JOB ‘PERKS’

Kosta Alevizos, center, takes orders while Suhib Ali, left, makes coffee at the Molloy Perks Cafe on Jan. 19 at Molloy Education Center in Morton Grove. PAGE 6. ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

INSIDE

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Risotto turns humble staple to gourmet delight PAGE 30

MOMMY ON A SHOESTRING
Make family fun night sweet with dessert games PAGE 7

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**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Village responds to winter’s second snowstorm**

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

Niles Public Works employees worked nearly around the clock until about 3 a.m. Jan. 21 following the major snowstorm that blanketed the town in white on Jan. 20. Niles received about 7.5 inches of snow on Jan. 20, according to Niles Public Works Director Scott Jochim.

“We had all our guys out and we brought out a couple of the retired guys,” Jochim said.

As of Jan. 23, Jochim said, the village was still figuring out how much salt it used in last week’s storm. He said the village still has plenty of salt in its salt dome.

Jochim said Public Works employees were also faced with a couple of water-main breaks that occurred before the hardest part of the storm coming down.

“It always puts a damper on things,” Jochim said of the water-main breaks.

Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene said eight accidents were storm-related, but that no severe injuries and no fatalities occurred.

**VILLAGE HALL**

**Panel wants to promote Niles’ awards on new sign at plaza**

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

Panel members were also faced

The committee charged with choosing a new name to put on the sign in front of the former Blase Plaza at Niles Village Hall is nearing a decision.

Ethics Board Chairman Rosemary Palicki said the committee decided that it did not want to name the plaza after a particular person, as it had been named after former Mayor Nicholas Blase.

Instead, Palicki said, members want to put on a pair of awards that the village of Niles has received:

- the All-American Award it received in the early-1990s and the Bloomberg “Best Place to Raise a Family Award” that it recently received.

“Most of the suggestions did not encompass the family theme,” Palicki said.

The committee’s recommendation will likely go to the village board for approval in March.

Palicki said the committee discussed possibly incorporating logos of the two awards into the sign, though there is no official logo for the Bloomberg award.

The committee received 22 different suggestions from residents regarding what the new name of the plaza should be.

“Most of the suggestions did not encompass the family theme,” Palicki said.

Palicki said one person suggested naming the plaza after a historic figure; other suggestions included “People’s Plaza” and similar names.

The committee is also considering putting up a piece of artwork that has a family theme.

Palicki said officials are considering having high school students participate in a contest and having the winner’s art work displayed.

**ETHICS BOARD**

**Village employees’ service on outside committees examined**

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

A new provision in the employee manual aimed at avoiding potential conflicts of interest regarding village employees who serve as officers or board members for other organizations is being discussed by the Niles Board of Ethics.

Members on Jan. 17 continued a discussion from last month’s Ethics Board meeting regarding Police Cmdr. Joe Penze’s being appointed second vice president of the Niles Chamber of Commerce.

Village Trustee Louella Preston approached the Board of Ethics at its December board meeting to share her concerns regarding a possible conflict of interest, as Penze would be in line to become president of the Niles Chamber of Commerce in two years. Preston attended the Jan. 17 meeting, emphasizing that her concern was specifically regarding employees serving on non-governmental organizations while “on the clock” at their village jobs.

Board members supported creating a provision in the employee manual that requires training for supervisors and employees to help avoid potential conflicts of interest in such situations. They feel it’s important for employees to receive training so they don’t unknowingly wind up in a situation that presents a possible conflict of interest.

At the Jan. 17 meeting, Village Manager George Van Geem and Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki both supported Penze’s appointment to the Chamber.

“I’ve always been a proponent of village employees being involved in the community as much as possible,” Van Geem said.

Van Geem said he supports police personnel being more accessible and involved in the community so residents know they need not be afraid of them.

Strzelecki said he served on the Niles Chamber board for seven years and would just recuse himself if there was a possible conflict of interest.

“There was never an issue,” Strzelecki said of his serving in both capacities.

Ethics Board Chairman Jim Hynes said he felt it supervisors should be responsible for any issues related to taking too much time away from their jobs in order to serve on another board.

Hynes said he will work with Village Attorney Joseph Amunzio to draft language regarding the provision, to be reviewed at next month’s Ethics Board meeting.

**VILLAGE BOARD**

**Quarter-cent sales tax hike would fund flood mitigation, pensions**

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

The board was also considering a cost-sharing program that would cost $450,000 per year. Money generated from the tax hike would fund the program.

Under the cost-sharing plan, the village and residents would split the costs of installing overhead sewers in private homes.

At the previous village-board meeting some trustees told Van Geem they were opposed to the idea of a cost-sharing program because the village should focus on fixing the infrastructure.

If the board were to approve the sales-tax increase the village would collect about $2.1 million, said Niles Finance Director Scott Neukirch.

“I believe that money should be spent on work that will benefit the greatest number of people in our community,” said Niles Village Trustee Rosemary Palicki. “If this program was to be funded by a tax, we would be helping a small number of individual homeowners increase the value of their houses at the taxpayers’ expense.”

If the village decides to spend $10 million for the initial phase on capital projects there would be about $385,000 available for pensions. If the board spends $15 million on the initial phase, $550,000 would be available for pensions.
Perks Cafe lets kids learn while they earn

BY CATHY GRAN

On Thursday mornings, the smell of fresh coffee wafts through the halls of the Molloy Education Center in Morton Grove.

Manning the Perks Cafe from 9-10 a.m. are high-school-aged students who have physical or learning disabilities and attend the center, which serves residents of Niles Township.

The cafe, a new program offered this school year, allows students an opportunity to improve their communication, socialization and vocational skills, uses concepts learned in speech-, occupational- and physical-therapy sessions, Principal Michael Meyers said.

"The therapists and the teachers brainstormed this project," he said. "It's a clever way to integrate therapies in a more meaningful way."

The center always has offered a cooking component to its curriculum, Meyers said.

"It used to be snacks, but now we have muffins, cookies," he said.

The advent of single-serve machines allows students to safely brew coffee and make hot chocolate, he added.

"And the kids have to do the shopping, preparations, budgeting," he continued. "There's the cleanup component where we work on (food-service) hygiene issues."

For teachers who can't make it to the cafe during operating hours, students take orders for delivery.

"With the delivery service, we get more kids involved," said Jenny Spiegel, speech language pathologist. "This program is multifaceted. It gives the kids more things to do."

"They work on fine and gross motor skills, communication. It targets all their skills." And we keep tweaking the program as the year progresses."

Café attendants recently began sporting uniforms, Spiegel noted.

"And while not quite a self-sustaining program, the cafe does offer a perk of its own to participants. "The kids earn enough money to have a party at the end of the year," Meyers said.
Sweet family fun nights

BY BETH ENGELMAN

Mommy on a Shoestring

Beth Engelman uses chocolate chips and graham crackers to make dominoes. [DAN LUEDERT-SUN TIMES MEDIA]

Candy Chess

This tasteful game comes from Sharon Bowers' fantastic book, Candy Construction (Storey Publishing, 2010). For more information about this book as well as others by Bowers, visit www.storey.com.

You need:
2 kinds of chocolate kisses
Structurally interesting candy (such as licorice allsorts, chocolate truffles, mini peanut butter cups and marshmallows)
Chess board
Frosting

Directions:
Use chocolate kisses as pawns. Be sure to choose a different color for each player such as white-striped or dark chocolate. You need 8 pawns per player.
Use frosting as glue to build castles, knights and bishops with licorice allsorts and/or peanut butter cups. Top each piece with a corresponding chocolate kiss. Be sure to make two castles, two knights and two bishops per player.
Add royal flair to your kings and queens with chocolate truffles, marshmallows and any other candy that might inspire you. You will need one king and one queen per player.

Need a chess refresher? Visit www.chessguru.net for rules, strategies and more.

Candy Matching

A great game to play with leftover holiday candies and treats, this game is perfect on days when you're looking for something different to do with the kids.

You need:
12-20 small paper cups (the more cups you have, the more challenging the game)
6-10 pairs of candies (such as kisses, gummies, licorice allsorts, etc.)

Directions:
Set up the game by placing one piece of candy under each cup.
Slide the cups around to mix up the board.
Just like a traditional matching game, players take turns turning cups over to find matches.
If a player finds a match, she gets to keep the candy and play again. The person with the most candies at the end of the game wins!

For how-to videos and more photos, go to www.pioneerlocal.com/mommy

Edible Dominoes

This idea comes courtesy of Shannon Payette Seip and Kelly Parthen, authors of Bean Appetit (Andrews McMeel, 2010) and founders of Bean Sprouts Café & Cooking School. Be sure to check out their website, www.beansprouts.com, for family friendly recipes and updates on their soon-to-be opened café in Deerfield.

You need:
Graham crackers
Cookie icing
Chocolate chips

Directions:
To make a “domino,” draw a line with icing down the middle of the graham cracker.
Place from zero to six dots on each side of the cracker. Repeat steps until you have made 28 unique “dominoes.”


Engelman shows how to use sweets to make games the whole family can enjoy. [DAN LUEDERT-SUN TIMES MEDIA]

Cookie Reversi

If you can open a bag of cookies, you can play this game but don't let the simplicity fool you. Reversi is a game of strategy that's easy to learn but hard to master. Thank you to Sharon Bowers and Candy Construction for inspiring this idea.

You need:
Chocolate and vanilla sandwich cookies
Reversi board (download PDF at www.pioneerlocal.com/mommy)

Set-up:
Before setting up the game, players must choose their flavor (chocolate or vanilla).
Give each player approximately 30 cookies.

Directions:
Each player places 2 pieces diagonally in the middle of the board.
Players take turns placing game pieces on the board so that a line exists between their new piece and another like-colored piece, while also being next to an opposing piece. After placing the new piece on the board, all pieces within that line are flipped over to match the player's color.
The person with the most pieces on the board at the end of the game wins (and gets a cookie!)

For more information, check out this link where you can learn the rules and practice online: www.mah-jongg.ch/reversi/reversi.html.

Make your next family fun night a little sweeter with these easy to make games that double as dessert.
Members of a Park Ridge congregation this month took a formal and, some would say, bold step toward an increased level of acceptance by the church.

The membership of First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., voted Jan. 8 to become a “reconciling congregation,” establishing the church as one that welcomes homosexual, bisexual and transgender people for worship.

“To be a reconciling congregation means that we are ‘open to and welcoming of anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity,’” explained the Rev. Rich Darr, lead pastor of First United Methodist Church.

The reconciling movement is a nationwide endeavor “mobilizing United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our church and world into the full expression of Christ’s inclusive love,” according to the Reconciling Ministries Network. The Park Ridge congregation is now one of nearly 500 Methodist churches, campus ministries and other faith-based groups to join the Reconciling Ministries Network, a statement released by the church said.

The process of becoming a reconciling congregation took more than a year and included a series of meetings, bible studies, films and open dialogue, Darr said.

“I feel it’s extremely important because it reflects the teaching and example of Jesus Christ,” the pastor said of the church’s stance. “He taught unconditional love, through his teachings and his example.”

This month 112 members of the church voted in favor of the reconciling position, Darr said. Two members voted against the measure and two members abstained from voting.

The church also adopted a new welcoming statement inviting “all persons to participate fully in the life of our church regardless of age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental condition, marital status, family situation, or economic standing.”

At the heart of the reconciling movement is letting members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community know they are accepted within the church.

“We need to speak out, be explicit,” Darr said. “We need to explicitly welcome these persons.”

Members of the church with gay family members helped to lead the movement, Darr said. As the brother of a gay man who was forced to leave his conservative congregation after he revealed his sexual orientation, Darr understands the struggles of gay and lesbian Methodists and their families.

“It hits close to home,” the pastor acknowledged. “And there are a lot of people in our church for whom it also hits close to home.”

In a statement released by the church, Associate Pastor Carol Hill called the reconciling movement a “bold step for our congregation.”

“The general church has caused pain to many gay and lesbian persons, as well as their families and friends, with statements of condemnation,” she said. “Our vote doesn’t undo the damage that has been done, but it’s an important step forward.”

That’s not to say the change did not come with some resistance from church members.

“It’s a very contentious issue,” Darr acknowledged, explaining there “absolutely” was initial resistance, but that a “healthy, open dialogue” followed.

Though members will see changes within the congregation, they will not be radical changes, Darr believes.

“We’re the same people,” he said. “We were open, we were welcoming — we just didn’t make it explicit. Now we are.”

Darr is also among a number of Methodist clergy from across the United States who have grieved to conduct civil union ceremonies and blessings of same-sex couples. But just like the heterosexual couples who ask to be married in his church, same-sex couples will first need to meet Darr’s strict prerequisites, such as being members of the church and completing counseling.
FBI: Edison Park man planned phony Bin Laden threats from Park Ridge home

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

An Edison Park man accused of mailing threatening letters to dozens of businesses and individuals across the country while claiming to be Osama Bin Laden reportedly had a connection to Park Ridge, a document from the U.S. Attorney's Office reveals.

Timothy P. O'Donnell, 51, of 6661 N. Octavia Ave, Chicago, was Indicted Jan. 5 on nine counts of falsifying the use of explosives, following an FBI investigation.

O'Donnell has entered a not guilty plea to the charges and was released on bond Jan. 12. He has also been ordered to undergo a mental-competency examination, court documents show.

According to an FBI search warrant affidavit provided to the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate from the U.S. Attorney's Office, O'Donnell stands accused of mailing threatening letters to about 40 addresses in 16 states claiming that Al-Qaeda had planted "nuclear" bombs throughout the U.S., in schools, stadiums, churches, stores, financial institutions and government buildings.

The "identically-worded" letters, received by schools, law-enforcement agencies, municipalities, a medical facility, private individuals and religious institutions, claimed to be from Osama Bin Laden and were mailed from Chicago during March 2011, the affidavit states.

In the course of the FBI's investigation it was learned that O'Donnell was reportedly seen visiting a home on the 400 block of South Fairview Avenue in Park Ridge, where a computer was allegedly used in March 2011 to visit the websites of six of the recipients that had received the threatening letters, according to the affidavit.

These websites included the city of Miami, Fla; the police department in Ames, Iowa; a hospital in Boise, Idaho; Dubuque, Iowa, fire department; a school in Villanova, Pa.; and an individual in Nashville, Tenn.

According to authorities, law-enforcement surveillance was conducted outside the Fairview address in June 2011, where a white vehicle reportedly driven by O'Donnell was seen.

Randall Samborn, of the U.S. Attorney's Office, said no residents of the Fairview Avenue address have been charged in connection with this case. A phone call to the home was not returned early this week.

The letters that O'Donnell stands accused of mailing reportedly demanded the neutralization of all nuclear-bomb threats in the United States and a trial held in the style of a popular TV show for all those "responsible for unnecessary crimes of war, poverty and suffering of families in the world."

"Arrest them immediately and bring to O'Hare Air Force Base for a live, unedited trial on TV, just like American Idol" where people vote to determine results," the letters reportedly stated.

The writer also allegedly threatened that if these two demands were not met, "85 percent of Afghan and American families die." A number of the letters also contained the names of a British financier and a prominent American banker, stating they should be arrested, according to the affidavit.

O'Donnell is also suspected of sending additional letters in July 2011 to 16 addresses in the Chicago area. According to the affidavit, the letters written in memo form, include the subject line, "this is a nuclear bomb promise and warning — not a threat."

According to the FBI, O'Donnell's fingerprint was found on a stamp affixed to the envelope that contained one of the July letters.

 Authorities do not believe O'Donnell actually posed a threat.

"While there was never any real danger in Chicago or elsewhere, these charges demonstrate that the FBI and the Chicago Joint Terrorism Task Force will aggressively investigate all threats and there are serious consequences for those who make false threats," said Robert D. Grant, of the FBI's Chicago Office in a press release issued following O'Donnell's arrest.

The suspect's next court appearance is set for March 7.

RECONCILING

sessions. The pastor also said he will likely not perform civil union ceremonies inside the church.

First United Methodist joins two other Park Ridge congregations that have adopted similar messages of inclusion. St. Mary's Episcopal Church and St. Luke's Lutheran Church openly welcome members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

"St. Mary's has long practiced the full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in the life and ministry of the parish," said the Rev. Sarah Oderstrom, rector at St. Mary's. "Part of the reason many members here are here, and the reason they chose to come to St. Mary's, is because they have family members who are gay or lesbian and they don't want to attend a place where their child or grandchild or cousin wouldn't be welcome to come."

Oderstrom acknowledged that it can be difficult for churches to take such an inclusive stance and each must be "comfortable" with doing so.

"I think it's been a really courageous thing that First United Methodist and St. Luke's and other parishes and denominations are doing," she said.

In 2004, St. Luke's passed a resolution similar to First United Methodist Church, by welcoming "every person who comes to our church regardless of race, national and ethnic origin, age, physical, mental and emotional condition or capacity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, economic situation or addiction." The church also authorized the blessing of committed, same-sex relationships.
St. Paul Woods, at 6591 Oakton St. in Morton Grove, is located near the intersection of Lincoln and Lehigh avenues, south of Dempster Street and a block west of the Morton Grove Metra Station. The Chicago River flows through the woods, where there are vast open woodlands and picnic areas. The woods are named after the St. Paul railroad, which became part of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Co. in 1874, the railroad decided to cross the Bitterroot Mountains at St. Paul Pass. This pass was chosen because of the marketable white-pine timber and also because there was no other competing railroad nearby. Many deer and wildlife live in the area along with diverse Midwest prairie foliage.

A squirrel peeks around the corner of a tree in the woods on Jan. 3.

Deer graze in the St. Paul Woods in Morton Grove on Jan. 3.

Some leaves still remain on the trees due to the mild winter this year.

Photos by
Tamara Bell
Sun-Times Media
St. Paul Woods in Morton Grove, at 6591 Oakton St., as it appeared Jan. 3.

Prairie grass is one of the most predominant plants in the woods here.

St. Paul Woods is located near the intersection of Lincoln and Lehigh avenues, south of Dempster Street and a block west of the Morton Grove Metra Station.

