Samina Hussain paints a henna design on the hand of Alexis Chiet during Golf District 67 PTA's International Celebration of Cultures on Jan. 27, in Morton Grove. PAGE 7 (DAN LUEDERT-SUN-TIMES MEDIA)

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**MAINE SOUTH**

**Wrestler diagnosed with contagious skin infection, MRSA**

**BY JENNIFER JOHNSON**

A case of an antibiotic-resistant staph infection was reported last week at Maine South High School in Park Ridge.

In a letter to parents posted on the school's website Jan. 26, Principal Shawn Messmer reported that a member of the school's wrestling team had recently been diagnosed as having Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, more commonly known as MRSA.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, MRSA is a difficult-to-treat skin infection that can be spread through close skin-to-skin contact or through contaminated items or surfaces.

MRSA is resistant to antibiotics commonly used to treat staph infections, though the drug Vancomycin, used intravenously, has been found to be the most effective, the health department stated.

It was the student's parents who, on Jan. 26, notified the school of their child's MRSA diagnosis, said Maine Township High School District spokesman David Beery. The student has since returned to school, he added.

On the day the school was notified, the student weight room was closed and disinfected before it was reopened for use the following day, Beery said. The wrestling room was also scheduled to "go through a series of treatments" late last week and lockers used by the student were also disinfected, Beery said.

In addition, high school teams that recently competed in wrestling matches against Maine South were notified that a case of MRSA had been reported on the Maine South team. The school's wrestlers were provided with information on MRSA and how to prevent infection, and the student's teachers were notified, Beery said.

There were not other reports of MRSA infection reported within the school.

"To prevent staph skin infections, the Illinois Department of Public Health recommends thorough handwashing and use of alcohol-based hand gel; covering cuts and scrapes with a bandage until they are healed; avoiding contact with others' wounds; and not sharing personal items, like towels, soap or razors."

Maine South is also recommending that students clean and disinfect objects like gym and sports equipment before using them; shower immediately after sports practice or games; and wash clothes, linen and towels in hot water and use a dryer rather than air-drying them.

**LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Two more District 64 students are diagnosed with pertussis**

**BY JENNIFER JOHNSON**

Two students at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge were recently diagnosed with whooping cough, according to a notification from the Cook County Department of Public Health.

The health department informed Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 on Jan. 26 that two seventh-grade students had contracted pertussis, the highly contagious bacterial infection commonly known as whooping cough.

Another seventh-grader at Lincoln, 200 S. Lincoln Ave., was diagnosed with pertussis in December. Three other cases were also reported at other District 64 schools between November and December.

District officials are recommending parents contact their healthcare provider with specific questions or concerns.

Parents can also find information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, www.cdc.gov/pertussis.

John Low, of Park Ridge, plays a drum during a visit to Field Elementary School on Jan. 27. Low spoke to third-graders about the Potawatomi tribe. See Page 10. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

**VILLAGE BOARD**

**Flood-control tax hike passes**

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

Shoppers will see an increase in the village of Niles' sales tax starting in July.

The Board of Trustees voted 4-2 to increase the sales tax in the village from 1 percent to 1.25 percent.

The sales-tax increase is expected to generate about $2 million a year for the Niles Storm Water Relief Program, which will be used for capital stormwater improvements.

The village plans to borrow $15 million for the projects, for which work will be done in phases, Village Manager George Van Geem said. As part of the ordinance, if funding for the plan is completed within 20 years then the sales-tax increase will be rescinded.

Each year, any residual would go to the police- and fire-pension funds, where there is a $50 million underfunded liability.

Trustee Rosemary Palicki and Louella Preston voted against the tax hike.

Palicki said that putting leftover funds in the fire- and police-pension funds wasn't enough. She said something more should be done to meet the village's pension liability.

"There should be some sort of a guarantee," said Palicki, adding that there should be more of a commitment from the board to fund pensions.

Preston said she was concerned about the village taking on more debt than it can handle. She said it's a double-promised ordinance and that funding pensions is just as important as storm relief.

"Our citizens are suffering from flooding," said Trustee Jim Hynek, who voted in favor of the sales-tax increase.

Trustee Joseph LoVerde said the board should approve the tax increase because residents deserve flood relief.

