,” Konsewicz said. “So we tried to extend her minutes in the second half. She’s such a big part of our defense and what we do, not only what she does on her (opponent), but she covers up and rotates really well.”

Kleppin scored three points, as did senior Liz Troyk, and senior center Jackie Cardenas had four points and five rebounds. Sophomore guard Alex Galanopoulos added a bucket for Niles West.

Konsewicz said it’s important for the Wolves to continue to get points from players other than Loyd.

“Jewell is so unselfish with the ball. If she doesn’t have to carry the load, that’s a plus for us,” the coach said. “We’re a young team, starting two sophomores, but the more confidence we get those other girls, the better we’re going to be in February (for the IHSA postseason).”

Konsewicz labels Niles West’s schedule as one of the toughest in the state. No team will experience a tougher stretch than the Wolves over the next week.

Niles West visits Waukegan at 7:30 p.m. Friday before returning home to face powerhouse Whitney Young at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The Wolves then face three-time defending Class 4A state champion Bolingbrook in the marquee game of the Chicagoland Girls Prep Classic Shootout, at Willowbrook, at 7 p.m. Monday.
Abdominal fat reducer provided to Hollywood stars by famous plastic surgeon now available to public

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