More Online  Click on Photo Galleries on the home page to view more images, or go to pioneerlocal.mycapture.com to buy photos.
Chicago Wolves mascot Skates entertains visitors at Park Ridge's Oakton Ice Arena on Jan. 16. Joe Cyganowski—For Sun Times Media

Newcomers get chance to warm up to Ice Arena

Oakton Ice Arena in Park Ridge opened its rink to new and accomplished skaters alike during a special Open House on Jan. 16. The event, which gave newbies a chance to try out the ice and see what the ice-skating facility has to offer, cost just $1 and included free skate rentals. Skaters also had an opportunity to meet and get autographs from Skates, the mascot of the Chicago Wolves hockey team. Oakton Ice Arena is located at 2800 W. Oakton St.

Nathan Urquhart gets help from mom Alicia Urquhart during Oakton Ice Arena's Jan. 16 Open House in Park Ridge. Joe Cyganowski—For Sun Times Media
Committee meeting Jan. automatic check-in system and library, creating a cafe area, an improving the entryway to the plan includes mechanical work, less than the previous plan. The about $300,000 to $400,000 Board of Trustees that was which could cost as much as $5 ager for the renovation plan, (ration) for a construction man- meeting Jan.18. plans during the library-board Design for renovation-design with Pruduct Architecture and go-ahead te begin negotiations begin renovation design with guest speaker Kather- library championship against tion, the East Maine School Battle of the Books competi- shortage of bookworms. tour across the library property

OK given for architect to begin renovation design

BY TRACY GRAIEN
Contributor
Niles Public Library trustees gave Director Linda Weiss the go-ahead to begin negotiations with Product Architecture and Design for renovation-design plans during the library-board meeting Jan. 18.

An RFQ (request for quotation) for a construction manager for the renovation plan, which could cost as much as $6 million, has also been sent out.

Representatives of Product Architecture gave a presentation on a revised plan to the Board of Trustees that was about $300,000 to $400,000 less than the previous plan. The plan includes mechanical work, improving the entryway to the library, creating a cafe area, an automatic check-in system and more.

At a Building and Grounds Committee meeting Jan. 11, trustees discussed the renovation plans in detail and took a tour across the library property to see what changes they wanted to make to the plan.

The original plan had staff offices in the lowest level of the building, but trustees decided they wanted staff offices to remain upstairs. Instead, they felt teenagers in high school should be located in the lowest level.

"Teens don't want to be with little kids," Trustee Sam Puleo said at the Jan. 11 committee meeting.

With the revised plan, teenagers would have access to a study room, and there would be a service desk on that level. The entire teen collection, including both fiction and nonfiction, would also be on the lower level.

"I think the teens are going to love that space," Board President Barbara Nakanishi said.

Trustee Morgan Dubiel said his concern was the price of the project, which could cost about $5 million. He said he'd like to have the architecture firm look at creative ways to lower that price, as there is a total of $4.2 million in the special-reserve fund.

Trustee Chris Ball also wanted to take a closer look at the plan to see where cost reductions could possibly be made.

Other trustees disagreed.

"I already is a quality library," replied Dubiel, saying he feels the project started with just renovating the entryway to the library and now has become a large-scale, expensive project.

The attorney for the library said that from a legal perspective residents may start to object to the library's tax rate if they don't start spending money in their reserves.

Weiss said the renovations to the library were derived from asking patrons what they wanted to see at the library.

"It's been massaged and tweaked and rearranged," said Weiss, who supports the plan as presented by Product Architecture on Jan. 18.

Stevenson students win ‘Battle of Books’ contest

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor
Stevenson School has no shortage of bookworms.

After an undefeated season the past fall in Niles’ annual Battle of the Books competition, the East Maine School District 63 elementary school came out on top in an inter-library championship against Morton Grove.

Stevenson’s 1-0 victories against Morton Grove’s Jerusalem Lutheran School made them local reading champs for the second year in a row.

To celebrate the season’s end Niles Public Library held a special ceremony last week in the young readers’ honor with guest speaker Katherine Hannigan, author of the award-winning children’s novel “Ida B.”

Christine Douglass, Stevenson School’s library and media specialist and Battle of the Books coach, said the annual reading trivia competition is "a fantastic collaboration between public libraries and schools."

Schools serviced by Niles Public Library are invited to participate.

This year about 100 fourth, fifth- and sixth-graders from Culver, Nelson, St. John Brebeuf and Stevenson schools faced off in seven reading battles between October and December.

Librarians quizzed students from a list of 62 books, among them: popular cartoon novel “ Diary of a Wimpy Kid,” Newbery Medal-winning "Number the Stars" and Lewis Carroll’s classic "Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland."

Teams accrued points by correctly answering questions related to the book’s plots, settings and characters.

Not only do participants become whiz kids on children’s lit, Douglass said, but they develop confidence and passion in the process.

"I have seen struggling readers catch the love of a good book," she said. "I have seen shy and introverted kids come out of their shells and excel."

Unfortunately, cutbacks in recent years have forced some schools to drop out of the competition, Douglass said.

"It’s a shame," she said. "Battle of the Books is a very important program."

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Local police officials: Courthouse closures just shift cost burden

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

The anticipated closure of suburban court houses on Saturdays has police chiefs concerned about time and resources the decision will cost their departments.

Michael A. A., president of the North Suburban Association of Police Chiefs, said the organization's membership directed him Jan. 5 to ask Cook County Chief Judge Tim Evans to reconsider the closures, which will require police officers from more than 120 suburban municipalities to transport arrestees to the Cook County Courthouse at 26th Street and California Avenue in Chicago for weekend bond hearings.

Four Cook County Board commissioners are now asking their colleagues to reconsider the move, which was part of a cost-savings plan announced by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's office last month.

Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, whose district includes Niles and Morton Grove, co-sponsored a proposal issued at the board's Jan. 18 meeting that asks the chief judge's office to halt all plans until considering alternative options, such as rotating weekend court closures and maintaining three courthouses for northern, southern and centrally located municipalities.

Yet the board's decision to move the proposal to a yet-to-be-determined committee meeting instead of voting on the measure last week means suburban court houses will continue to close as planned.

The Fifth Municipal District Courthouse in Bridgewater, the first of five courthouses slated to close, ceased its weekend operations Jan. 14.

Dates have not been set for the other court houses.

Currently, Saturday bond hearings for people arrested by law-enforcement agencies in northern Cook County are held at the Second Municipal District Courthouse in Skokie and at the Third Municipal District Courthouse in Rolling Meadows, depending on the location of the alleged crimes.

The closures are expected to save the county about $2 million, according to Preckwinkle's staff.

Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki said that while he understands the county board's motivation for cutbacks, the measure will just mean additional costs for suburban police departments.

"They're trying to do the best they can with limited resources," he said. "But this isn't saving people money. Somebody is going to pay for this."

Strzelecki added: "For us, it's the constituents here in Niles. This is just another county service we're paying for that no one is going to provide."

Morton Grove Police Chief Mark Erickson agreed, saying his department's stance is not unlike many others in the suburbs since, ultimately, "local municipals are the ones who are going to be paying the costs."

"We're looking at increased costs in overtime and, overall, we do not think this is a savings for the Cook County taxpayer," Erickson said. "It's just shifting the cost from the Cook County Board and government to lo-"
cal villages."

Sgt. Robert Tornabene, Niles’ police public-information officer, said the Niles Police Department is now determining the impact the Skokie courthouse closure will have on its operations.

Thirty-two uniformed officers now work in Niles’ patrol division, Tornabene said, though he could not confirm the number of officers who work on the weekends, citing safety concerns.

He said that on any given weekend Niles police might arrest one to five individuals who require bonding out at a county courthouse.

Those arrested between Saturday and Sunday night often wait until Monday before appearing in court in Skokie, which is 5.5 miles from the Niles Police Department, 7000 W. Touhy Ave., and 3 miles away from the Morton Grove Police Department, 6101 Capulina Ave.

The Chicago courthouse is nearly 18 miles away from Niles and 18.5 miles from Morton Grove.

Tornabene said not every officer arrested in Niles requires a bond hearing in order to be released from police custody.

Many people arrested for misdemeanor crimes can bond out at the police station. All felony offenses require that the arrestee appear before a judge, and individuals with active warrants and holds issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement will also be required to attend a bond hearing, Tornabene said.

In addition to fiscal concerns, Strzelecki said the safety of officers is also in jeopardy.

Instead of traveling 10 minutes to Skokie, Strzelecki said officers will have to travel more than 30 minutes with handcuffed persons in cars that aren’t designed for transport.

“You now get (an arrestee) who is normally calm in the car turning into a combative person,” he said. “I don’t think (the Chicago courthouse) is a centrally located place for (police departments) in Cook County to bring our prisoners.”

Strzelecki said these types of issues might compel suburban police departments to pool resources and collectively purchase a proper transport vehicle.

Alsup, who also serves as chief of police at Harper College in Palatine, said most suburban departments do not have the vehicles or staff to transport prisoners long distances, and many are operating with fewer officers on the streets and minimal overtime due to their own budgetary difficulties.

“Our officers belong in our communities protecting our citizens, the people who are paying for them,” Alsup said. “They don’t belong down at 26th and California.”

Tight staffing on the weekends may also force Niles officers to hold arrested people at the Niles Police Station until Monday, when they can be transported to Skokie, Strzelecki said.

Niles’ holding cells, remodeled in 2003, hold at least 10 persons at a time.

More troubling to police departments than the altering of their operations is the fact that they were initially left out of all discussions about the change in court procedures.

“We weren’t even considered, and that was the problem most of the chiefs have,” Strzelecki said.

Tornabene added: “It’s not very neighborly.”

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**TREATMENT OF SKIN, HAIR AND NAIL DISEASES**

**SCHOOL DIGEST**

**CAMPUS**

Graduating magna cum laude from DePaul University was Eli Taylor, of Niles. Graduating cum laude were Magdalena Bieniek and Jeffrey Ramirez, of Niles. Graduating with distinction were Jaclyn Carroll and Nicolette Pajda, of Niles.

Kelly M. Plach, daughter of Kevin and Carrie Plach, of Niles, was welcomed into the pharmacy profession as a junior colleague and adorned with a white coat at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Robert Adams, of Niles, was awarded a Patterson Academic Scholarship and an Illinois In-State Scholarship at Lake Forest College. Jake Wenserski, a junior criminal justice major from Niles, was recently inducted into the Alpha Eta Lambda chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society at Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Mo.

Jelena Krstic, of Niles, an exercise science major, was named to the dean’s list at Carroll University for the spring 2011 semester.

Niles students earning bachelor’s degrees from DePaul University were Bhavin Amin, Alicia Apa, Qazi Bubani, Joann Budziszewski, Avni Danak, Martin Diamond, Atilla Genc, Nicholas Harter, Tomasz Matusz, Jakub Rzeszucko and Robert Santiago.

Darcy A. Foreman, of Niles, was included on the fall quarter dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

**DISTRICT 207**

**Student diagnosed with pertussis**

**BY JENNIFER JOHNSON**

Maine South High School in Park Ridge was notified last week that a student was recently diagnosed with pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough.

The Cook County Department of Public Health informed the school Jan. 18. The student’s grade level was not included in the department’s notice.

**SCHOOLS DIGEST**

**CAMPUS**

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**KELLY M. PLACH**

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Kirk suffers stroke, may have arm, leg problems

BY MAUDYNE IHEJIRIKA

U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), who suffered a stroke to the right side of his brain over the weekend that may impact the entire left side of his body, was recovering in intensive care Jan. 23 after undergoing emergency surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital to relieve brain swelling, doctors there said.

“Sen. Kirk has suffered a stroke to the right side of his brain, which I believe will affect his ability to move his left arm and possibly his left leg, and possibly will involve some facial paralysis,” Dr. Richard Fessler, the neurosurgeon who performed the surgery on the 62-year-old senator, said at a Jan. 23 news conference.

“Fortunately, the stroke was not on the left side of the brain, in which case it would affect his ability to speak, understand and breathe. We are very hopeful that when we get through all the recovery, all those functions will be intact,” the neurosurgeon said.

Elected to the Senate in 2010 after serving five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Kirk underwent a three-hour surgery Sunday night in which doctors removed a 4-inch by 8-inch section of his skull to relieve swelling.

It may be days before the swelling goes down and the skull section can be replaced, Fessler said.

However, Fessler said, “He is doing quite well. I am very happy with his current status.”

Kirk, who lives in north suburban Highland Park, was able to drive himself to Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital in Lake Forest after self-sealing the stroke on Jan. 21, “where doctors discovered a carotid artery dissection in the right side of his neck,” according to the senator’s office.

It was also reported that Kirk was taken to downtown Northwestern, where further tests revealed he had suffered an ischemic stroke, staffers said.

Ischemic strokes, which result from an obstruction within a blood vessel supplying blood to the brain, account for about 87 percent of all stroke cases.

Doctors said the cause of the stroke, such as the common culprit atherosclerosis — fatty deposits lining the vessel walls — was not immediately clear.

“We do not know what caused the stroke,” said Fessler.

“His condition apparently began with a blockage of his carotid artery. At this point, the artery is completely occluded (blocked). Part of the areas that are not getting blood from that artery will begin to get blood from other arteries. Other areas will not.

“The use of his left arm is going to be very difficult. I'm hopeful for the use of his left leg. Sen. Kirk's job is cerebral, and I believe the functions required to do his job are going to be fine. Sen. Kirk is young, was very healthy and in good shape, and he's very strong. All of these things are in his favor,” Fessler said, adding that the senator will have weeks and months of rehab ahead toward recovery.

Fessler said ischemic strokes cause swelling in the brain, vs. hemorrhagic strokes, where there is bleeding.

Symptoms include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking, blurred vision, dizziness and headache, according to the American Stroke Association.

“He was having some dizziness and perhaps some difficulty with headache,” Fessler said of Kirk's symptoms before checking himself into the hospital. By the time he arrived at Northwestern, he was going downhill fast. “He was becoming less responsive. He began to deteriorate neurologically,” newswires during the surgery, said Fessler.

Kirk, who is divorced, started out in Washington as a member of then-U.S. Rep. John Edward Porter's staff in 1984, spent 10 years in the U.S. House before winning the seat formerly held by President Barack Obama in a close race against Democrat Alexi Giannoulas.

He is also an officer in the Navy Reserve.

In an issued statement, Kirk’s family said, “We are very grateful for the excellent treatment and care provided by the doctors and their medical teams at both Lake Forest Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. We are equally grateful for the love and support of our family and friends. We are very encouraged by the prognosis.

Mark has always shown great courage and resilience and we are confident that the fighter in him will prevail.”

Republicans and Democrats alike on Jan. 23 offered Kirk their best wishes for his recovery.

“I am extremely distressed by the news that my friend Mark Kirk is hospitalized for emergency medical treatment,” GOP presidential hopeful Mitt Romney said in a statement. “I wish him a speedy recovery and a swift return to the U.S. Senate chamber, so he can continue his important work for the people of Illinois and all the people of the United States.”

In a statement, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said: “Senator Kirk and I have served on different sides of the aisle, but the entire City of Chicago is by his side today. He remains in our thoughts and prayers as he recovers.”

Gov. Pat Quinn said: “Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the senator and his family as we wish him a swift and strong recovery. We can all take comfort knowing that as a Navy commander, Sen. Kirk knows how to fight and he will fight through this to return to his work on behalf of the people of Illinois as quickly as possible.”

Sen. Mark Kirk

Judy Biggert (R-Ill.) said, “All of us in the delegation are pulling for his full and speedy recovery.”


Sen. John McCain tweeted that his “thoughts and prayers” are with his colleague and wished him “a speedy recovery.”

Contributing: Lynn Sweet

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Grove Metra station.
Listing agent: Alexander Doroshko, Chel  
Group Realty, 847-452-5584, sashadoroshko@  
gmail.com

SOUND OFF
Q: What place does new  
construction hold in the real  
estate market as we enter  
2012?
A: New construction has  
recently seen an upward  
trend in activity. As more  
data is released suggest-
ing 2012 will see improve-
ment in the overall housing  
market, new construction  
is now becoming an obvious  
choice for many reasons.  
Namely, the affordability of  
homes is at an all-time high  
with interest rates at re-
cord lows.  
Everyone wants to own a  
home no one else has lived  
in, personalize it to their  
tastes while protecting  
themselves from the costs  
of wear and tear, which pur-
chasing existing homes typ-
ically includes.
Now is the best time we  
may see in our lifetimes to  
make owning a new home a  
reality.
— Nathan Amidon, New  
Home Star, 630-989-0524,  
namidon@newhomestar.com

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>For sale</th>
<th>Median price</th>
<th>Foreclosure rate</th>
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Source: Chicago BlockShopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.
MAINE SOUTH

Volleyball benefit aims for spike in ADHD awareness

The Second Chance Foundation held a fundraiser and volleyball tournament Jan. 14 to support scholarships in the memory of Chance Walker.

The event took place at the Park Ridge Community Center with participation from junior-high and high-school students. Money raised will benefit scholarships for Maine South High School seniors.

The Second Chance Foundation works to provide support and education to individuals with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

It is named in memory of Chance Walker, of Park Ridge, who was diagnosed with the disorder.

Chance died in 2005 at age 11.
Gas leak near school causes little disruption

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

A gas leak occurred Jan. 10 about 60 feet south of Gemini Junior High School, at 8955 Greenwood.

“Not students left the building,” Principal Scott Herrmann said. “We didn’t have to move anybody.”

Herrmann said staff members with classes closest to the gas leak noticed the smell.

“The Fire Department came over and measured the air,” Herrmann said. “Not one student or staff member reported feeling ill.”

Herrmann said the Fire Department measured the gas level in the building’s air and it was zero. Herrmann said officials temporarily shut down vents so air wouldn’t come in.

“Nobody was ever in any danger,” Herrmann said.

Herrmann noted that the school has an agreement with the IceLand Skate Complex.

“We called over there and said we don’t know what’s happening as far as the repair time or if it’s going to get worse, but ‘Can we come over if we need to?’” Herrmann said, noting they did not need to go over to Iceland.

Herrmann said construction workers “nicked” a Nicor gas line, which caused the leak.

MAINE TOWNSHIP

Sheriff’s Police award nominations sought

Maine Township has announced that it is again accepting nominations for the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen’s Award.