Preston said she could not support the increase because a specific stormwater-relief plan was not in place yet.

Preston said she could support the tax hike if the funds went to the general fund and the board could designate the money on an annual basis.

A public meeting to present final recommendations from the Storm Water Commission will be held in mid-March. At the March village-board meeting, project details, including capital projects and cost-sharing components, will be discussed.
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Silent applause is given at last month's Battle of the Books, a competition between schools where teams of students read books from a pre-selected list and answer questions about those books. | JOE CYGANOWSKI—FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Celebrating a point are Luke Ruehrdanz, Isaac Banes and Jonas Banes of Jerusalem Lutheran School. | JOE CYGANOWSKI—FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

NOT ALL FUN AND GAMES
The Unemployee tries his best to keep the party going

PAGE 28
Parents, students, family and faculty visit various booths of countries during Golf District 67 PTA's 8th Annual International Celebration of Cultures on Jan. 27 in Morton Grove.

DAN LUEDERT-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

DISTRICT 67

Collection of cultures

The customs of various nationalities melded into one festival as Golf School District 67 presented its annual International Celebration of Cultures.

The district, which serves residents of Morton Grove and Niles, hosted the celebration Jan. 27 at Golf Middle School.

Live music and dance performances were featured, as well as informational booths that showcased the various cultures represented at District 67 schools, reported Kristina Otte, one of the PTA program organizers.

The celebration featured a variety of traditional costumes.

Those attending also had the opportunity to sample varied ethnic cuisine, she noted.

ABOVE: Zain Jamal and Arjune Patel get “passports” stamped at various “countries” on Jan. 27 in Morton Grove. DAN LUEDERT-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

LEFT: Samina Hussain paints a henna design on the hand of Alexis Chiet during the International Celebration of Cultures. DAN LUEDERT-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
MARCH 20 PRIMARY

Mulligan withdraws her write-in candidacy, citing party 'gamesmanship'

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Just days after filing as a write-in candidate for the 55th State Representative District Republican primary, 10-term Illinois legislator Rosemary Mulligan announced she is dropping out of the race.

Mulligan made her announcement Jan. 25, saying the 55th District Republican race was shaping up to be a divisive one that would take away her focus from another difficult budget year in Springfield.

"There's a lot of things I've had on my plate that I want to do and do a good job, as opposed to rushing home from Springfield and campaigning every weekend and then going right back," Mulligan, a Des Plaines resident, said.

The representative has also expressed frustration and disappointment with the Illinois House Republican Organization's decision not to back her in the March 20 race.

"I was really not happy with all the gamesmanship that was going on," Mulligan said. "In talking to friends and family, they basically said, 'Why are you still doing it?' and I said, 'That's a good question.'"

Mulligan, 70, first withdrew from the March 20 Republican primary in early January after challenges to her nominating petitions were filed with the Chicago Board of Elections and it appeared that her name would be removed from the ballot.

She then filed to run as an official write-in candidate, both in the 55th and 20th State Representative Districts. She plans to withdraw from the 20th District race as well.

Two Park Ridge residents, Kelly Schaefer and Susan Sweeney, have also filed to run as write-in candidates in the 55th District Republican primary. Mulligan is choosing not to publicly endorse either candidate at this time.

"I think I'm going to probably let them duke it out," she said.

The winner of the Republican primary will race Democrat Marty Moylan on Nov. 6.

Once her term is over, Mulligan hopes to spend more time with family, particularly her grandchildren.

"I'm the matriarch of the family now," she said.

Mulligan, who plans to continue to serve as Maine Township Republican committeeman until the end of her term in 2014, was first elected to the General Assembly in 1992, beating out incumbent Penny Pullen in a race that was fueled by a debate over abortion rights. Her pro-choice stance and support of gay-rights legislation have made her an unconventional Republican in Springfield, something she readily acknowledges.

"I'm a different Republican," Mulligan said.

During her 20 years as a legislator Mulligan has been largely involved in the areas of human services and health care and has served as Republican spokesperson of the Human Services Appropriations Committee and the Family and Children Committee.