Named in honor of the late Cook County Sheriff’s Police Sgt. Karen Lader, the award recognizes a Maine Township resident who has shown support, service and dedication to the township. The winner will receive a plaque and monetary award at the Maine Township Annual Town Meeting on April 10.

The deadline to submit a nomination is March 22. Nomination forms are available on the Maine Township website, www.mainetownship.com, or at the front desk of Maine Township Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Forms can be mailed to Township Trustee Susan Moylan Krey at the Town Hall address or faxed to (847) 297-1335.

Karen Lader was a 15-year member of the Cook County Sheriff’s Police and a Des Plaines resident. She died in 2010 following a battle with cancer. During her time with the Sheriff’s Police she was involved in Maine Township’s Neighborhood Watch program and National Night Out which is held annually at Dee Park.

The Sgt. Lader Award was presented for the first time last year. It was awarded to Audrey Nankervis, a resident of unincorporated Maine Township, for her volunteer work.

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.

BATTERY

A 44-year-old Chicago man reported that someone parked in a disabled space without a handicapped placard on Jan. 18 in a parking lot in the 5900 block of Touhy. The victim allegedly asked the subject to move his vehicle for a disabled driver to park there instead, and the offender reportedly punched him with a closed fist, leaving a cut on his face. Police said the subject drove away in his vehicle.

A 41-year-old man returned home Jan. 18 on the 7400 block of Howard and discovered his house had been burglarized, police reported.

THEFT

A man between 18 and 21 years old reportedly stole a North Face jacket and a Pelle Pelle jacket valued at a total of $940 on Jan. 16 from a retail store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Police said the offender was last seen running from the store.

Someone removed a 32-inch Toshiba TV from a shelf Jan. 19 at a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center, and then removed the security device and left without paying. The merchandise has a value of about $300.

Phillip Gearheart, 33, of 9133 Knight, Des Plaines, was arrested Jan. 14 and charged with retail theft for stealing $274 worth of video-game controllers from a store on the 8300 block of Golf Road. He has a court date of Jan. 24.

A 64-year-old Chicago woman reported that someone removed her wallet from her purse Jan. 19 while she was grocery shopping at a store on the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue. The wallet contained $47, credit cards and identification.

Someone forcibly entered a locked locker Jan. 16 at a fitness center on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue and stole $400 from the victim’s wallet.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Someone between Jan. 14 to Jan. 16 removed two letters from a business on the 7400 block of Lehigh.

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Taking time out to remember why MLK Day is a holiday

Sometimes it seems as if there is no America, just fragments of America that are in opposition to each other. It can appear that we define ourselves by what divides us rather than what unites us. That is especially true in an election year.

There is red-states America versus blue-states America.

Rich America versus poor America.

Native-born America versus newly arrived America.

Right-to-life America versus right-to-choose America.

Black America versus white America.

There are a great many hyphenated, oppositional Americas.

In spite of this — or maybe because of this — on Jan. 16 we honored a man who worked his entire, and too-brief, life to create a single, united America.

“All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality,” The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said.

He insisted there should be only one America, one that is true to its ideals for all its people. He reminded us it is up to each of us to help create that one America, to look beyond our selfish interests and become good neighbors to our fellows.

“The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers,” Dr. King said.

Jan. 16 is not just a day off from work or school. It is a day for us to ponder what we are and who we are as a nation.

Are we one nation with liberty and justice for all, or a jostling conglomeration of competing interests? Are we a plurality nation — one people created from many — or is it every man for himself?

Are we brothers and sisters?

Dr. King thought so. He devoted his life to that belief. This year, he was recognized for it with a memorial on the National Mall.

And he was right. America can only be America if we embrace that network of mutuality.

Through his life's work, and through an eloquence matched only by Lincoln, Dr. King showed the way to the true America. We're not there yet. But getting there is the real American dream.

It is the dream Dr. King spoke of on that August day in 1963 in Washington, D.C., when he ended his great “I have a dream” speech with this vision for our country:

... when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Planning your 2012?

Consult your 2011

Time is a fragile thing.

Poets, painters and physicists each try to define it. You and I get to live it. But what should we do when it's over? As in that old calendar you just took down from the kitchen wall.

The pragmatists and environmentalists among us will simply say: “Dispose of it.” I say, “Study it. Take a little silver of 2012 time to reconsider what you and I did with 2011 time.”

Here's what I see in my 2011 calendar: the days that were used for tasks, appointments, deadlines, family dinners, parties, weddings and funerals; and the everyday rhythms of my life that were scheduled and most times kept.

But there are other dates. I see them scattered among those now-expired hours, never to be regained or retrieved again. The days I spent dreading the bad weather that never came; the days I hated going to a job that now I wish I still had; the days I never got around to calling my old friend who never made it to the end of the year; the days I forgot to kiss the ones I love.

Well now your 2011 calendar will have other days to it. Gone now.

Never to be lived again. This little exercise is not meant to bury our Caesars. Nor to praise them. Simply to hold them up to the light of your best reflections. Some of them may draw a smile, some a tear, many a shrug.

But if held to the light just right, 2011 could very well be your very best map for traveling your 2012.

Jack Spatafora

Park Ridge

Van Mom becomes Van Boy’s backseat driver

In other headlines, in a Northwest suburb, a middle-aged woman’s hair went mysteriously white. This would not be newsworthy, except that the woman’s scary hair was featured in a YouTube of her dog flashing its teeth. Upon viewing the viral video, small children shrieked for their mothers, fearing the Hansel and Gretel witch was going to hurt the dog.

Yes, Pioneer Press readers, my hair whitened due to hot pants making a fashion resurgence.

None of the above.

No, the white hair happened as I sat frozen to the passenger seat while my oldest son’s hands looped around the steering wheel ... belonging to my van.

He is driving. I remind myself in disbelief, not snuggled in a child’s seat, yes. A deafening “STOPPPP!” — I groan at the sight of a five-year-old skating his pedals, while my oldest son’s hands looped around the steering wheel ... belonging to my van.

“Love it! We’re in real need of entertainment during the game.”

Van Mom becomes Van Boy’s backseat driver
Bad timing is everything when it comes to stoplight delays

It's a heavy burden, being right so much of the time.

For years, I was a voice crying in the wilderness — or at least a guy whining in the suburbs — that we need to do something about mistimed traffic signals.

I would tell anyone who would listen — and many who didn't want to listen — that there are many, many intersections at which traffic piles up because the street with light traffic has a green light that is too long and that the opposite, heavily travelled street has a red light that is too long.

I call these unjust lights. And people would just shake their head when I brought this up.

But the U.S. Highway Administration agrees with me, saying that traffic signal timing has the most impact on traffic efficiency. It points to a recent study by Washington state that examined just six re-timed "traffic signal systems." The study found an annual fuel reduction of 295,000 gallons, a reduction in vehicle delays of 145,000 hours.

So important is traffic signal timing, that in 2005, the federal government issued the National Traffic Signal Report Card. The United States received a D-minus for traffic signal operations. Results were based on self-assessment surveys of 378 traffic agencies in 49 states.

The report card stated that if communities had comprehensive signal timing programs — which they don't — savings could be as much as 15 to 37 percent in delays and 6 to 9 percent savings in fuel.

The report card was updated in 2007. America did better.

We moved up from a D-minus to a D. How to tackle such a huge problem? That's a tough question. It would take a lot of money to save a lot of money and fuel, not to mention the reduction in air pollution. But money — and the willingness to spend it — is in short supply these days.

It costs about $2,500 to re-time stoplights at one intersection.

And it is estimated there are at least 350,000 stoplights in the United States.

That's a lot of money. Of course, the costs would be spread over thousands of communities throughout the United States.

When it comes to huge amounts of money, our ordinary, how-much-I-owe-on-Visa perspective is inadequate.

Maybe this: It is estimated that as of the end of 2011, the war in Afghanistan has cost the United States $1.2 trillion.

Personally, I'd rather have cleaner air.

It snows here. What's the big deal?

Back in journalism school, my professor had a rule when a student couldn't come up with a good enough story idea from their beat. The student had to write a weather story.

I thought of this today because I don't have a great idea for my column, and, thankfully, it's snowing.

It used to be in Chicago that snow simply meant it was winter. We Chicagoans would button up our overcoats, shrug our big shoulders and move on.

It's not that way anymore.

Today, weather is big news. So it is that I'm out driving around in the snow and everyone is talking about it.

They are talking about how terrible the storm will be. They are talking about how it will snarl traffic. They are talking about how you should stay home.

We've reached a point where the hysteria begins even before the snow flies.

I received an email and a phone call the day before the storm from my son's high school announcing an early release planned for the day of the storm. This morning, flights were cancelled at O'Hare in anticipation of the storm.

We have gone beyond anticipating snow emergencies to actually planning them.

Weather has become the story to end all stories.

I supposed it's such big news because we can actually predict it. No other disaster can be predicted with such accuracy. Thanks to all the new-fangled technology to monitor the weather and the ability to communicate it instantly, snow, or rain, or wind is big news.

We know it is going to snow eight inches, and everybody knows what happens when it snows eight inches in Chicago. Flights get cancelled, traffic gets snarled, and school gets cancelled. People can't get home from the Loop.

Imagine if we could predict other disasters with such accuracy. It would be really big news the day before, wouldn't it, if we knew that the Titanic was going to sink tomorrow? Reporters would plan stories on icebergs and lifeboats and speed records.

Weather is convenient that way. It gives us ready-made news before it happens. A reporter's dream.

That's the difference. It's not that we can't handle snow and have to panic because it's coming. We just know what's coming.

The underlying question to all stories about weather in Chicago is this: Can we handle it?

Thankfully, most of us shrug our big shoulders and say, "I'm from Chicago. This is nothing."

And when there are no other story ideas, the weather will do.
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Please visit bloomingdales.com or call stores for hours. Medinah Temple, Chicago, 312-324-7500. Medinah parking validation at Interparking Rowe Garage, 50 E. Ohio; just 12.00 for up to 3 hours, regular rate applies thereafter. • Old Orchard Center, Skokie, 847-675-5200. Sorry, no furniture at old orchard.
Capitol Steps: 30 years of political mayhem

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

The good thing about satirizing the foibles of our government is that you never run out of material. Even so, when Elaina Newport cofounded Capitol Steps with other Senate staffers she never dreamed she'd still be doing it 30 years later.

“We imagined that we'd either be fired or told to stop,” Newport said. “We were serious Senate staff thinking that this was our career. We tried it once and we thought somebody's got to say, ‘That's enough,’ but nobody did.”

Their legion of fans across the country are grateful that the powers that be apparently have a sense of humor. The Capitol Steps return to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts for five performances, Thursday, Jan. 26-Sunday, Jan. 29. Their constantly updated material will include numbers from the Capitol Steps' new album, “Desperate Housemembers.”

All of the presidential candidates will be satirized by the group that proudly announces on its website, “We put the Mock in Democracy.” “We even still have Herman Cain,” Newport said. “We think Herman Cain is still funny for about three months.”

Everyone a target

Of course, President Obama, Vice President Biden and Nancy Pelosi will get equal time.

Selections from the new album include “Fun Fun Fun 'til Obama takes Our Tea Bags Away” and “Memories” (to the tune of “Memories”), about the former prez's current writing project.

Newport, who does about half the writing for the shows, said that once in a while, “We think the politicians are going to get quietly competent and solve everything.” That fear soon passes — and the fun continues.

“We like to think they're thinking of the comedians,” Newport said. “Because if we don’t think that, then we think that they’re really incompetent and that’s much scarier.”

Newport noted that the Capitol Steps have occasionally been accused of starting scandals to generate material, “like calling up Monica Lewinsky and telling her to keep the dress,” Newport said. “We actually don’t have that kind of power. I wish we did.”

In the closing number, “30 Years in 3 Minutes,” which celebrates the group's history. “We try to hit the highlights of what was funny over 30 years very rapidly without injuring ourselves,” Newport said.

Hopefully no audience members will be injured, either, even though they are in danger of splitting their sides laughing.
Fathers and their girls can trip the night fantastic when the Park Ridge Park District presents its Daddy Daughter Sweetheart Dance Feb. 11 at Maine Park Leisure Center.

**Dads & daughters to dance in Park Ridge**

**BY MYRNA PETLICK**

The Park Ridge Park District runs many events for families but there are few events designed for just fathers and daughters. That's one reason why they host an annual Daddy Daughter Sweetheart Dance, explained Special Events Supervisor Mary Bart.

"It's a great time. We're always filled every year," Bart said. Bart said that fathers and their little girls, ages 4-12, get all dressed up for their evening together — and some dads even buy their little girls corsages.

This year's gala evening is 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley St. There will be dancing and games, and a DJ, and finger treats, including mini-cupcakes.

"A professional photography company takes a sweetheart picture of daddy and his daughter as a remembrance of their special night together," Bart said.

The cost is $30 per couple for residents, $48 for nonresidents; $15 and $28 for additional daughters.

For details, call (847) 692-5127 or visit [www.prrparks.org](http://www.prrparks.org).

**Cultural connection**

An art exhibit, dancing and the personal stories of Assyrian students attending school in District 219 will be some of the highlights of the Coming Together in Skokie Kickoff Celebration, 2:30-4:45 p.m. Sunday at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St. Each year, Coming Together in Skokie focuses on a different culture for six weeks, with special activities and events.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or visit [www.skokielibrary.info](http://www.skokielibrary.info).

**Read it and weep**

A 9-year-old Assyrian girl loses her family while fleeing war in Persia but creates a new one in *Home is Beyond the Mountains* by Celia Lottridge. Mothers and fathers are invited to read the book with their fourth-eighth-graders, and then join a Parent-Child Book Discussion, 7-8 p.m. Wednesday at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Register by Jan. 30.

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or visit [www.skokielibrary.info](http://www.skokielibrary.info).

**Scientific discovery**

Kids will learn that science can be fun when Steve Belliveau presents, Getting Excited About Science!, 2-2:45 p.m. Feb. 12 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Call to reserve tickets in advance.

For details, call (847) 662-6622 or visit [www.nileslibrary.org](http://www.nileslibrary.org).

**Waddle they do**

A man inherits six penguins, and they turn his life upside down, in "Mr. Popper's Penguins" The live-action family film will be screened at 2 p.m. Saturday at Niles Public Library 6960 W. Oakton St. A snack will be served.

For details, call (847) 668-6284 or visit [www.nileslibrary.org](http://www.nileslibrary.org).
MOVIE REVIEW

It's a man's world?

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

ALBERT NOBBS
★★★ 1/2

"I think you are the strangest man I have ever met," remarks young chambermaid Helen to Mr. Nobbs while strolling one day in 19th-century Dublin during his painful attempts to court her. She has no idea.

For one thing, Mr. Nobbs is a woman. For another, he has spent so many years living a lie that he (we'll say he) has become a virtual nonentity, observing life timidly from the vantage point of a servant who is seen but not seen and known but not known.

That's not to say he's not a hauntingly sympathetic figure, though. And particularly as played by Glenn Close (who won an Obie award for playing this role Off Broadway in 1982) in this odd, painful, but ultimately moving indie drama based on a short story by 19th-century Irish novelist George Moore.

In addition to her peculiar, exquisitely subtle performance, Close co-wrote the screenplay and co-produced "Albert Nobbs," and if she had a hand in choosing director Rodrigo Garcia, she chose well. Garcia, who created HBO's dramatic series "In Treatment," has a history of directing sensitive dramas about women ("Mother and Child," "Things You Can Tell Just by Looking at Her") and his approach to "Albert Nobbs" is appropriately quiet, constrained, carefully observed and content to seek the sort of small dramatic moments — a sad gesture, a half-smile, a murmured revelation — that linger unexpectedly.

Mr. Nobbs is, of course, terribly lonely, but that's what comes of a lifetime spent in hiding. Alone at the age of 14, shortly after being raped by three men, the girl who became Albert Nobbs took a job as a waiter when the woman paid to raise her died. (Nobbs' only family tie is the house painter's deceased wife, whom he--and his wife--woos in "The Day of the Locust.""

Second, he makes the discovery that he has finally saved nearly 800 pounds — enough to buy the little tobacconist shop he's always dreamed of. Only now he dreams of wooing the attractive young chambermaid Helen (Mia Wasikowska, also excellent) in hope of emulating Hubert's happiness.

Though Nobbs clearly has no idea of the complications involved (he apparently imagines Helen as little more than a helpmate and companion), particularly since Helen is involved with a handsome young roughneck (Aaron Johnson) who encourages her to take all she can get from Nobbs.

It's clear, early on, that none of this can end well, but it's to the credit of "Albert Nobbs" that the situation doesn't unfold in entirely predictable fashion or with grim heavy-handedness. Instead, there's a sort of lightness and open-endedness at the conclusion that could pass for hopefulness. And there are a few moments along the way that prevent the mood from descending into dire tragedy. Notably, a wonderful scene in which Hubert and Albert put on dresses and walk on the seaside, awkwardly at first, then more confidently, until...
FILM CLIPS

BY BRUCE INGRAM

OPENING FRIDAY

ALBERT NOBBS

Rated: R for some sexuality, brief nudity and language
Stars: Glenn Close, Janet McTeer, Mia Wasikowska
In 19th century Dublin, a woman (Close) disguises herself as a man and works as a waiter so she can lead an independent life, then risks everything after deciding to marry a chambermaid (Wasikowska). Rodrigo Garcia ("Mother and Child") directed the drama. Reviewed in this section.

THE GREY

Rated: R for violence/disturbing content, including bloody images, and for pervasive language
Stars: Liam Neeson, Dermot Mulroney, Frank Grillo
The leader (Neeson) of a tough team of oil drillers tries to save his men after a plane crash in Alaska exposes them to the elements and marauding wolves. Joe Carnahan ("The A Team") co-wrote and directed the adventure.

MAN ON A LEDGE

Rated: PG-13 for violence and brief strong language
Stars: Sam Worthington, Elizabeth Banks, Jamie Bell
A police psychologist (Banks) attempts to talk an ex-con (Worthington) down off a ledge, and eventually becomes involved in his tale of an about-to-occur diamond heist. Asger Leth ("Ghosts of Cite Soleil") directed the crime drama.