"I think I've helped a lot of people in the human services area and I hope someone steps in and fills that job," Mulligan said.
Flood-control solution hinges on concerns of student safety

BY TRACY GRUEN

Park-Ridge Niles School District 64 board members reviewed two proposals at their meeting Jan. 23 to address water-retention issues at Carpenter School, but decided they needed more time to examine them.

The main goals are to mitigate draining and flooding issues on site, improve safety for students and staff, and try to preserve as much green space as possible. The board will continue to discuss the proposals at the next board meeting and possibly decide on a project.

The district would request a variance for either plan they decide on because currently the city code would require 58 parking spaces as opposed to the 57 required parking spaces in the first proposal and 47 in the second proposal. The second proposal involves about 8 percent less green space.

“Have grave safety concerns about the drop-off,” said Sue Douglass, third-grade teacher at Carpenter, who doesn’t feel the lane would make things safer for children. Douglass said that with the two playgrounds at the north end of the building she is concerned that students may chase balls into the street and believes it may be noisy for classrooms on the north end of the building.

Bender said city staff indicated they would be more supportive of the second plan. If the district were granted the variance the plan would still need Park Ridge City Council approval and approval from the Regional Office of Education.

Kathy Joziwak, a Carpenter parent and crossing guard, spoke out against the second proposal. She did not feel the two-way traffic on Elm Street in the proposal created a safer environment.

Some staff members at Carpenter shared their concerns with the proposals.

“We have grave safety concerns about the drop-off,” said Sue Douglass, third-grade teacher at Carpenter, who doesn’t feel the lane would make things safer for children. Douglass said that with the two playgrounds at the north end of the building she is concerned that students may chase balls into the street and believes it may be noisy for classrooms on the north end of the building.

Bender said city staff indicated they would be more supportive of the second plan. If the district were granted the variance the plan would still need Park Ridge City Council approval and approval from the Regional Office of Education.

Kathy Joziwak, a Carpenter parent and crossing guard, spoke out against the second proposal. She did not feel the two-way traffic on Elm Street in the proposal created a safer environment.

Currently, she said, Elm Street is closed off.

Mackall argued the second proposal is safer because children won’t have to cross the street.

“If it’s not broke, we don’t need to fix it,” said board member Pat Fioretto.
Teachings of the tribe

Field students learn about culture, history from guest expert on Native Americans

Third-grade classes at Field School in Park Ridge learned about Native American history and culture first-hand when they were visited by Park Ridge resident John Low.

Low, who holds a doctorate in Native American studies and is an active member of the Potawatomi Indian Nation, was invited Jan. 27 to Field School, where he visited five classrooms to share pieces of Potawatomi artifacts and describe the tribe's hunting history.

Low also shared the meaning behind the shirt of ribbons that he wore (the colors symbolized north, south, east and west) and he related a traditional folk tale told to him by his grandmother about how the birch tree got its bold, black stripes.

Low, a member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indian Nation, holds a doctorate in Native American studies and is a professor at Northwestern University.

Each year Field's third-grade classes study Native American history and customs, and Low's visit supplemented the curriculum, said Assistant Principal Katie Kelly.

"We wanted them to learn about his tribe, the Potawatomi Indians, but in addition to that we wanted them to see how the Native Americans today still respect the traditions of their tribe while they live in a modern world," Kelly said.

Dr. John Low, of Park Ridge, places Potawatomi tribe headgear on Rhiannon Sites, a third-grader at Field School. Low, a member of the Potawatomi, spoke to students about the tribe's traditions. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

ABOVE: John Low, of Park Ridge, holds a container made of birch bark and a piece of actual birch bark while speaking to Field School students about the Potawatomi Indians on Jan. 27. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

LEFT: Field School student Amalia Laskaris feels a piece of rabbit fur during a Jan. 27 visit from John Low, an active member of the Potawatomi tribe. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Jeff Mauro may be the star of the Food Network's new series, "Sandwich King," but his co-star is the Park Ridge kitchen of Jennifer and John Munao.

Thirteen episodes of "Sandwich King" were filmed between Jan. 13 and Jan. 20 inside the Munao's kitchen, at 100 N. Lincoln Ave. The food preparation takes place right on the couple's island range.

"It was fun," Jennifer Munao said of the experience. "It was definitely eye-opening, all the details that go into the behind-the-scenes that you don't get to see."

The Munao's home was one of about a dozen homes in the Chicago area visited by the "Sandwich King" film crew, Munao said.

"A friend of a friend of a friend knew the producer and he told him about our house," she explained.

The couple submitted photos of their kitchen and the following day network representatives came to take a look.

Setup for the week-long shoot took two days and required rearranging the Munao home, like turning the dining room into a living room. The family moved out during the taping and though they got to see some of the filming process unfold, they are not featured in the episodes.

Jeff Mauro, of Elmwood Park, was selected to host "Sandwich King" after winning the seventh season of "Food Network Star," a battle-of-the-chefs competition. In "Sandwich King" he shares his passion for all things sandwiches, according to a description of the show on the Food Network's website.

Munao described Mauro, who has a background in comedy, as having "a great personality."

"He's kind of Jackie Gleason-esque, in my opinion," she said.

"Sandwich King" will air at 10 a.m. Feb. 19 on the Food Network.
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.

AUTO THEFT
Someone stole a 1994 four-door Honda on Jan. 26 from the victim’s home on the 8800 block of Prospect.

BATTERY
A 56-year-old man said that another man between 45 and 55 years old, with whom he usually eats lunch with at the Golf Mill Shopping Center food court, grabbed his shirt, pulled him out of his chair and struck him on the face Jan. 24. Police said the suspect allegedly ran from the mall and drove away in his vehicle.

THEFT
A pastor of a church on the 9000 block of Maryland reported Jan. 22 that a man in his 20s removed a brown box containing an unknown amount of money from the church.

BURGLARY
A 62-year-old woman reported that her apartment was burglarized Jan. 15 on the 7400 block of Waukegan.

SHERIFF’S REPORTS

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

DRUG POSSESSION
Ed Youkhana, 22, of the 400 block of Edgewood, Northfield, was charged with possession of marijuana following a Jan. 13 traffic stop. According to police the officer who conducted the traffic stop at Harrison Street and Dee Road detected an odor of marijuana inside the vehicle, and Youkhana was found to be in possession of 31 grams of suspected marijuana. A passenger inside the vehicle was released without charges.

ASSAULT
Henry Kwietniewski, 70, of the 9500 block of North Dee Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with simple assault Jan. 16 after he allegedly threatened to kill a family member two days earlier. There was no physical contact made with the victim, police said.

BATTERY
A 37-year-old man told police he was shoved and struck in the face during a physical altercation with a friend Jan. 23 in the courtyard of a building on the 9800 block of Bianco Terrace. A witness reportedly called police after he saw the two men wrestling on the ground. When officers arrived the victim refused to sign a criminal complaint against his friend and refused medical treatment, police said.

THEFT
A 56-year-old man said he was hit by his husband in the past but had never called the police. Lopez has a Feb. 28 court date.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
Criminal damage to property complaints were filed Jan. 13 on the 9300 block of Hamilton Court; Jan. 17 on the 9200 block of Golf Road; Jan. 16 at Crestwood condominiums and apartments on the 9900 block of Holly Lane; and Jan. 21 on the 9500 block of North Greenwood Drive.

A vehicle was reported damaged Jan. 14 on the 9200 block of West Emerson Street.

HIT-AND-RUN
Hit-and-run accidents were reported Jan. 13 at Golf Road and Leslie Lane and Jan. 17 on the 9200 block of Dee Road.
Collages by artist and Park Ridge native Mary Lin Yoshimura will be on exhibit at Brickton Art Center in Park Ridge through March 3. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

BRICKTON ART CENTER

Area artist's work on exhibit starting Feb. 4

A collection of artwork by Park Ridge native Mary Lin Yoshimura will be exhibited at the Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, through March 3.

A free reception for the public will be 5-7 p.m. Feb. 4 at the art center.

Yoshimura, who now lives in Chicago as a professional artist, was born in Park Ridge and attended St. Paul of the Cross School. Yoshimura's colorful collages are assembled on small, gold-bordered Japanese calligraphy tablets known as shikishi boards. The individual boards are floated in symmetrical grid-like patterns in museum-grade matting.