STILL PLAYING

CARNAGE

Rated: R for language
Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Giovannini Ribisi, Kate Beckinsale
After going straight, a former smuggler (Wahlberg) 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.

EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE

Rated: PG-13 for emotional thematic material, some disturbing images, and language
Stars: Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, Thomas Horn, Viola Davis
"Only humans can cry tears," notes young Oscar (Horn), the precocious young protagonist of this fine-pedigreed yet frustratingly hit-and-miss 9/11 drama. The strange thing about director Stephen Daldry's ("Billy Elliot," "The Reader") adaptation of Jonathan Safran Foer's controversial 2005 novel, is that it can make you feel one way one moment and the other the next. You may ultimately wind up feeling more moved than unmoved, but there's also a real possibility that the two extremes will mercifully cancel each other out. Gradually, Oscar's encounters begin to appear as a sort of tapestry of shared loss, with a few simple moments, here and there, that ring true despite the filter of whimsy. Especially when an old man, who may or may not be his grandfather (Max von Sydow, excellent), joins him on his search. For every moment that works well, there are a couple that don't quite make it.

THE IRON LADY

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.

JOYFUL NOISE

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 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, a la "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, including the equine star. 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.

Liam Neeson stars as the leader of a team of oil drillers who tries to save his men after an Alaskan plane crash exposes them to the elements and a marauding pack of wolves in "The Grey." The film, directed by Joe Carnahan ("The A Team"), also stars Dermot Mulroney and Frank Grillo.
SHOWTIMES

Movie times are effective Friday and are compiled from information available on Tuesday. Please note that theater schedules are subject to change. If no listings are provided, please call the theater for information.

ARLINGTON THEATERS
53 S. Evergreen St.
Arlington Heights
(847) 483-0123

The Grey (R) Fri 4:50-7:15-9:40; Sat, Sun 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40; Mon, Tue, Thu 4:50-7:15-9:40
The Descendants (R) Fri 4:30-7:30-9:30; Sat, Sun 11:50-2:10-4:30-7:30-9:30
Man on a Ledge (PG-13) Fri 5:15-7:30-9:45; Sat, Sun 12:45-3:15-5:30-7:30-9:45


RENAISSANCE PLACE
1850 2nd St., High and Park
(8147) 483-0123

The Descendants (R) Fri 4:30-7:30-9:30; Sat, Sun 12:45-3:10-5:30-7:30-9:30
Man on a Ledge (PG-13) Fri 5:15-7:30-9:45; Sat, Sun 12:50-2:10-4:30-7:30-9:45

MAN ON A LEEGE (PG-13) Fri 5:15-7:30-9:45; Sat, Sun 12:50-2:10-4:30-7:30-9:45

NORRIDGE
4250 Harlem Ave., Norridge
(847) 782-8386

The Grey (R) Fri 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:45; Mon-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:45

THE GREY (R) Fri 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:45; Mon-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:45


THE DESCENDANTS (PG) Fri 4:15-6:30-9:15; Mon-Thu 4:15-6:30-9:15

THE IRON LADY (PG-13) Fri 11:15-1:05-3:00-5:55-8:50; Sat, Sun 11:15-1:05-3:00-5:55-8:50

PICKWICK
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont
(847) 447-1030

The Grey (R) Fri 4:30-7:30-9:30; Sun 12-2:30-5:30-7:30-9:30

ONE FOR THE MONEY (PG-13) Fri 1:15-3:45-6:20-9:00; Mon-Thu 1:15-3:45-6:20-9:00

The Iron Lady (PG-13) Fri 11:15-1:05-3:05-5:50-8:45; Sat, Sun 11:15-1:05-3:05-5:50-8:45

The Devil Inside (R) Fri 7:10-9:35-11:50; Sun-Thu 7:20-9:35


War Horse (PG-13) Fri 1:10 p.m.

ONE FOR THE MONEY (PG-13) Fri 1:15-3:45-6:20-9:00; Mon-Thu 1:15-3:45-6:20-9:00

CLOSE (PG-13) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:30-12:00; Sat, Sun 11:15-2:45-5:35-8:20-11:15

Underworld: Awakening (R) Fri-Sun 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30; Mon-Thu 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30

The Iron Lady (PG-13) Fri 11:15-1:05-3:05-5:50-8:45; Sat, Sun 11:15-1:05-3:05-5:50-8:45

Man on a Ledge (PG-13) Fri 5:15-7:30-9:45; Sat, Sun 11:35-2:15-4:45-7-9:45; Mon-Thu 5:15-7:30-9:45

DOLLY PARTON (foreground, from left), Keke Palmer and Queen Latifah star in 'Joyful Noise.'
**NEW ON VIDEO**

**It’s ‘50/50’ laughs, tears**

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**50/50**

- Rated: R for language throughout, sexual content and some drug use
- Stars: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Bryce Dallas Howard, Anna Kendrick
- The best thing about the cancer dramedy “50/50” is its stubborn streak of genuineness. Based on the personal experiences of TV producer-turned-screenwriter Will Reiser, who was diagnosed with a rare form of spinal cancer at age 24, “50/50” stays true to the plan he outlined with his friend Rogen, with both working on “Da Al G Show” — to write a buddy comedy about coping with cancer. Reiser wrote a story in which comedy is a side attraction, focusing on the way coping with a potential death sentence realigned his relationships with the important people in his life. Remarkably, the keep-it-real strategy works nicely, partly because of Gordon-Levitt and Rogen. And partly because of the direction of Jonathan Levine (“The Wackness”), who keeps the mood light, but also emotionally credible. Despite the jokes, it’s clear that our hero’s life is unraveling in a lonely and increasingly terrifying way.

**ALSO NEW**

**Godzilla**

- Rated PG-13 for some violence, intense action and brief language
- Stars: Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo, Evangeline Lilly
- Former boxer turned sleazy, small-time robot-boxing promoter Charlie Kenton (Jackman) is a selfish, cocky, obnoxious deadbeat dad who actually sells off his rights to his long-ago-abandoned boy Max (Dakota Goyo) for $100,000 to repay gambling debts. He has to look after the boy for a summer, though, which gives Charlie just enough time for redemption as he and Max guide a hopeless sparring ‘bot up from the robo underground to a shot at the title.

**REAL STEEL**

- Rated: PG-13 for some violence, intense action and brief language
- Stars: Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo, Evangeline Lilly
- Former boxer turned sleazy, small-time robot-boxing promoter Charlie Kenton (Jackman) is a selfish, cocky, obnoxious deadbeat dad who actually sells off his rights to his long-ago-abandoned boy Max (Dakota Goyo) for $100,000 to repay gambling debts. He has to look after the boy for a summer, though, which gives Charlie just enough time for redemption as he and Max guide a hopeless sparring ‘bot up from the robo underground to a shot at the title.

**PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3**

- Two young sisters (Katie Featherston and Sprague Grayden) begin a friendship with an invisible entity that lives in their home. Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman (“Catfish”) directed this prequel to the horror series. Rated R for some violence, language, brief sexuality and drug use. Extras include the extended version of the film.

**REVENGE OF THE ELECTRIC CAR**

- Chris Paine returned to direct this follow-up to his 2006 documentary “Who Killed the Electric Car?” — this time exploring the resurgence of battery-powered automotive technology. Actor Tim Robbins returns as narrator.

**UNDERDOG: COMPLETE COLLECTOR’S EDITION**

- This nine-disc box set from Shout! Factory includes all three seasons of the 1964 Saturday morning cartoon series about a superhero canine (with the nebbish voice of comedian Wally Cox), plus short cartoons featuring Go Go Gophers, Klondike Kat and Commander McBragg. Extras include alternate openings and closings of episodes plus commentaries.

**NEXT WEEK**

- Tune in for TV upgrades. The first two seasons of “Agatha Christie’s Poirot,” starring David Suchet as Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, have been remastered for their Blu-ray debut. “Star Trek: The Next Generation” is also Blu-ray bound, with the feature-length pilot as well as two fan-favorite episodes scheduled as a sampler. Throughout the year, the entire seven-season series will be re-released in 1080p high-definition as a precursor to additional hits of TV reruns.
What to do.
This week and beyond.

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

STAGE
“Black Pearl Sings!”, through Feb. 19 at Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie. Performances on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Feb. 7 only); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (except Feb. 1) and 7:30 p.m. (except Feb. 8); Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except Jan. 29 and Feb. 19). $25-$60. Tickets for those 25 and under are $10, subject to availability. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

“I'll Be Your Mirror,” presented by the Side Project, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave. $35-$45; $10 for students; $7 senior citizens. Call (773) 281-4636. Feb. 17, 8 p.m.: Violinist Cyrus Forough, joined by pianist Tatyana Stepanova, will perform works by Bach, Beethoven and Prokofiev. $25; $15 for seniors; $10 for students.

Northeastern Illinois University, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4636. Feb. 17, 8 p.m.: Master class by pianist Menahem Pressler, founding member of the Beaux Arts Trio. Spectator admission $10.

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See Go, Page 11B

February 19, 2012
Great actors, but ‘Black Pearl’ lacks luster

BY CATEY SULLIVAN
Contributor

Despite a plot that plods along without any noticeable tension and exposition about as imaginative as traffic signage, “Black Pearl Sings!” provides a decent spotlight for two of Chicago's most valuable players. They may be trapped in a mediocre vehicle, but Susie McMonagle and E. Faye Butler manage to make Northlight's midwinter offering palatable. Frank Higgins' ostensible drama tells the slight story of Alberta “Pearl” Johnson (Butler), a black woman doing hard time on the chain gang in the 1980s after separating an abusive man from his, well, manhood. (And in Pearl's adamant, defiant words, leaving the world a better place for it.)

She's rescued from hard labor clearing leech-infested swamp land after Susannah (McMonagle), a white, ambitious ethnomusicologist hears her singing. The women settle into an uneasy alliance after realizing the mutual benefits a relationship can reap: Susannah hopes to 'discover' a song from “before slavery times,” which will catapult her into a plum position at an Ivy League college. Pearl sees Susannah as a resource for finding her missing daughter and providing a passage to parole.

In other words, this is a variation on the all-too familiar saga of a white savior swooping in to save the impoverished, oppressed black victim. Still, director Steve Scott keeps “Black Pearl” from collapsing under the weight of that weary plot by helming a production that is better than the script deserves. That Susannah is no saint complicates matters somewhat; she co-opts black culture for her own benefit and isn't above exploiting Pearl like a sideshow attraction. Still, director Steve Scott keeps “Black Pearl” from collapsing under the weight of that weary plot by balancing a production that is better than the script deserves.

E. Faye Butler (left), and Susie McMonagle star as two strong women who try to use music to further their lives in “Black Pearl Sings!” | PHOTO BY STARBELLY STUDIOS

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by Deborah Zoe Laufer

That Susannah is no saint complicates matters somewhat; she co-opts black culture for her own benefit and isn't above exploiting Pearl like a sideshow attraction. But Higgins presents these flaws with all the subtlety of blatant obviousness - these aren't problems that develop so much as they land with a thud in the middle of the stage. Moreover, Susannah's willingness to stoop to freak-show tactics in the second act is wholly inconsistent with what we've seen of her character in the first act. It's as if her ignorant evil twin inexplicably took over at intermission.

There's also the issue of the music itself. Butler is one of the most emotionally moving and technically accomplished vocalists working in the theather sphere. She's got a staggering range, and a rich, expressive and rhythmically infectious way with a song that uplifts and energizes any score she puts her mind to. McMonagle is similarly gifted, a Broadway vet who can belt and emote with torrential force. You'd think the two of them harmonizing together would be something grand indeed. But both are oddly muted here, delivering snippets of songs that lack both power and meaningful context.

About that context: Higgins provides an examination of race, sexism, racism and cultural appropriation that is about as deep as an after-school special. The matter of Pearl's pardon is solved with all the
'BLACK PEARL SINGS!'

Northlight Theatre, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie
7:30 p.m. Tuesdays (Feb. 7 only); 1 p.m. Wednesdays (except Feb. 1) and
7:30 p.m. (except Feb. 8); 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2:30 p.m.
and 8 p.m. Saturdays and
2:30 and 7 p.m. Sundays (except Jan. 29 and Feb. 19). Through Feb. 19
$25-$60. Tickets for those 25 and under are $10, subject to availability
(847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org

ease and dramatic suspense
of a simple arithmetic
calculation, the fate of her
daughter is dispensed with
in a similarly anti-climactic
fashion. As for Pearl's 11th
hour invocation of her
ancestors for advice, it is
long on anguish and short
on substance.

Yet for all that, there's no
denying the appeal of both
McMonagle and Butler.

They're each strong enough
to make the play seem bet-
ter than it is.

Few actors could make
an entrance in leg irons and
the world's most unflatter-
ing prison stripes with the
absolute nobility that Butler
manages. As a woman in an
ugly situation, she radi-
ates the kind of beauty that
comes from force of per-
sonality as much as striking
physicality. She may be
wearing rags in the first act,
but she carries herself like a
queen draped in diamonds.

As characters go, Pearl
isn't especially multi-dimen-
sional. Higgins has made
her feisty and defiant — and
little else. It's to Butler's
credit that the singer comes
across with a grit and
depth.

McMonagle works similar
small wonders with Susan-
nah, bringing much-needed
heart to Higgins' clunking
exposition.

From the inhuman
conditions of female chain
gangs during the Great
Depression to the thriving
cultural scene of Harlem
Renaissance, "Black Pearl
Sings!" has the elements of
a valuable, fascinating story.
It's a shame he doesn't re-
ally tell it.

E. Faye Butler (left) and Susie McMonagle star in "Black Pearl
Sings!" PHOTO BY STARBELLY STUDIO

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GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11B

Murder at the Valentine Party


Feb. 26: 9:30PM welcomes The Del Fuegos (rock), $22/$25.

The 3 Divas, a special one night-only Valentine’s Day cabaret event with Susie McMonagle, Heidi Kettering and Christine Sherrill, will be presented at 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $35. Call (847) 673-6300.

ART GALLERIES
Oakton Community College, Kohlhardt Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2533. www.oakton.edu/museum.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Feb. 2-March 23: "Two Plus Two = Jackson, Owens, Williams and Wheatley." The exhibit features works by Preston Jackson, professor of sculpture at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago; Joyce Owens, curator of the Galleries Program at Chicago State University; Bernard Williams, a former instructor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Rhonda Wheatley. Opening reception will be held from 5-8 p.m. Feb. 2.

Services for Adults Staying in Their Homes, Celebrating Experience: A Gallery of Art by Older Adults, 1123 Emerson, Suite 200, Evanston. (847) 866-7274. www.SASIatHome.org. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays or by appointment. All art is for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting SASI, a community nonprofit that helps adults in Chicago and the north/northwest suburbs who, due to aging, illness or injury, need assistance in their home. Through Feb. 3: Works by Chicago textile artist Mary Jo Bowers and painter Patricia Schuler of Park Ridge. Feb. 12-May 11: Paintings by Chicago textile artist Mary Jo Bowers and painter Patricia Schuler of Park Ridge. Feb. 12-May 11: Paintings by Chicago textile artist Mary Jo Bowers and painter Patricia Schuler of Park Ridge.

Auditioning for the roles of Sister Leo, aged 20 to mid-30s, must be able to dance; Sister Julia, featured role; and an ensemble of singing nuns and brothers, ages 20 and up. Prepare 32 bars of an upbeat song and bring sheet music in your key. Accomplishments provided. A simple dance step will be taught. Audition appointments recommended; e-mail auditions@risingstarschicago.com or call (773) 736-2490. Walk-ins will be seen as time permits. Performances will be April 20-29 at The Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. Park Ridge Chorale will hold tryouts for its spring session, through Jan. 30. Rehearsals are held from 7-9 p.m. Mondays at the Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Orchard Center, Skokie. (847) 635-2274. Feb. 5, 2 p.m.: William Landay discusses and signs Defending Jacob. "Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World," a free seminar examining the role of women in Jewish literature, will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, through 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 Goluoff, associate professor of English. Copies of the books may be borrowed from the Skokie Public Library.

Auditions & Opportunities
The Rising Stars Theatre Company will hold open auditions for select roles in the musical comedy "Nunsense - The Mega Musical" from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 27 and 1-5 p.m. Jan. 29 at 2559 N. Sayre, Chicago. Auditioning for the roles of Sister Leo, aged 20 to mid-30s, must be able to dance; Sister Julia, featured role; and an ensemble of singing nuns and brothers, ages 20 and up. Prepare 32 bars of an upbeat song and bring sheet music in your key. Accomplishments provided. A simple dance step will be taught. Audition appointments recommended; e-mail auditions@risingstarschicago.com or call (773) 736-2490. Walk-ins will be seen as time permits. Performances will be April 20-29 at The Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. Park Ridge Chorale will hold tryouts for its spring session, through Jan. 30. Rehearsals are held from 7-9 p.m. Mondays at the Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Orchard Center, Park Ridge. The concert will be presented April 15, with a theme of gospel music including the Gospel Mass by Robert Ray. For information, call Guy Huff, (847) 647-7116, or Patti Bonk, (847) 825-2216.

BENEFITS
The Chicago Bar Association's 89th annual Holiday Spirits Revue, "LawlawPalooza," will be presented at 8 p.m. Jan. 28 at Oakton Community College's Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Proceeds benefit Oakton's Educational Foundation Scholarship Fund. Tickets are $50, which includes a post-performance reception. Call (847) 635-1893.

BOOKS & POETRY
Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. (847) 676-2230. Feb. 5, 2 p.m.: William Landay discusses and signs Defending Jacob. "Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World," a free seminar examining the role of women in Jewish literature, will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, through 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 Goluoff, associate professor of English. Copies of the books may be borrowed from the Skokie Public Library.

SEE GO, PAGE 148

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Lincolnwood orchestra celebrates Schubert

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

It's going to be all-Schubert all the time at the Fine Arts Building on Saturday. Titled Schubertiade Chicago, this musical marathon is presented in anticipation of the anniversary of Schubert's birthdate, Jan. 28.

This is PianoForte's eighth annual Schubertiade Chicago, and for the first time the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Philip Simmons, will be among the more than 40 performers taking part in this European-style tradition.