Yoshimura's imagery is frequently inspired by Japanese and other Asian cultures like Indian and Malaysian. She uses a variety of materials, including paint, print, fabrics, textured and patterned Japanese papers, and appliques of found objects to achieve three-dimensional textures.

For more information on the exhibit and the Feb. 4 reception call visit (847) 823-6611.
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DE PLAINES

1172 W Grant Drive: Chitljan Kostov to Maria Janik Wally Janik, $175,000, Jan. 3
1491 Ashland Ave. Apt 6ne: Fannie Mae to Krasimir Manov, $92,000, Jan. 5
1885 Plainfield Drive: Dipak R Patel to Daveshe Patel Mamata Patel, $287,500, Jan. 4
2071 E Touhy Ave.: Roberta E Ritthamel to Vasily Pyk, $65,000, Jan. 4
329 Hawthorne Lane: Philip Lejman to Irving M Carrera, $195,000, Jan. 3
382 Peter Road: Mohammad Tarig to Mohammad Hanif Dawood Sarwat Hanif, $149,000, Dec. 30
437 Oak St.: Gregory A Gunderson to Maria Corazon C Arpon, $310,000, Jan. 5
650 Murray Lane Unit 418: Adelman Trust to Anna Matyka, $61,000, Jan. 5
9033 Jacqueline Drive: Tomasz Maternowski to Iftikhar A Khalid, $216,500, Dec. 30
916 E Villa Drive: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Luma M Daoud, $104,000, Jan. 5
9562 Park Lane Apt 2b: Mary N Nolen to Remigio R Cornejo Jr, $40,000, Jan. 5
9575 Terrace Place Apt 1g: Us Bank NA Trustee to Alaa A Al Maliki, $41,000, Jan. 5
960 Beau Drive Unit 210: Arkadiusz Swiderski to Karol Janik Warmy, $61,000, Jan. 3

EDISON PARK

6740 N Odell Ave.: 67 Odell Corp to Brian Polerecky Laurie Polerecky, $537,500, Jan. 3
1030 Burton Terrace: Colonnial Savings & Loan to Young J Choi, $415,000, Jan. 4
10365 Dearlove Road Unit 8: 207 Us Bank NA Trustee to Blanca Ayala, $79,000, Jan. 5
1220 Depot St. Apt 105: Marie Dereng Estate to Gertrude I Gordon, $155,000, Jan. 5
2215 Dewes St.: Unger Trust to Thomas J Rolfs Catherine Rolfs, $970,000, Dec. 30

HARWOOD HEIGHTS

6428 W Gunnison St.: North Star Trust Co Trustee to Zachary Corfias Anna Corfias, $248,500, Jan. 4
7600 W Lawrence Ave. Unit 3b: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Ebruz Demicli Omer Demicli, $95,000, Jan. 4

LINCOLNWOOD

6401 W Touhy Ave. Apt 310: Michael L Scherman to A Melvin Kramer Henely Friedeman, $155,000, Jan. 4
6433 N Drake Ave.: John Scorte to Michael Daniels, $425,000, Jan. 3

MORTON GROVE

5423 Cleveland St.: Paciic Trust to Gabriela Ralfe Marcelo Yunao, $215,000, Jan. 5
5500 Lincoln Ave. Unit 118: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Danny Alexander, $72,000, Jan. 3
6287 Lyons St.: Pesko Trust to Dauwood Atcha Hawa D Atcha, $210,000, Dec. 30
7900 Central Ave.: Remo Holza to Veda Duro Janne Duro, $400,000, Dec. 30
8440 Collie Ave. Unit 10: John E Armour to Mindy Jean Armour, $266,000, Dec. 30
8456 N Ozark Ave.: Anthony Joseph Carlini to Thomas Mulkerrin Nora Mulkerrin, $365,000, Dec. 30

NORRIDGE

4099 N Odell Ave.: Anna Kaminski to Osame Mubarak Marlon Mubarak, $385,000, Jan. 5
4023 N Olcott Ave.: Manitis Trust to Ismet Husic, $265,000, Dec. 30
4226 N Oleander Ave.: Barbara Moors to Rafael Sztalza Maria Krol, $160,000, Jan. 5
4632 N Opal Ave.: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Eva Lenart, $228,000, Dec. 30

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HOT PROPERTIES BY ROB PISKAC

Sprawling brick ranch
'50s-era single-story comes with fireplace shared by kitchen and family room

2476 Woodlawn Road, Northbrook — $529,000

Constructed in 1958, this 1,665-square-foot ranch sits on 0.46 acres and features a living room with hardwood floors, decorative trim and crown molding.

Highlights of the kitchen include a wrap-around breakfast bar, tile flooring and modern appliances. There's also a breakfast nook that comes with an overhead lamp, brick fireplace and glass doors to the back yard.

The carpeted family room shares a fireplace with the kitchen.

Hardwood floors line the master bedroom, which has recessed lighting, an abundance of closet space and decorative trim.

This property provides a two-car garage and is three-quarters of a mile west from the Northbrook Metra station.

Listing agent: Barbara Pepoon, Coldwell Banker Residential, 847-962-5537, Barb.Pepoon@cbexchange.com

SOUND OFF

Q: What's the most common mistake homeowners make when trying to sell a home?

A: The two most common mistakes that many homeowners make is overpricing a home and not properly staging the property for sale.

When homeowners do not price their home competitively, it deturs prospective buyers from viewing the home. My strategy is always to price a property competitively in order to sell it quickly versus having it linger on the market with multiple price adjustments and unhappy sellers. Additionally, I often recommend staging the property for sale. For the interior, this includes painting the walls, cleaning or replacing the carpet and decluttering the house. On the exterior, clean or replace outdoor fixtures and the mailbox. Freshen the driveway and landscaping.

In a nutshell, today's market is both a price and beauty contest.

— Susan S. Teper, Prudential Rubloff, 847-790-8407, steper@rubloff.com

MARKET WATCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>For sale</th>
<th>Median price</th>
<th>Foreclosure rate</th>
<th># of sales</th>
<th># of foreclosures</th>
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Source: ChicagoBlockshopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.

Editor: Denise Renfro
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DISTRICT 207

December’s ‘207’s Best’ chosen as most improved

Three seniors selected by Maine Township High School District 207 as “207’s Best” for December have been recognized by the Board of Education.

All three — Jesús Cisneros, of Maine East, Gabby Vildziunaite, of Maine South, and Nicolette Schwartz, of Maine West — were recognized for Improved Performance.

Introducing Gabby Vildziunaite to the board, South Principal Shawn Messmer explained that she struggled academically when she began at South, and that spending time with friends and fitting in socially sometimes took precedence over school work. But, Messmer said, after her parents took steps to push the “reset button,” Vildziunaite showed signs of real maturity and improved focus.

“In particular, she exemplifies a central idea at Maine South, and that is: It is not the mistake you make that matters, it is how you choose to respond once you have made it that matters most,” Messmer said.

She has chosen to respond by being an advocate for herself and others in the building, she has responded by setting long and short-term goals and working hard to achieve them, he added. Vildziunaite told board members that she is interested in pursuing pre-med education.

Jesús Cisneros ranks in the top 20 percent of East’s senior class, with a 3.57 GPA. He now counts two Advanced Placement classes among his courses. He also plays soccer for East. In his introductory letter, East Principal Michael Pressler noted that Cisneros, as a freshman, was in the Integrated Freshman Literacy program, taking transitional-level courses. As he worked his way through East, he took increasingly rigorous courses.

“He pushed himself to do his personal best, frequently expressing to his teachers, coaches and peers that education is the ticket to the dreams for the future that he holds for himself,” Pressler added.

Cisneros said he plans to study business administration at Elmhurst College or Dominican University.

In introducing Nicolette Schwartz, Maine West Principal Audrey Haugan noted that Schwartz has recorded a slight increase in her cumulative grade point average every single semester since she entered West as a freshman, a feat that not only requires persistence but that also becomes more difficult mathematically with each new semester.