Simmons was a long-time resident of the North Shore, who moved to the Big Island of Hawaii in 2009, where he conducts the Orchestra of the Hawaiian Islands. However, his 22-member Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, LCO, remains a high priority for American Music Festivals, the organization Simmons created to produce his many musical projects.

"Performing at the Schubertiade is a natural fit for us," Simmons declared. "I've always been impressed with PianoForte's concerts and artistic vision.

"Plus, American Music Festivals had been looking to bring LCO downtown this year," he continued, adding that the musicians will just fit on stage of Curtis Hall in the Fine Arts Building.

Simmons will conduct the orchestra in Schubert's Symphony No. 5, which is orchestrated for a small ensemble. "That is a natural for this program," he said. But he also wanted to present something from the composer's prodigious output for the human voice.

So, in collaboration with friend and colleague baritone Andrew Schultze, the program will also include five arias from three of the composer's many, but little-known operas "Die Freunde von Salamanka," "Die Feud" and "Die Burschen." Schultze, a faculty member at Columbia College Chicago, is artistic director of the Chicago Syntagma Musicum, an ensemble specializing in early vocal chamber music.

"Phil and I have collaborated on musical projects for about a dozen years," he said, noting that in addition to the Schubertiade Saturday, they will present an all-Bach program at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance Oct. 14.

Franz Schubert was born in Austria in late January, 1797, and the contemporary music world often honors this prolific composer with special performances of his music during this time of year. The name Schubertiade refers to small musical gatherings in private homes, with the composer at the piano playing his music for friends.

Philip Simmons, artistic director of the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra

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GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12B


To register, contact the Alliance for Lifelong Learning at (847) 982-9888 (press 3).

Love Is Murder 13, a mystery and romance conference for authors, readers and fans, will be held Feb. 3-5 at the Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. The event includes author panels, workshops, pitch sessions with agents and editors, and entertainment. A pre-conference book signing will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. Feb 2, featuring authors David Morrell, Donald Bain, Juli James, Hank Phillippines Ryan and Julie Hcy. Visit www.lovemurder.net.

CHILD'S PLAY

Feb. 1, 3:30 p.m.: "The Smurfs.
Feb. 25, 2 p.m.: "Kung Fu Panda 2.
Feb. 26, 2 p.m.: "Kung Fu Panda 2.


Oakton Community College's Footlight Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-1900. Feb. 4, 3 p.m.: Dave Rudolf's Beach Ball Featuring Simon & Garfunkel: $5 children under 12.

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.: "Fiddler on the Roof." March 25, 2 p.m.: "Fiddler on the Roof." March 25, 3 p.m.: "The Sound of Music." April 28, 2 p.m.: "Evita." May 10, 2 p.m.: "The King and I." May 25, 3 p.m.: "The Sound of Music.

NORTHEASTERN (NEU) 

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 5501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, www.northsho-}

p.m.: Friends First Social Mixer at Moretti’s, 1799 S. Busse Road, Mount Prospect. Jan. 25, 7 p.m.: Sunday Singles Night at Tuscano’s, 4926 N. River Road, Schiller Park. Free.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES
Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Songwriters’ Group meets. All songwriters are invited to bring new and nearly new songs to play live and get feedback from others in the group. Oakton Community College offers Alliance for Lifelong Learning classes at various locations. For information or registration, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3. Writing a Short Story (COM E69-01), a six-week class, meets from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, starting Feb. 8, at Niles North High School, Skokie. Course fee is $150.

ET CETERA
Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601. Through Jan. 29: Disney on Ice: Dare to Dream. $11-$75. March 11, 5 p.m.: Stars on Ice. Tickets: $25-$150.

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Grandparents upsize for a growing family

Choosing style. Larry and Karen Hansen, grandparents of five, decided their condo was just not big enough. Since they only needed the space when the kids visited, they chose an elegant ranch home with an expanded lower level at The Enclave at Sherwood Terrace in Lake Bluff. They also added maple cabinets, granite countertops, oak flooring and some comforts for themselves, including an expanded kitchen.

Larry and Karen, along with their three other children and five grandchildren, spent time in the kitchen while we visited. Although it’s smaller than an entire dining room, the space is occupied by a nearly wall-to-wall new refrigerator freezer, a new range with at least the minimum of professional-grade appliances, and a stainless steel microwave. It’s designed to deliver a maximum of essentials. It’s designed to deliver a maximum of essentials.

Larry and Karen have a 2.0-liter engine that develops 173 horsepower and 19.4.The Forte five-door won’t meet the government’s five-star criterion in one respect: the interior offers a lot for the money.

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<td>2012 Subaru Impreza</td>
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Moving up

Grandparents upsize to accommodate growing family

When Larry and Karen Hansen watched their family blossom with the birth of five grandchildren, they decided their condo was just not big enough.

That's when they began a search for a larger home. Since they only needed the large space when their kids visited, they chose an elegant ranch home with an expanded lower level at The Enclave at the Reserve at the Merit Club in Libertyville.

"We have two houses in one," said Larry. "Karen and I enjoy the 2,250 square foot empty-nester ranch when we're alone, but when our kids and grandkids arrive, we open the 1,650-square-foot lower level and have fun with the family."

On the main floor there's a living room, media room, kitchen, dining room, two bedrooms and two baths. Three arched openings adorn both sides of the great room, which opens to the kitchen and family room, while the dining room proved large enough to entertain the entire family over the holidays.

Karen loves the southern exposure allowing sunlight to permeate her home and is delighted by the magnificent views of a green landscape, sparkling ponds and a horse farm. Oftentimes, she sees horses playing and geese swimming in the ponds.

While the main level is for living, the lower level is for entertaining on a grand scale and participating in a multitude of activities with the youngsters. A large playroom and two bedrooms and a bath complete the English basement, with natural light illuminating the space.

With five grandkids aged one to eight, the Hansens have decorated the space with a U-shaped sectional, large-screen TV with games, and a full-size pool table.

"There's even an unfinished area where we can do messy projects," said Karen.

The low-maintenance lifestyle is an important feature for the busy grandparents who also winter in Florida. Designed as a grounds maintenance-free community, homeowners pay a nominal monthly maintenance fee for individual lawn maintenance, snow removal, upkeep of streets, common areas, ponds, the front entrance and guard house.

Since the couple have been Libertyville residents for more than 30 years, they wanted to be close to their old stomping grounds and near their long time friends. Larry maintains that homes in Libertyville have maintained their value because new home prices were similar to resales. But new construction gave them the

Choosing style: An element of style Karen and Larry Hansen found impressive in their new home is the architectural arches that adorn both sides of the Carrington great room, which opens to the kitchen and family room. Karen also chose an expanded kitchen with maple cabinets, granite countertops, oak flooring and professional-grade appliances. 

flexibility to get everything they wanted. Larry opted for a screened-in porch and a heated three-car garage, while Karen enlarged the kitchen, breakfast room and mudroom.

Taking walks and riding their bikes to the forest preserve have become a frequent pastime for the Hansens. "Walking is a great way to meet people and our neighbors have been very friendly," said Karen.

The Enclave is a perfect choice for buyers who want to downsize into a low maintenance lifestyle, but still have space to see their grandkids grow and flourish.

The established community, dubbed by owners "the most beautiful community in Lake County," offers stunning grounds surrounded by the pristine fairways of the Merit Club golf course, rolling hills, sparkling ponds, rock gardens and wildflowers.

Featuring 1,800 to 2,900 square feet of space, homes have two to three bedrooms and up to 3½ baths, and are priced from $494,900 to $625,900. Buyers who appreciate the convenience of single-level living can choose from five ranch plans, or two two-story designs sporting first-floor master bedrooms.

Every home at The Enclave is distinguished with

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No work, all play

Maples at the Sonatas offers maintenance-free homes, below-market pricing

Families who have watched their last child move from home, or a young business professional who doesn't want to spend the precious weekend cutting the grass, have four maintenance-free ranch homes available for immediate delivery at the Maples at the Sonatas in Woodstock.

The 1,516- to 1,992-square-foot ranches by Epcon Communities are priced from $150,000 to $242,990 and include amenities such as central air conditioning, fireplaces, attached two-car garages, volume ceilings and access to a private 3,000-square-foot clubhouse with fitness center, heated in-ground swimming pool and outdoor barbecue area.

Maples at the Sonatas offer a virtually maintenance-free environment to homeowners. The association is responsible for common-area landscaping, snow removal from driveways/sidewalks, taking care of the pool/clubhouse and all exterior maintenance or repairs to the villas and stand-alone homes.

Maples at the Sonatas offers both stand-alone ranch and attached villa homes. The attached villas, although connected, have architecture more reminiscent of a very large luxury ranch home. Arranged in a pinwheel format around a central pivot point, the four ranch villas per building only share one common wall, giving them all a "single family" livability. This architectural layout, which allows privacy and an abundance of natural light, is what sets Epcon Communities apart from other builders.

Home Portico: The Portico model shows how Epcon's designs make for easy living at the Maples at The Sonatas in Woodstock, with an easy flow from the dining to the living room, and view out the glass doors to bring in plenty of natural light. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

SEE MAPLES, PAGE 4

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Onsite model home located in Northbrook at the corner of Techny and Founders Drive.
MAPLES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"We don't build townhomes in a straight line like other builders. They always have two desirable end units and many undesirable interior units," said Jamie Wilcox, developer of the Epcon community. "In contrast we build our villas in a circular 4-home format, which means there are only highly sought after end-units that share only one common wall with their neighbor."

This design creates a building that resembles a large custom single-family home finished with stone, color coordinated lap siding and a steeply pitched roof covered with architectural-grade shingles. These ranch villa homes feature curb appeal that homeowners find in few other places, with features combining attached two-car garages, private garden patios, four season verandas and private entrances.

One of the stair-free villa homes available for immediate occupancy is the 1,886-square-foot Canterbury model. This ranch villa includes two bedrooms, a den/study and two full baths. With a finished veranda, upgraded maple cabinetry, Corian countertops, ceramic floor tile and a fireplace in family room, this home is priced at only $174,990.

The Canterbury's great room has a vaulted cathedral ceiling, expansive windows topped with a half-circle transom window, and French doors that provide access to a finished veranda. The model also features a formal dining room with cathedral ceiling, and a kitchen furnished with a large pantry, breakfast bar and GE-brand appliances (refrigerator with icemaker, gas range, microwave/range hood, dishwasher and garbage disposal).

This home also includes a master bedroom suite with cathedral ceiling and windows topped by a half-circle transom window. The owner's suite also has access to a walk-in closet and a private bathroom furnished with a linen closet, an oversized bath vanity with cultured marble top, and a shower with built-in bench.

For those seeking a little less living space, the 1,650-square-foot Abbey ranch is available quickly too. With two bedrooms, two baths and two-car garage, the home is priced to fit at an affordable $182,650. Highlights of the Abbey include a master bedroom suite with cathedral ceiling and a living room with direct access through French doors to a veranda. The master bedroom features a walk-in closet, and the master bath features double sinks and an oversized shower with built-in seat. Another feature of the home is a great room with fireplace. Adjacent to the great room is the dining room and kitchen, both of which are covered by a cathedral ceiling. This kitchen features granite countertops and a complete set of stainless steel appliances.

The final home available for immediate occupancy is the 1,750-square-foot Portico model, a new single-family home from Epcon's new series of Courtyard single-family ranch homes. These homes do not share a connected wall with any other residence. They offer 1,516 to 1,992 square feet of maintenance-free living space, and each includes a private 400- to 500-square-foot landscaped courtyard that is visible from every room in the house. The Portico model has two bedrooms, two baths, living and dining rooms, den, kitchen and attached two-car garage.

A central food preparation island and furniture-quality cabinetry can also be found in the Portico's kitchen. "This professionally decorated model has so many material upgrades and optional amenities installed, we cannot list them here," said Wilcox. "But rest assured, the sales price of $242,650 would not cover the cost if you were to purchase a different Portico model and finish it with the same list of features and amenities we used for this sales model."

All villas and single-family courtyard homes feature central air conditioning, an energy-efficiency package including low-E windows, 82 percent efficient furnace and premium insulation, and true ranch living with all space conveniently situated on one floor.

Within the community, Epcon Communities provides a social environment for homeowners to cultivate new friendships. A well appointed clubhouse with fireplace and a heated in-ground swimming pool provide the ideal settings for socializing with new neighbors.

The Maples at the Sonatas onsite sales center and decorated models are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. To reach the community, take Route 47 to Ware Road, head east 1/4 mile, turn left onto Vivadi, and then turn left on Schumann Road.

For more information call (815) 334-0340 or visit the builder's Website at www.EpconCommunities.com.

Epcon has other Chicago-area communities in Plainfield, and Valparaiso, Ind.
**New 2012 Subaru IMPREZA 2.0i**
Model CA-01

$17,484

**New 2012 Subaru LEGACY 2.5i**
Model CA-01

$19,676

**New 2012 Subaru FORESTER 2.5X**
Model CA-01

$20,264

**New 2012 Subaru OUTBACK 2.5i**
Model CA-01

$22,714

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**QUALITY SELECTION OF USED VEHICLES**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>VIN Number</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>Subaru Outback</td>
<td>SU4676A</td>
<td>$20,995*</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make/Special Offer</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>VIN</th>
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<td>05 Scion XC</td>
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**2012 Volkswagen Jetta S Manual**

Buy for: **$16,999 or 0% APR for 60 Mos.**

MSRP: $17,635  Stk # V2075

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**2012 Volkswagen Passat S 2.5L Automatic**

Buy for: **$22,999 or 1.9% APR for 60 Mos.**

MSRP: $23,730  Stk # V2108

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Automatic, Model # CP2FCEW, Stk # H27112
Lease Per 24 Month For mos. Total due at lease inception $2,125. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2012 HONDA CR-V EX AWD
Model # RM4H5CIW, Stk # H27588
Lease Per 36 Month For mos. Total due at lease inception $2,199. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2012 HONDA PILOT EX AWD
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Lease Per 36 Month For mos. Total due at lease inception $2,218. Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

*0.9% APR Financing for 36 mos. on select years, makes and models. See dealer for details. Based on approved credit to qualified buyers. Based on $17.02 per month per $1000 financed. See dealer for details. #Based on closed end leases. To qualified buyers with approved credit. 12,000 allowable miles per year, 15¢ for each additional mile (12 Pilot: 20¢ for each additional mile). *12 Civic: Residual: $13,209, *12 Accord: Residual: $14,688, *12 CR-V: Residual: $17,460, *12 Pilot: Residual: $18,219. Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. Valid three days from publication. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Not available with any previous offers.

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(847) 945-0135
www.holy crossdeerfield.org

Holy Cross School is a supportive and loving
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- 4 Primary Classrooms (3 to 5 yrs.)
- Three Elementary Classrooms
  Ages 6 - 12
- Program Plus Available
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- Summer Programs
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  Schools
- Full and extensive curriculum;
  includes Montessori curriculum
  as well as traditional school curriculum
  presented within framework of the
  Montessori philosophy
- Registered with State of Illinois Board
  of Education Kindergarten through 8th grade
- Member of American Montessori Society

www.OSMKids.com
847-223-9606
Navigating the private school admission process jungle can be quite tricky, especially if you're somewhat of a neophyte. Pay attention to details. In some cases, parents must put in a great deal of effort to achieve right of entry to their desired school. Many schools integrate arduous interviews and incorporate specific submission guidelines and deadlines, testing requirements, and wait-list protocols into their application procedure. Getting into the top schools can be rather competitive and necessitate the inclusion of writing samples and detailed admission forms. Stellar grades and test scores are, thankfully, only part of what most schools consider. The potential intellectual growth of your child as well as how she will fit into the school community are also of utmost importance.

Some common mistakes could possibly impair your likelihood for admission. Habitually calling an admissions office, not keeping the lines of communication open, failing to tour the school at the scheduled time, tardiness, repeatedly missing deadlines and canceling appointments could all be detrimental to the chances of your child earning a coveted spot. Delve into the process early, as the spaces available might be scarce and the competition high.

"First and foremost, parents should do their research. Take tours, talk to directors. While exploring the educational options available for your student, it is important to realize "the best school" is the school that fulfills student's needs," said Gori Redd, founder of PREP. "By first determining their academic motivation, personality and how they process information, you'll have a clearer understanding in the selection process of which schools' philosophy, goals and long-term plans are best suited for them." Redd also recommends submitting your application promptly, providing respectable letters of recommendation, making sure your child is ready if testing is required and sending a personal and pensive thank you letter to the director after your interview or tour with the school.

"Put your best foot forward during your interview. Treat this like a job interview. Dress to impress," said Redd. "Ask thoughtful questions that show you have done your homework. Be clear and concise in your responses to questions. Be yourself. Schools are looking for a diverse population of families that would be a good match for the school. Let them know what benefits your student and your family would bring to the school."

Why should all these measures be taken?

"Would it be fair to send your child to take the SAT or ACT without any idea of what to expect? The same concept applies here. There are certain skills that are required for anyone to be successful while taking tests or participating in interviews," said Redd. "They need to be familiar with the types of questions that are asked, be able to sit and pay attention for a longer period of time and even be comfortable answering questions from a stranger."

Visit www.prepchicago.com for more information.

When applying: Submit your application promptly, provide respectable letters of recommendation, have your child take the proper tests and send a thank you letter to the director after your interview or tour with the school.

All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten, except how to be accepted into selective schools
Answers: Inside today's classified section
Brown, Robert B.
92, died January 18, 2012 at Ivy Court Assisted Living Facility, Orlando, Florida. He was born on Oct. 28, 1919 to Frank and Eva Brown in Cleveland, Ohio.
Surviving, are his wife of 64 years Dorothy George Brown, his two daughters Diane Olson (Rusty) and Carol Moore (Tim) and four grandchildren whom he loved dearly, Lindsey and Caitlin Olson and Sarah and Michael Moore.
Bob worked for the A.C. Nielsen Company and later Material Service. The many hobbies he enjoyed after retirement included building and flying remote controlled helicopters, fine woodworking, stained glass and gardening, and was still playing the tenor sax until the year before he died.
In lieu of flowers please send donations to either: The Alzheimer’s Association 378 Center Pointe Circle, Suite 1280 Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-3442 or Kissimmee - Vistas Hospice 1200 North Central Ave. - Suite 200 Kissimmee, Florida 34741

Recruitment Strategies that Reach and Engage Today’s Job Seekers

By: Dona DeZube, Monster.com Finance Expert

As more consumers set aside laptops in favor of smartphones, iPads and other tablet computers, job seekers expect to be engaged with videos, job notifications and quick follow-up. Many experts say that recruiters must learn to adapt their recruitment strategy to these platforms.

Today's mobile job seekers have different expectations and look for:
- Instant updates about new jobs via their mobile devices
- Immediate feedback to their job application
- Recruiting videos to watch on their mobile devices
- Engaging, interactive content from employers

While that may seem impossible as a small business hiring strategy, here's the good news: responding to those demands with consistent recruiting messages across multiple platforms is easier and less expensive than you might imagine.

The Growth of Mobile Recruiting

Based on the growth of tablet sales, and expectations that mobile Internet use will surpass desktop use by 2015, Monster has created a suite of mobile apps for iPhone, iPad touch and Android devices to better cater to this audience.

Necklas encourages employers to take an integrated approach to mobile-friendly apply solutions. “Monster has taken a lead role in integrating mobile with our job search applications,” he says, adding that Monster now reaches over 2 million mobile job seekers.

The Ease of Mobile Messaging

One of the quickest and easiest ways for recruiters to take their recruiting message mobile - adjusting a traditional Monster.com job posting to fit a smartphone format - also happens to be free.

As Internet-connected mobile devices are an “always-on” personal device, any opportunities to link these attributes into the recruitment process will be beneficial to seekers.

Some ideas include:
- Job postings where seekers call the hiring manager directly
- Mobile customer relationship management (CRM) that links recruiters and seekers via instant messaging
- Use of permission-based Short Message Service (SMS)
- Frequent updates to show the candidate their progress through the application process
- Incorporation of QR codes (Quick Response) in recruitment materials

Going Beyond the Written Word with Video

While mobile devices tend to be small, job seekers' desires for more in-depth information are growing, says Leslie Cope, a senior product director for Monster.com. “They want to see videos about the company, hear from people who are already employed and compare one opportunity to the next,” she says.

Eva Bitteker, product manager for Monster's Video Profile product, says videos are especially effective for companies that have to sell candidates on their location (think rural hospitals), increase their response rate for qualified applicants, or illustrate positions that are difficult to describe with words alone.

Here's why videos work well in those situations:
- Your employees are your best asset. A video that features your employees talking about the reasons why they enjoy working for your company can be compelling.
- They give job seekers a peek at your corporate culture. Video is a great medium to visually communicate and showcase key selling points for your company.
- Show what job requirements look like in real life. This also helps candidates more accurately judge if they're equipped to do the job.
- Feature aspects of the job that don't fit easily into a job description.

What to Do with All Those New Leads

What's the downside of a more powerful mobile recruiting strategy? It increases candidates' expectation for two-way communications. To cope with those demands, Monster provides candidate management tools that can be put in place before you activate new mobile-based campaigns.

As recruitment strategies and small business hiring strategies evolve, there's no doubt that Web 2.0, mobile and video recruitment tools will take center stage. Now's the time to put these tools to work and enable your small company to stand out from competitors and make all your job postings more engaging.
Answers to Super Crossword

BASS PEW LEAF HAREM
ASAP OPEC GILDA UVULA
CHRISTOPHERDOD BENIN
HEIDI STILE LEN TAD
ELM CLAUDE EUGENE
ENCROACH ASTO SUN
LEO STRAP YELL RICH
SALT TILE TUB STEED
ERIKA FROSE COSTELLO
NURSE ETAL JLO BILL
SAD CHRISTIAND NOL
ORAL ENDE ERT ETUDE
DOVETAIL REEDS MIDAS
AMISH EEN UCOM MICE
ASTI ROOD ALBUM CRE
ALE TROY DESIGNER
CHARLES DARWIN ERR
RIDER SPIES TOTES
OPENS COLLEEN ENWRUSH
SOAP TOVED AGEE NITA
SOAPY SED EKE DOER

Business Opportunity

Help Wanted!
Make $1000. Week processing
our mail FREE! Apply now.
Get free assistance: 1-800-555-HELP
Get help now! Contact us today!

www.needahelp.com

Make Up To $200.00 Per Week
New Credit Card Ready. Send
3 Mailed Checks, Minimum
$55 to $250. Money Transfer.
Locations Available: BBB Accredited.
Locations Available: BBB Accredited.

PAS IN ADVANCE! Make $500
First Payment! Money Back if Home
Income is guaranteed! No experience required.
Email: Today! www.primeincome带头

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FRANCHISE in one of the fastest
growing areas of the economy.
MEDICAL HEALTHCARE STAFFING
IN IS in demand and is growing.
Highly profitable.
Experienced staff available in F, M.
Email: businessdevelopment@abctehcare.com

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At KSB Hospital, we are committed
to providing the best in quality healthcare to our
neighborhood...as well as the best in career opportunities.

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Manages the human, technical and
financial resources of the Respiratory
Care Department. A Bachelor's Degree,
RRT/CPR and 3 years of experience
are required. KSB offers competitive wages and
a comprehensive benefits package. Join a
community hospital that is proud to provide
world-class care! Apply online at: www.
ksbhospital.com or submit an application
or resume to: KSB Human Resource
Department, 403 East First Street, Dixon,
IL 61021. EOE

Business Opportunity

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First Payment! Money Back if Home
Income is guaranteed! No experience required.
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CULTURAL COMPETENCE...

Welcoming
Oakton Community College employs
individuals who respect, are eager to
learn about, and have a willingness to
accept the many ways of viewing
the world.

Community
Oakton serves the near northern
suburbs of Chicago with campuses in
Des Plaines and Skokie.

Diversity
Individuals with a commitment to
working in a culturally competent
environment and who reflect the
increasing diversity of Oakton's
student body and community
are sought for the following
administrative opening:

• Associate

Vice President for
Continuing
Education, Training, and Workforce
Development

The anticipated start date
is July 1, 2012.
Looking for a career in sales?
SUN-limes MEDIA
Resumes with cover letter should be emailed, mailed or brought to the advertising and media professionals.

We offer competitive base salaries, incentive plans, benefits, and a total rewards package that includes a toll-free benefit package. One of every 10 people locally in the Chicago Region.

For high school sports enthusiasts in our area. Combining print, mobile, and online content, we deliver hyperlocal news to people's homes for over 125 years. Whether you enjoy the Chicago Herald-News, Courier-News, Post-Tribune and Lake County News-Sun, our extensive product line includes RogerEbert.com, ToDrive.com, YourSeason.com, to name a few.

We offer a total rewards package that includes a toll-free benefit package. Our culture is customer-focused and we are currently seeking top talent.

Here's what we're looking for:
Experience working on School Buses preferred
Must pass pre-employment drug test and DOT physical
Must be able to obtain CDL within 90 days of hire

Responsibilities:
- New business development through prospecting, sales and presentations, as well as servicing of accounts. We look for people who are self-starters and can demonstrate a strong work ethic.
- Must be able to maintain a professional image and provide excellent customer service.

Benefits:
- Competitive hourly rates
- Free training
- Competitive benefits, including health insurance, dental, vision, 401k retirement plan, and paid time off
- Continuing education opportunities

If you're interested in joining our team, please visit our website and submit your resume.

We are looking for a Sales Representative for our Entry-Level Phone Sales Specialists position. This is a great opportunity for someone who is energetic, driven, and looking to join a dynamic and fast-paced environment.

We are looking for someone who is interested in the media industry and is excited about the potential of working with a strong team of professionals.

If you are interested in learning more about this position, please visit our website and submit your resume.

In addition to our Entry-Level Phone Sales Specialists position, we are also seeking a Sales Specialist for our other product lines.

We are looking for someone who is interested in the media industry and is excited about the potential of working with a strong team of professionals.

If you are interested in learning more about this position, please visit our website and submit your resume.

We offer competitive base salaries, incentive plans, benefits, and a total rewards package that includes a toll-free benefit package.

If you're interested in joining our team, please visit our website and submit your resume.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Sun-Times Media**
Looking for a career in sales?

We are seeking talented and motivated individuals to fill various sales positions within our company. If you are interested in pursuing a career in sales and are looking for a challenging opportunity, we encourage you to apply.

We offer competitive base salaries, incentives, benefits, and a total rewards package that includes a toll-free benefit package. We are dedicated to our customers and strive to provide exceptional service.

Experience working on School Buses preferred
Must be able to obtain CDL within 90 days of hire

Responsibilities:
- New business development through prospecting, sales and presentations, as well as servicing of accounts. We look for people who are self-starters and can demonstrate a strong work ethic.
- Must be able to maintain a professional image and provide excellent customer service.

Benefits:
- Competitive hourly rates
- Free training
- Competitive benefits, including health insurance, dental, vision, 401k retirement plan, and paid time off
- Continuing education opportunities

If you're interested in joining our team, please visit our website and submit your resume.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
suant to a Judgment of Foreclosure

LILLY CHOLLAMEL, DISCOVER LOANS SERVICING, LP DI

6713 24 Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053.

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TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY LISTED BELOW FOR DEFAULT UNDER A MORTGAGE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE, OR IN BANKRUPTCY, YOU MUST PAY THE MONETARY UNIT WHICH IS PART OF A CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT - 765 ILCS 105/5.6-10.6 FOR THE MORTGAGEHOLDERS. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF INSURANCE AND LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION, AS THE MORTGAGEHOLDERS, TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY LISTED BELOW FOR DEFAULT UNDER A MORTGAGE OR OTHER CONVEYANCE, OR IN BANKRUPTCY, YOU MUST PAY THE MONETARY UNIT WHICH IS PART OF A CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT - 765 ILCS 105/5.6-10.6 FOR THE MORTGAGEHOLDERS. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF INSURANCE AND LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE TO THE PROPERTY.

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The judgment amount was $339,522.23.

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY COURT

Foreclosure Sale

13 CH 30540

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12/10/10

Wednesday, December 15, 2011

SOUTHWEST SIDE OF 5TH STREET AT COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

The judgment amount was $339,522.23.

Public Notice is hereby given that fore and Sale will be entered in the above

The Foreclosed Real Estate Property

13 CH 30540

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Public Notice is hereby given that fore and Sale will be entered in the above

The Foreclosed Real Estate Property

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The Village of Skokie is now accepting bids for solar array installation services at Village of Skokie, 1530 Oar Plaza, Skokie, IL 60077. The bidding period will end at 1:00 p.m. on December 17, 2012.

The village will award a contract to the highest bidder for the installation of a solar array at the Village of Skokie, 1530 Oar Plaza, Skokie, IL 60077. The bidding period will end at 1:00 p.m. on December 17, 2012.

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TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL 847-998-3400 IN THE CLASSIFIEDS.

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Storage - Legal

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You rely on us for news, we rely on you for inspiration.

think local.
think pioneerlocal.com

PIONEER PRESS
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE
BY IRV LEAVITT
ileavitt@pioneerlocal.com

Free of charge, we offer tales of stupid criminals, strange crimes, odd news and otherwise silly stories from around the area.

A good turn gets punished
NILES, JAN. 13 - A resident, 32, reported that a gentleman called him at his apartment on the 8800 block of Washington Street to ask for a ride home from drug rehab. When the resident got back, his Xbox was missing. He told the cops he doesn’t believe in coincidences.

Is there a future for us?
I’ve recently come into some money ...
FRANKLIN PARK, DEC. 21 - A man held up a firm at 9645 Grand Ave. that specializes in sending money to Poland for $2,184. After he told the employee to put the money in a bag, he asked the lady her name.

Cold hands make animals of us all
OAK PARK, DEC. 23 - A man who implied he was armed reached into another man’s coat pocket on the Oak Park Avenue CTA platform and took out a pair of gloves. He then got on a westbound train.

In the wind
WILMETTE, NOV. 30 - A cart got away from a shopper in the windswept parking lot of Jewel Foods, 41 Green Bay Road. When she saw a woman grab it, she appreciated that the other lady had apparently put herself out to prevent a car from being hit. She felt less appreciative later when she remembered that she had left her wallet and smart phone in the cart.

Lexus tastes on a Cannondale budget
ELMWOOD PARK, DEC. 15 - A thief stole eight packages of lobster tails from Caputo’s Fresh Market, 2400 N. Harlem Ave., and pedaled down 72nd Court to freedom.

They’ll never find him
OAK PARK, JAN. 8 - A man who stole an $800 iPhone from a store in the 900 block of Madison Street had a tattoo of a red star and a dollar sign on his forehead.

Because that’s where the dough is
PANERA BREAD STORES, JANUARY — Wallets were lifted from purses on Jan. 5 and Jan. 6 at Panera Bread, 305 Waukegan Road, Lake Bluff, and Jan. 9 at the Skokie Panera at 9611 Skokie Blvd. Losses topped $13,750, mostly in fraudulent credit card use.

Nobody here but us midnight mechanics
OAK PARK, JAN. 13 - Police responding to a possible garage burglary in progress at 4:23 a.m. followed snowprints to the 700 block of South Lyman Street. There they found evidence of a break-in to a garage. Inside, they saw a pair of feet sticking out from beneath a car. They arrested their owner, who was held in lieu of $50,000 bond.

Petey Townshend-style assault
EVANSTON, JAN. 13 - A man recovering from broken ribs at Evanston Hospital told police that a Wilmette woman, 57, had beaten him the previous day with a solid-body electric guitar.

They’re still together — at 26th and California
NORTHBROOK, JAN. 11 - A mom, 58, and her live-in daughter, 25, made their escape from Home Goods in Willow Festival with a truck full of stolen goods, but they were easy to find. They left the tailgate down, and police could see all the reported stolen property heading west on Willow Road. The ladies were arrested after driving about four blocks.

She’s just sick about it
PARK RIDGE, DEC. 31 - A patient’s diamond necklace was reported stolen from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St.

Somehow, it sounds more impressive
FRANKLIN PARK, DEC. 19 - A man robbed the service desk of Jewel Foods, 10208 Grand Ave., claiming he had three guns. The clerk handed over about $860, and he left.

None of it was under his arms
WESTCHESTER, DEC. 19 - A Maywood man, 57, was detained by employees at Jewel-Osco, 2126 Mannheim Road, who removed two dozen deodorant sticks from his clothes, all of which they believed had been on the store’s shelves until very recently.

Sometimes you’re glad you don’t wear a watch
NILES, DEC. 17 - A Buffalo Grove man, 34, told police that while outside a bar on the 6900 block of Milwaukee Avenue, a man drove up and asked him for directions. The man told police that the driver remarked he had a beautiful ring. Upon being given directions, the driver repeatedly thanked him and shook his hand. The driver stepped on the gas and was gone a second or so after the complainant felt the ring slip from his finger.

Sometimes it’s wise to just say yes
WILMETTE, DEC. 23 - A mom, 58, and her live-in daughter, 25, made their escape from Home Goods in Willow Festival with a truck full of stolen goods, but they were easy to find. They left the tailgate down, and police could see all the reported stolen property heading west on Willow Road. The ladies were arrested after driving about four blocks.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Chamber of Commerce, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Skokie IL 60076. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbotarri@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
-Monday, Jan. 30 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
-Saturday, Jan. 28 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
-Saturday, Jan. 28 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).
-Note: The center will be closed Feb. 19 in observance of Presidents' Day.
-Two Bunko parties will be held to benefit the Center of Concern, a social service agency in Park Ridge. The events will be held Feb. 10 at the South Park Recreation Center (Talcott Road and Cumberland Avenue, Park Ridge). The first event, "Bunko and Lunch" for men and women, will be held 12:30-3:30 p.m. Later, "Ladies' Night" will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m.; $15 ticket includes Bunko games and prizes, choice of beef sandwich or mostaccioli, desert, coffee and tea. Wine, beer and soda will be available for purchase. Contact Nancy at (847) 318-1008 to make reservations; tickets will be held at the door. Indicate which session and whether beef or pasta is desired. Homeowners desiring additional income, companionship, or the ability to remain in their homes may wish to consider the Center of Concern's Shared Housing Program. Residents are matched with screened applicants who possess a temperament suitable to shared accommodations. Preparation of simple meals and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, #310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (The center is open only until noon on Fridays.) The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.
-Center counselors also are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Care Rx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the long-term-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption.

Chamber
Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry, (847) 268-8180.
Civic
Maine Township is again accepting nominations for the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen's Award. The award recognizes a Maine Township resident who has shown support, service, and dedication to the township. The winner will be recognized at the Maine Township Annual Town Meeting on April 10 and will receive a plaque and a monetary award. Deadline to submit a nomination is March 22. Nomination forms are available on the Maine Township website, www.mainetownship.com, or at the front desk of Maine Township Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Forms should be mailed to Township Trustee Susan Moylan Krey at the Town Hall address or faxed to (847) 297-1335.
-State Rep. Rosemary Mulligan, R-65th, maintains her 65th District office at the following address: 1420 Renaissance Drive, Suite 306, Park Ridge IL 60068. Phone: (847) 297-6533; fax: (847) 297-2978; e-mail: repmulligan@usa.net; website and E-News sign-up:

-A representative from the Niles Township Clerk's office will be available 9 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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 28

MAKE SOME BREAD

EARN SOME DOUGH

See pioneeralocal.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 pioneeralocal.com/monster and you might find yourself in the middle of the best of both worlds.

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- Reduction in acute & chronic pain
- Restores sensation in feet and hands
- Improved balance - less falls
- Potential to prevent amputation

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Explore new treatment for NEUROPATHY

DIABETIC AND NON-DIABETIC

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CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

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

Clubs

The "Out to Dinner" group from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Skokie, will meet at the Kabib House, 4949 Oakton St., Skokie, at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 29. All are invited to join the group for dinner and socializing. Call (847) 966-8445.

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. in 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) 764-8320.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamesbonds4762@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

The Korean War Veteran's Association, Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Henmuller, (773) 779-9671.

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) 965-0920.

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

Community

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie will hold Movie Night at 7:15 p.m. Feb. 1. All are invited to enjoy a feature film, popcorn and discussion. Movie Night is held the first Wednesday of each month. Call (847) 966-8445.

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 greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program. SNWANCC 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. In 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, 6899 Touhy Ave., (847) 586-7900; and at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 978 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.

See www.swancc.org.

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RETHINK YOUR DRINK Pledge to reduce your number of sugar-loaded beverages at www.RethinkYourDrinkNow.com

You just ate 16 packs of sugar.

All those extra calories can cause obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Made possible by funding from the Department of Health and Human Services.

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Do you suffer from pain, tingling, numbness, coldness or burning feet and hands?

Explore new treatment for NEUROPATHY

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Monter, IN (219) 836-2800
Burbank (708) 422-4440

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See www.swancc.org.

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IIlinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, (847) 967-4800; reservations, (847) 967-4889, www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Museum admission prices: General admission, $12; seniors (65+), $8; students (ages 12-22), $8; children (ages 5-11), $6. Reservations required for programs — Jan. 26, 6:30-8 p.m.: Special program — Memory and Mortality in Recognition of the International Day of Holocaust Remembrance. The museum presents two leaders in the field of memorialization, James Young and cliff Chanin, a professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 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. Feb. 12, 1:30-3:30 p.m.: Film and discussion - "The World Was Ours," this documentary celebrates Jewish life in Vilna, referred to as "The Jerusalem of Lithuania," prior to World War II. Q&A with filmmaker and native of Vilna, Mira Jedwabin Van Doren, follows the screening. Fee with Museum admission. Feb. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: Exhibition - Ours to Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War, through their artifacts, letters, and photographs, the "Greatest Generation" tells the stories of what the war was like for all its participants, and for Jews in particular. Curator Talk with Lou Levine, 1:30 p.m. Free with Museum admission. The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County recently established a Battery Recycling Program for rechargeable and alkaline batteries, partnered with Interstate Batteries in Skokie to provide recycling at no cost to SWANCC communities. Common household batteries are no longer accepted at Illinois EPA-sponsored household chemical waste events and facilities due to their benign nature and high recycling costs. Batteries accepted in SWANCC's program: Alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D and 9V) and rechargeable (NiCd, NiMH, lithium ion,
Recycling and Reuse Act

Glenview Transfer Station, basis at no cost at the electronics on a weekly
...residents to drop off has established a location with no cost at the
...nic.org/recycling/batteryrecy-...works, 400 Busse Highway, 
...1000 Civic Center Drive, 
...Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 
...Niles Public Services De-
...Local drop-off sites include: 
...individual self-locking plas-
...batteries, residents need to 
...lithium polymer). Before 
...847) 318-5240, 7 a.m.-4 
...The Solid Waste Agency 
...to respond to musical taste 
... Threshold Singers can con-
...Threshold Singers are trained to sing 
...at the bedside of those who
...for residents to drop off 
...the home page with a 
...a more detailed flyer containing the discount 
...offer is not valid with an outside 
...is hosting a weekly com- 
...PioneerLocal.com | 29
Rice goes glam as risotto

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

Rice is the staple food for more than half of the human population. That's according to the International Rice Research Institute. And chefs help us consume our share of that in batches, taste-testing as they progress. The trick is to make a consistency that is not too thick or too thin. "I like my risotto a little runny," Quiroz said.

Pick a flavor
Risotto is one of the easiest, most satisfying ways to showcase seasonal ingredients. "Risotto is very versatile," Quiroz said. "You can make meat, vegetable or seafood risottos."

This time of year, Quiroz features braised pork shoulder, roasted bell pepper, Spanish chorizo and other hearty ingredients in his signature risotto. Different types of risotto appear on his menu on a revolving basis. Each daily special reflects whatever mood he is in and what's in season. Wild mushrooms - black trumpets, hedgehogs and chanterelles among them — shine in Quiroz's Wild Mushroom Risotto. Come spring, he'll showcase fresh morel mushrooms, asparagus and pea shoots in risotto.

A good stock can add flavor complexity to risotto. Quiroz has made risotto with green asparagus stock. For his lobster risotto, which gets crowned with a medalion of lobster, he makes a lobster stock to cook Arborio rice.

Arborio is stubby-grained rice that is grown in the paddy fields of the Po Valley in northern Italy. It has traditionally been the most popular rice used to make risotto.

Rice option
But Cristiano Bassani, a native of Bergamo, a town in Italy some 200 miles south of the Swiss border, prefers carnaroli rice for making risotto. The starchier, longer-grained rice also hails from northern Italy. "Carnaroli is easier to work with because it's a little bit harder and stays al dente," Bassani said.

As chef/owner of BaPi Italian Ristorante in Arlington Heights, Bassani keeps risotto options fresh, but one variety, Porcini Mushroom Risotto, is always on the menu.

The last step in the risotto making process is known as the mantecare, which means "to blend" in Italian. Immediately after the rice is removed from the heat, an ounce of butter and 4-5 teaspoons of grated cheese is stirred rapidly into the mixture. The mantecare step is as flexible as the rest of the risotto making process. Quiroz opts for manchego cheese for finishing off his hedgehog mushroom risotto. Olive oil replaces cheese in seafood or fish risottos. Bassani uses extra virgin oil from Tuscany instead of cheese when making his seafood risotto. "The worst thing you can do is mix cheese and fish," Bassani said.

White Alba mushrooms, white button mushrooms and portobello mushrooms go into the mushroom risotto created by Chef Quiroz. Rice when they turn the humble staple into the gourmet delight known as risotto.

"Risotto is easy to make and it can take on many different flavors," said Luis Quiroz, chef de cuisine at Barrington Country Bistro in Barrington.

A challenging part of the process can be ensuring that the correct amount of liquid, which usually consists of chicken or vegetable stock and white wine, is cooked into the rice. Most chefs add the liquid to the rice

**Wild Mushroom Risotto**

(Adapted from Barrington Country Bistro)
Serves 4-6 people

MUSHROOMS:
15 ounces seasonal mushrooms (3 ounces for stock and trimmings)
2 shallots
2 cloves of garlic
2 tablespoons olive oil

STOCK:
1 medium carrot, peeled and diced
1/2 medium onion
3 cloves of garlic

Reserved mushrooms and trimmings

RISOTTO:
IO ounces Arborio rice
2 tablespoons heavy cream

FOR FINISHING (MANTECARE):
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 cup white wine

Serve immediately.

Chef Quiroz slices mushrooms as he prepares mushroom risotto at Barrington Country Bistro. | PHOTOS BY RUTHE HAUSE-SUN TIMES MEDIA

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Serve immediately.
Risk of a Heart Attack presented by Dr. Parag Patel, cardiologist; Feb. 14: “You Make My Heart Beat Fast: What Is Atrial Fibrillation?” presented by Dr. Scott Miller, cardiologist; Feb. 21: “My Heart is Falling for You: What Is Heart Failure?” presented by Dr. Nagi Sabri, cardiologist; Feb. 28: “My Heart is Falling for You: What Is Heart Failure?” presented by Dr. Samuel Goldstein, cardiologist.

Advocate Medical Group now provides immediate care and occupational health services at the Advocate Medical Group Patient Center, 7255 N. Caldwell Ave. in Niles. This will provide convenient services to members with 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 for those planning a trip out of the country. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and Saturday from 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. LYNNETTES School of Dance, 9436 Oak Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenon at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505.

[Continued from Page 29]
CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

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 7-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at Feldman.

Tiny Tots Open Gym - Parents may drop in and supervise their 1-5-year-old any Wednesday or Thursday from 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 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.paperretreiver.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@urj.org or go online at www.urbanjewisheducation.org/ill or call (847) 239-6988.

Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will hold Adult Hebrew classes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all year round.

The 2011-12 classes will be held two Sundays per month from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Tuition per semester will be $60 and $75, respectively, for members enrolling one or two children; and $85 and $100, respectively, for non-members enrolling one or two children. Call the temple office at (847) 676-1566.

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 “Bring a Friend 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 parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

St. John Brebeuf Adoration Chapel in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week with “Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch” the 10 a.m. service each Sunday. Call (847) 966-8145.

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and non-members are welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or go to www.ehnt.org.

Reunions
The Roosevelt High School Athletic Fund is holding an all-year reunion May 6 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.rooseveltshs.org.

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf
Senior Center
The Niles Senior Center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application. Visit www.vniles.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

Donate phones at Maine Town Hall.

Maine Seniors
The Maine Township MainStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the MainStreamers 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 MaineStramers, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail kathy@mainetownship.org, and may share a story or tell how St. John Hrebeuf made an impact on their life.

Information on all events is available at www.mainetownship.org.

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Black Tie leads to red tape — and new computer

Dear Fixer: I purchased a Compaq Notebook computer from Best Buy on Jan. 5, 2009, for $450. I also purchased the customized three-year "Black Tie" protection plan at a cost of $180.

I took the Notebook to the Geek Squad in April because there was a blank area on the screen. They sent it out for repair. Later, I received a call saying it was "junked" and I should come in to get a replacement. I replaced it with an expensive HP laptop, but I paid the difference.

I was told that the remainder of the protection plan would be transferred over to the new computer since I had already a year left on the plan.

In December, my 6-year-old granddaughter dropped her mom's coffee and some of it spilled on the keyboard. The laptop powered on and the mouse and programs worked, but the keyboard did not. I called Best Buy and was told it would be covered by the plan.

However, when I brought the laptop to the store for repair, I was told it was not covered. I was informed that the plan was on the original Compaq and it was not transferred over.

They said Best Buy had fulfilled the plan when they junked the first computer and replaced it, even though it was less than the three years of coverage I had purchased.

I have called the customer service number several times and have been reassured that the second computer was indeed covered, I was told at the end of December that they needed to update their system and it would take a few days.

I have been told by different employees and customer-service reps that the computer is covered or it is not covered.

I scrimped and saved to purchase the original Notebook and cannot afford to replace or repair this one also. All I would like is for my computer to be fixed or replaced under the terms of the protection plan I purchased.

Dear Deb: It turns out that the Best Buy employees who told you the second computer was not covered were right.

In the fine print of your Black Tie plan, it states that if Best Buy replaces a broken computer, that action ends their responsibility under the plan.

In other words, a three-year plan means they'll replace something once (if needed) within that three-year period — not that they'll keep on doing that for three years.

However, it did seem odd that you weren't able to get a straight answer as to whether your second machine was covered.

We asked Best Buy to look into this, and after reviewing all the customer-service notes, Julie Dalton, a manager at their suburban Minneapolis HQ, agreed that you were given conflicting information.

Because of that, they've decided to give you $480.99 to purchase a new computer. (Be sure to keep the kids away from this one.)

Dear Fixer: I read your recent column about protecting Social Security numbers. How ironic that a few days ago, I received my first Medicare card. Medicare uses Social Security numbers as ID numbers!

I have never carried my Social Security card and have always protected the number. Now my insurance card has a number right there on the card. I doubt if this government is really stupid.

I am going to have to watch my credit much more closely. Could you give me the information about where to get those annual credit reports?

Wayne Warren

Dear Wayne: Sure thing. The official website to get your free annual credit reports — one report each from Experian, TransUnion and Equifax, every 12 months — is annualcreditreport.com. It's easy, and you can print them out right away.

As to the Medicare cards, federal legislation has been introduced to try to stop the practice.

Meanwhile, the nonprofit Privacy Rights Clearinghouse suggests this: After you visit your health-care provider for the first time and use the card, make a photocopy.

Keep the original card in a safe place at home, and use a black marker on the photocopy to cross out the last four numbers. Cut it out and keep it in your wallet instead. If your wallet is stolen, you will have reduced your chances of becoming a fraud victim.

Whose lifetime?
The Fixer recently got a letter from a reader who bought a new vehicle in 2010 after the dealership promised free "lifetime" oil changes. It turns out the dealer was talking about his business' lifetime — not the vehicle's — because there was no vehicle with 20 years of life in the dealership.

Competing dealers weren't interested in honoring the offer, and the manufacturer wouldn't step up, either.

The Fixer has heard this sad story before — with lifetime oil changes, lifetime car washes and lifetime memberships to fitness clubs.

These offers can be a nice perk — just don't base a purchasing decision on them because the business making the offer might not have much life left.

The fine art of fine print
If you enjoy playing "spot the ripoff" when reading through fine print, there's a website for you.

MousePrint.org collects examples of tiny print in ads, on labels and in contracts and exposes too-good-to-be-true deals for what they really are.

They post a new example each Monday, so check 'em out.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com/fixer.

Address: 580 S. Main St., Suite 200, Lakeside, IL 60049-1766. Phone: 847-675-9540. Fax: 847-675-2621. Website: www.pioneerlocal.com. E-mail: fixer@pioneerlocal.com.
Dffice, 4901 Searle Park—University HealthSystem meets on the second and Life partner. This group the death of a spouse or Dongo support group for witI sponsor grief support www.fa mili esa n oym ou s. This is a nonprofessional serve individual anonymity. are used at meetings to pre- required. First names only ment; enter from parking Lot st Church, 4950 W. Pratt (847) 723-4765.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago inities those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide to participate in its Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) meetings at its Northwest office, 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines. The minimum age for the monthly meetings or eight-session groups is 18-years-old. If possible, call the LOSS office, (312) 655-7283, for an initial intake before the first meeting or visit www.catholic- charities.net/LOSS. Groups meet on the second Sunday of each month and also on the second Wednesday of each month.

Families Anonymous is a support group for family members and friends who are concerned about and affected by the substance abuse or behavioral problems of a loved one. Group 9531 meets at 10 a.m. every Friday at Carter Westmin- ster Church, 4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie, in the basement; enter from parking lot at rear. Group 302 meets at 7:30 p.m. every Monday (except holidays) at First United Methodist Church, 454 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, in the Parlor Room, fourth floor of the building; enter from north side of main level; street parking is available. Meet at 7 p.m. to discuss issues of raising children 6-18 years old in a single-parent household. Call (773) 456-5400 or (708) 663-7227 for more information.

MOMS Club of Northern ChicagoLand meets at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the lower level of the building at 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines. The meeting includes a potluck lunch and guest speaker. For more information, call (847) 948-1120 or visit www.momsclubnorthernchicago.org.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 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 7-8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Nestor Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2292.

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 or, to find another local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call TOPS Headquarters at 1-800-932-8677.

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One Hope United, an organization that helps create a family for children in need, is seeking foster parents to help children. Call (847) 245-6543 for more information.

The Maryville Crisis Nursery, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are offered on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. The nursery cares for children from birth 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 help line 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 7-8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Nestor Center, 1775 Ballard Road, north of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Free parking. Call (847) 716-2292.

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The Maryville Crisis Nursery, 4015 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, offers twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are offered on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. The nursery cares for children from birth 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 help line number is (773) 205-3637. For additional information, call (773) 205-3600.

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**CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35**

is required. Contact Sandy Guarise, (847) 318-2106.

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 care 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 children in need.

The Les Turner ALS Foundation Support Group meets 7-8 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@lusters.org.

Grandparents As Caregivers, a program sponsored by Children's Home+Aid, offers grandparents an opportunity to meet other grandparents, share concerns and talk about interesting topics that will help them care for their grandchildren. Meetings are 10:30-11 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Niles Public Library, 6600 Oakton St. Free child care is available with 24-hour notice. Meetings are monthly. Call Linda, (847) 640-9550.

The Stroke Club of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital meets 3-4 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Outpatient Therapy Center, Church and Potter avenues, Des Plaines. Call Megan Potterfield, (847) 729-6690.

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

Rainbow Hospice's Life Transitions Group is an ongoing support group for anyone facing a general guideline, has been widowed for one to four years, meeting 7-8 p.m. the fourth Tuesday 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.

Good Mourning Program will meet 6-6:30 p.m. every second Sunday of the month at Lutheran General Family Care Center, 7375 Church St., Des Plaines. The program is a support group for children, teens and families who have lost a loved one through death. Registration interview is required before registration. To register, call Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Bereavement Support, (847) 692-8884.

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

Resurrection Medical Center sponsors a variety of free cancer-support groups for patients and their family members. All support groups are free and meet in the Cancer Conference Room (ground floor, Entrance C). Contact Carol Flanagan, (773) 792-5116.

The Cancer Support Group for cancer patients, families and friends meets monthly 7-8:30 p.m. every last Wednesday.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Family Support Group for people with leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndrome, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's Disease and their families meets every first Wednesday of the month.

The Butterfly Club is a support group for families ages 6 to 13 whose parent or caretaker has been diagnosed with cancer. The group meets every first Wednesday of the month. Registration and parental consent are required.

The Us Too! Prostate Support Group meets every second Wednesday of the month.

The Teen Cancer Support Group is for teens ages 13 to 18 whose parent or caretaker has been diagnosed with cancer. The group meets every third Wednesday of the month. Registration and parental consent are required.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets the last Saturday of each month in the Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C. Call (773) 594-7856.

Alzheimer's Support Group meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Health Management Classroom. The session is free. Call Health Management, (773) 792-5022.

Afterglow Support Group for stroke survivors and their family and friends meets the second Wednesday of the month in the Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C.

Parkinson's Support Group meets the third Wednesday of each month from 5-7 p.m. at Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C. Call (773) 594-7856.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is forming a support network for women living with breast cancer. The Breast Cancer Networking Group will meet 2-3 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month. The support group provides breast cancer survivors and their family members the opportunity to share information and experiences with other women. The group will be at Lutheran General's Center for Advanced Care, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, in the ground-floor conference room G104. Call (847) 723-8130.

Northwest Suburban Interfaith Support Group and Us Too! Prostate Support Group of Illinois meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, Conference Room 1064. E-mail zarrin@aoal.com to be added to the e-mail list for meeting announcements.

An area Alzheimer's support group for caregivers and family members of people with Alzheimer's Disease meets at 10:30 a.m. every second Saturday at Central...
Volunteers

Information is entered into a national database allowing the Police Department to reconnect you if it is ever lost or stolen.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to serve as Court Watchers for the Niles Police Department. Every year the Niles Police Department accumulates a number of lost or stolen bikes and is forced to sell them at an auction because their owners cannot be identified.

By registering your bike, you are issued a Village of Niles Police Department sticker and your bicycle's information is entered into a national database allowing the Police Department to reconnect you if it is ever lost or stolen.

Niles Police Department is looking for new members.

The community-based philanthropic and social organization raises funds for the hospital through a variety of events, including an annual golf outing, glove sale and concert. The organization's donations have assisted the hospital in expanding programs, purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment, and pursuing research and education initiatives. Yearly dues are $35. Call (847) 723-6105.

Many individuals have found themselves laid off or unable to find employment. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care would like to respond by helping professionals stay current with their job skills (or gain experience if recently graduated) by offering professional volunteer opportunities. Possible opportunities include positions in medical records, human resources administration, community outreach, finance, marketing and admissions/customer service. Volunteers must have a willingness to make use of their professional skills and a positive attitude allowing them to take on a great deal of responsibility. Training and seminars for professional and personal development will be provided. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (847) 685-9900, Ext. 3128, or rparrrow@rainbowhospice.org. Visit www.rainbowhospice.org.

Baptist Village, the Commons Theater Lounge, 4747 N. Canfield Ave., Norridge. New members are always welcome. Call Jessi Lenth, group facilitator, (708) 583-8509.

Queen of All Saints hosts a weekly meeting for female survivors of sexual abuse.

The meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Benedict Center Chapel, 6275 N. Ionia.

To participate in the confidential, 12-step program, call Queen of All Saints Rectory, (773) 736-6060. Additional meetings are 7-8:30 p.m.

Fridays at St. Juliana Parish Center, 7200 Osceola Ave.

Call Linda, (773) 271-2281.

Teen Center

The Niles Youth Council is a group of teens from sixth through 12th grade who provide support and advice on Teen Center programming, develop leadership skills and work to serve the Niles community. They meet the first and third Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. Stop to check them out. Call (847) 375-8949. The Teen Center Is located at 373 Golf Mill Center in Niles.

The Teen Center is working with the Niles Senior Center to find teenagers willing to help senior citizens with leaf raking, snow shoveling and general yard work while earning money. Complete the Niles Teen Job Connection form available on the center Web site and return it to Mark at the center. Information will be shared with the director of the center and contacts will be made with residents in need of services.

Register your bike through the Niles Teen Center or Niles Police Department. Every year the Niles Police Department accumulates a number of lost or stolen bikes and is forced to sell them at an auction because their owners cannot be identified. By registering your bike, you are issued a Village of Niles Police Department sticker and your bicycle's information is entered into a national database allowing the Police Department to reconnect you if it is ever lost or stolen.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to serve as Court Watchers for Domestic Violence at the Skokie Courthouse. Being a Court Watcher is easy, convenient and rewarding. To volunteer for this very important program, contact Joanne Liberman at (847) 412-1577 or email Joanne@Nony@qol.com.

Individuals who have a few hours to spare are urged to join the Avenues to Independence Thrift Shoppe Team of Volunteers. Avenues is looking for friendly, hard-working men and women to help staff at the Thrift Shoppe, 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, or 1-5 p.m. on Thursdays. Volunteers receive a discount. No experience is needed.

All proceeds from the Thrift Shoppe help Avenues continue valuable programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Contact the store manager, Michael Frustini, (847) 292-0870, Ext. 77.

The Men's and Women's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is looking for new members. The community-based philanthropic and social organization raises funds for the hospital through a variety of events, including an annual golf outing, glove sale and concert. The organization's donations have assisted the hospital in expanding programs, purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment, and pursuing research and education initiatives. Yearly dues are $35. Call (847) 723-6105.

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Wolves looking for game-day leadership

By Danny Meghag

To be brutally honest, it has been downright ugly as far as the Niles West boys basketball team.
Maine East had no answer for the spirited effort of Highland Park, as the Giants dictated the flow of the game on both ends of the floor to crush the Blue Demons 64-37 on Jan. 19.

Aaron Shannon knocked down 15 points for Maine East, but the show was stolen by Highland Park's venerable coach, Paul Harris, who notched his 200th victory.

"That is a very well-coached team," said Maine East head coach Dave Genis. "They are very understanding of the team concept and buy into what the team is trying to accomplish."

Genis said the Blue Demons (4-13) have demonstrated they can hang with stiff competition, but that they simply came out flat against Highland Park.

"We lost some of the speed that we showed in our last matchup with Highland Park," Genis said. "In all facets, we came out flat and more slow — our passes, our thoughts, our movements. That is something these guys can regain."

The Blue Demons were able to adjust in the later stages, Genis said, but it was too little, too late.

"Highland Park carved out a niche for themselves with their three-quarter pressure and halfcourt zone," Genis said. "Once we reacted, we started passing over their zone, and that was effective for us."

Genis said he's fielding a team that lacks experience, but he believes the Blue Demons have what it takes to be competitive.

"This is a young team," Genis said. "At one point, I believe I had all underclassmen on the court, including two freshmen. But with the more minutes they get, the more quickly they are growing."

Genis said there's still time for his team to turn it around.

"We still have eight or nine ballgames to go," he said. "We need to attack practice with new energy. We put these guys in situations that rely on high energy. They lost the sense for the speed of the game (vs. Highland Park)."

Giants senior guard Jake Norcia keyed the rout with 12 first-half points, cutting off several Blue Demons passes to lead a surging fast-break offense in helping to deliver Harris a memorable victory.

"It just means I'm getting older," Harris quipped. "But this is a milestone for this program, for the team — not an individual. It's been rewarding to see the improvement of all the players over the years."

The Giants (10-6) looked inspired across the board from the onset, especially Ross Chukerman, who delivered a fierce performance in the paint, hammering in a game-high 21 points. Norcia finished with 16 points, eight assists and five steals.

Harris said that he was pleased with his squad's wherewithal, considering it was finals week.

"They came out very sharp," he said. "Their routine has been altered this week because of finals, but they came out and responded in a big way."

The Blue Demons were to host Buffalo Grove at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and welcome Maine West on Friday.
Man for man, Maine East pleased with CSL results

BY MIKE CAMERON

Maine East deployed plenty of manpower as the efficient host of the 13-team CSL Tournament Friday and Saturday, but not enough of it was on the wrestling mats.

Attention left the Blue Demons with only nine participants in the 14 weight classes. The good news was that five of them earned points by placing among the top six.

Juniors Aayush Shah and Markus Lukado and sophomores Jesus Villegas each finished fifth. Juniors Nenif Keso and Pablo Lopez both placed sixth.

Maine East wound up in ninth place with 54 points. As expected, the conference’s top four teams dominated the proceedings.

South champion New Trier won the crown with 286.5 points on the strength of six individual champs and 12 placers.

North champ Deerfield (247.5) and Maine South (154.5) had 12 and 10 placers, respectively.

After a bye, Shah (20-5) shut out two 120-pound opponents and repelled Highland Park’s gritty John Ciancio 10-5 in the fifth-place bout. The Demons’ leader lost to a pair of ranked stars in Maine South junior Terry Calkins (29-4) and Deerfield senior Christian Hoogheem (29-5).

“The big thing for (Shah) is to stay in the middle of the mat and use his speed more,” said Maine East head coach Emiliano Hernandez.

Shah began his stellar campaign with 18 straight victories before facing many of the state’s best performers over the past month.

“Some of the losses have helped me learn what I need to work on. I still want to go from regional to sectionals to State, but I have learned to think one, two and three matches at a time,” said Shah, whose fourth-place finish in last year’s regional was one of the state’s best performers over the past month.

Lukado (9-9) gamely scrambled back from a first-round setback at 195. He pinned Niles West’s Marc Cosa.

Junior Federico Cabrales (7-2) had a victory as well as his second loss at 162. A sore shoulder delayed Cabrales’ season debut, but he exploded out of the chute with six straight wins. In his first match of the season, he maneuvered his Glenbrook North opponent into a cradle for a pin.

Junior Jalen Lewis (152) went 1-2. Sophomore Eric Mendez (170) picked up his first victory in only five varsity matches. Senior David Cirrincione lost twice in a difficult 132-pound match at the Central Suburban League Tournament. ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Maine East will focus on individual rather than team advancement in the Class 3A regional at Niles West Feb. 4.

Maine West and Maine South headline the eight-team field. Any players in the NCAA Division I basketball history have averaged double-doubles (double figures in points and assists per game) over the course of an entire season. Incredibly, they did it in the same year - 1987-88.

Any guesses? They were Avery Johnson of Southern University (who went on to be an NBA head coach), and Anthony Manuel of Bradley University. But keep an eye on Iowa’s Scott Mochtada, who averaged a double-double through the first month of the 2011-12 season.

In the NBA, one mark of greatness in a single game is nothing less than a triple double - double figures in points, assists and rebounds. When Jason Kidd registered a triple double at age 37 in 2010, he became just the fourth player to do so after the age of 36. Any guesses as to the other three? They are all-time NBA greats Elvin Hayes, Karl Malone and John Stockton. Malone and Stockton played together in Utah.
Monreal-Berner tops CSL field at 182 pounds

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

A year ago in the first CSL Tournament that maintained team scoring, Niles West finished sixth with a little more than 100 points, placing seven wrestlers in the top six and one champion in Vaughn Monreal-Berner.

Niles West duplicated that performance Friday and Saturday at Maine East, with one difference. After buzzing through the 1-74-pound bracket last year, Monreal-Berner (26-7) found himself deadlocked 1-1 late in the title match at 182 against Deerfield's Zach Perbohmer (17-6). But-chime time.

"My game plan was to score early and often, but that didn't work out. I knew I had to escape in the third period," said Monreal-Berner, after securing the 5-4 victory. "This is a good tournament, and it feels good to win again."

After a bye, the Wolves junior standout dominated Maine East's Federico Cabrales (15-4). Two of the four contenders at 182 then hit the dust in the third round. Monreal-Berner pinned Maine West's Max Hatnak (26-8) in 2:44 while Perbohmer prevailed 4-3 over New Trier's Scott Schwartz (26-6).

Monreal-Berner is determined to qualify for the state meet after falling one step short last season in a 3-4 sectional defeat.

"He wants to be a state placer. He just needs to push the pace, attack more, be more aggressive," said Niles West head coach Anthony Genovesi. "He wrestled tough and rolled (Perbohmer) pretty tough when he was on top."

Anthony Underwood (17-9) won three of four matches at 170 to earn third place. The junior all-conference returnee and three-sport standout recovered from a 14-9 loss to Glenbrook North's Jim McPike (15-5), the eventual champion, to pin Deerfield's Cotton Emmerich (15-5) in 2:41.

Junior Steve Apple (23-11) and sophomores Isaac Reine mann (16-14) and Brian Knorr (16-14) each placed fourth at 113, 122 and 126, respectively. Apple is one of Niles West's six returning sectional qualifiers. Reine mann, who moved up a class and Knorr both came through with three wins against two losses.

Tommy Williams (22-4, 126) and another all-CSL returnee, and sophomore Nick Vickers (106) added sixth-place finishes. Both advanced to sectional last season. Williams did not have his best tournament, but has beaten a couple of ranked opponents and is one of the Vikings leaders, along with fellow juniors Monreal-Berner, Underwood and Apple.

Sophomore Jason Chavez won one bout at 195, while heavyweight classmate Dennis Gargovic lost twice but continued to display considerable potential. Marc Cose claimed two wins while subbing for injured Nick Yoon at 145.

Junior Kevin Kaufhold lost twice at 220 but has been quick learner as a new wrestler, notching 10 wins this season. Senior Andrew Matias picked up a win at 160 while holding the fort for injured junior Sam Conrad (knee). Sophomore veteran Matt De La Vega (135) is also out with an injury.

"I was really happy with our three sophomores (Vick ers, Reine mann, Knorr) who placed," said Genovesi.

South champion New Trier rode upset victories in the lighter weights to the team title, edging favored North champ Deerfield 235.5 to 247.5. Two solid conference runners-up, Maine South (213.5) and Maine East (182.5), rounded out the top four.

Niles West scored 104 points, four fewer than last year. Glenbrook South (220) took the fifth spot, but lost to the young Wolves (12-8, 3-2) in the final regular-season dual.

The Wolves won a regional crown last year at St. Patrick and advanced nine wrestlers to the sectional. But Niles West will encounter a tougher field when it hosts a Class 3A regional on Feb 4. Only the top three wrestlers from each class move on, and Niles West and Maine South will be among the eight teams.

Levi, Pascoe put up good examples for Vikes

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

First-year Niles North head coach Chris Albandia would love to see more Vikings climb the ladder. He's quickly developed the team's second best wrestler behind junior Cameron Pascoe.

In his first season on the varsity level, Levi has compiled a sparkling 15-9 record. He went 1-2 in the rugged 133-pound bracket at the CSL Meet, held at Maine East Friday and Saturday.

"Shawn is a prime example of what we want in our wrestlers," Albandia said. "He was under 500 on the freshman team last year. He had a big camp this summer in Minnesota, and put all the work in. It shows. He's just a little raw and needs to be a little more technical. He needs to find a set of moves that he can call his own."

Added Levi: "I have a hunger to want to succeed. If I'm going to do something, I want to be good at it. My shots and intensity are strengths. I need to work on my technique and improve." Albandia inherited a team with scant depth and experience. The rebuilding Vikings won two in CSL North dual meets, and placed fifth in the CSL tourney.

Pascoe earned fourth place at 220 for Niles North's only top-six finish.

South champion New Trier nosed out favored North champ Deerfield 235.5 to 247.5 for the crown. Six Trevians claimed individual titles for three of the Vikings. Senior-taden Maine West (213.5) and the other conference runner-up, Maine South (194.5), rounded out the top four.

Niles North's Nick Lakhani finds himself in trouble against New Trier's Andrew Steen during a 145-pound bout at the CSL Tournament. ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

"We want Cameron to be a contender for a regional title and have a good sectional," Albandia said. "Do better on the bottom and wrestle all six minutes."

Earlier in the season, Pascoe lost to CSL champion Artie Bess (29-4) of Deerfield by only three points. Bess entered the meet as the conference's highest-ranked wrestler — No. 3 in the state by Illinois Matmen.

"I actually thought I should have won it in the third period. I was building confidence during that match," said Pascoe, who will seek his first sectional berth. "I'm good on my feet and my top game. I have to get better with my ground game and turning the guy."

Nick Lakhani had a strong showing at 145. He started by pinning Glenbrook South's Dan Lydon in the first period. Lakhani lasted into the second round of the winners' bracket.

Pascoe also earned four wins during a busy weekend. He opened by pinning his Waubonsie opponent in the first period. In the wrestlebacks, Pascoe earned a solid 9-6 decision over Maine South's Stefan Baran and added two more falls against opponents from Evanston and Glenbrook North.
Wolves still in control of fate in CSL South

BY ALAN FEWGRUSON
Contributor

After ending its longest losing streak of the season, Niles West will try to carry that momentum into an important CSL South matchup.

The Wolves have a chance to remain in first place in the conference by knocking off visiting Maine South on Friday night.

Niles West's title hopes seemed to take a hit with a 56-43 loss at New Trier Friday, but the Wolves and the rest of the CSL South teams caught a break when Maine South fell 46-36 at Evanston that same night.

The result dropped the Hawks into a three-way tie for first with Niles West and Glenbrook South at 6-2. The Wolves will travel to Glenbrook South on Feb. 10 in their regular-season finale. They beat the Titans 53-40 at home on Jan. 6.

"We're still in the conference hunt," coach Tony Konsewicz said. "Obviously, (Friday's game) is a must-win for us."

Niles West will enter that game having already ended a three-game skid with a 52-36 win over Danville on Saturday. The Wolves, though, weren't as stout defensively during a 65-55 loss at Maine South on Dec. 9.

The Wolves knocked down 10 three-pointers and had five players score at least seven points, with Mackenzie Duffy's career-high 16 leading the way. Niles West star Jewell Loyd had 22 of her 26 points during a 16-1 run but couldn't take control for good.

"We've gotten into a bad rut in our last three games," Konsewicz said. "It's hindered our ability to execute, get in the lane and make our shots in the paint."

Slow starts hindered the Wolves during their three-game losing streak, Konsewicz said, adding that his team will likely have to do a better job of limiting its turnovers to win its upcoming games.

Niles West committed six turnovers in the first 4:09 in Friday's game and missed its first six shots while falling behind 13-0. The Wolves rallied to take a lead as Loyd scored 10 of her 26 points during a 16-1 run but couldn't take control for good.

"We've got into a bad rut in getting off to slow starts," Konsewicz said. "We've got to get out of thatrut. We also need to be stronger with the ball and not throw it out of bounds."
Voitik drains game-winner at horn

The Niles North boys basketball team that traveled to Glenbrook North Friday barely resembled the Vikings squad that had lost to the Spartans by 28 points on Dec. 6.

Since that 67-39 defeat, the young Vikings had grown up and regained the services of one of their best players, senior Mychal Henley.

North brought a seven-game winning streak to Northbrook for the rematch. But, in the first half it looked as if little had changed.

Niles North shot poorly, did not get back on defense and trailed 29-18 at the break to a GBN team playing without the services of star center Andrew McAuliffe, who was injured.

The second half was a different story, however. Led by the aggressive play of senior B.J. Beckford (14 points) and the perimeter skills of junior Malachi Nix (13 points), Niles North stormed back, briefly taking a third-quarter lead.

The game went down to the wire. When Nix's potential game-winning 35-foot three-pointer fell short, Niles North (4-2 CSL North) pulled into a first-place tie with Glenbrook North and Highland Park atop the conference.

"We had some poor possessions (in the first half) and played poor transition defense," Niles North head coach Glenn Olson said. "We took quick shots and needed to get the ball to the hoop. We were an easy team to defend in the first half. Once we started attacking, we scored 23 points in the third quarter."

Beckford reached the basket and the free-throw line repeatedly in the third to carry Niles North to a 41-40 cushion late in the frame.

"We had a real intense game Friday and we wanted to bring the same intensity. We wanted to pressure them," Olson said. "Mather didn't have his best night. So, we're glad we have Billy Voitik."

The following evening, the Vikings improved to 14-5 overall with a 68-41 win over Mather. Niles North showed no signs of a letdown as they took a 40-11 lead into halftime.

Niles North's Eron Washington (21) blocks the shot of Glenbrook North's Adam Chick (3) during the Vikings' victory. Nile's North's Tafari Beckford (11) and Malachi Nix (2) also defend. BULL OBB-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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