Haugan wrote that Schwartz had a “self-realization during her sophomore year that she could and should probably do better in school.” And now, according to Haugan, she is on the brink of breaking the 3.0 mark on her GPA. She told board members that she plans to attend Columbia College, where she will major in either art design or illustration.
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Comcast’s current monthly service charge for the Starter XF Triple Play is $139.95 and for HD DVR ranges from $16.95–$17.95, depending on area (rate includes HD technology fee, where applicable). TV and Internet service limited to a single outlet. Equipment, installation, taxes, franchise fees, the Regulatory Recovery Fee and other applicable charges (e.g., per call or International charges) extra. May not be combined with other offers.
TV: Basic service subscription required to receive other levels of service. On Demand selections subject to charge indicated at time of purchase. Not all programming available in all areas.
Internet: Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. 2011 rating by PC Mag based on review of customer data from www.speedtest.net. Voice: $29.99 activation fee may apply. Service (including 911/emergency services) may not function after an extended power outage. Money-Back Guarantee limited to one month recurring service and standard installation charge up to $500. Call for restrictions and complete details. © 2012 Comcast. All rights reserved. Apple, iPad, iPhone and iPod touch are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

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West student is Intel semifinalist

Niles West High School student Felix Angelov was named a Semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS), the nation's most prestigious pre-college science competition. Angelov is one of 300 semifinalists chosen from among 1,839 entrants representing 497 high schools from 44 states, the District of Columbia and three overseas schools. Angelov received a $1,000 award for his research “Investigating the Effects of Autoinducer Analogos on Quorum Sensing.”

D219 held Engineering Open Houses

District 219 incoming freshmen and current students and their parents were invited to attend the 3rd annual Engineering Open Houses at the high schools to learn more about the nationally-recognized pre-engineering curriculum Project Lead The Way (PLTW). PLTW is the nation’s leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education with a comprehensive curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, innovation and real-world problem solving. D219 currently offers Principles of Engineering, Introduction to Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Digital Electronics, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, and Engineering Design Development. The Niles North Engineering Open House was held Jan. 31 and the Niles West Open House was Feb. 1. The opening presentation discussed the advantages of enrolling in a PLTW class: PLTW students achieve significantly higher scores in reading, mathematics, and science and PLTW graduates earn higher GPAs as college freshmen. After the presentation, there were questions asked of the engineering teachers, demonstrations, and tours of the STEM and Engineering labs.

Niles North to host Choral Concert

Niles North High School will once again welcome choirs from Golf Mill Middle School, McCracken Middle School and Old Orchard Junior High as they perform in the 2nd annual High School/ Junior High Choral Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 2 in the auditorium at 9800 Lawler, Skokie. There is no cost to attend the concert; however, donations will be accepted for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. During the concert, the choirs from Golf Mill School, McCracken School and Old Orchard Junior High will combine for a touching version of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” featuring ukulele. Niles North’s choral groups, Take One, Chorale and Combined Choir, will also perform. All choirs will sing “Stand Up and Make a Change,” written by guest conductor Ly Tartell, a renowned jazz/pop performer, arranger and conductor. For more information, please contact Director of Choral Activities Dan Gregerman (847) 626-2115 or dangre@d219.org.

West debate wins Lane Tech Tournament

For the second year in a row, Niles West Debate won the Lane Tech Warrior Classic in the Novice Division. On Jan. 33 and 14, Niles West Debate sent 34 debaters to compete in the competition held at Lane Tech High School in Chicago, an event that is a part of the Chicago Debate League. In the Novice division, Niles West’s Walter Lindwall and Tahir Meeks were undefeated in the preliminary rounds and were the top seed entering the elimination rounds. In the quarterfinals, they met teammates Gershom Chan and Michelle Sproat, with a 3-2 record and the eighth seed, and the West coaches advanced the higher seed. Lindwall and Meeks defeated Lane Tech in the semifinals on a 3-0 decision. Janat Ahmed and Nick Charles were the second seed entering the elimination rounds when they were matched against teammates James McClellan and Lizzie Prete, the seventh seed. Ahmed and Charles advanced because they were the higher seed and went on to beat New Trier in the semifinals on a 3-0 decision. Therefore, because both teams in the championship round were from Niles West, the teams “locked out” and were declared co-champions. Walter Lindwall and Tahir Meeks and Janat Ahmed and Nick Charles were named co-champions in the Novice division.
North to hold public debates at Book Fair

The Niles North Debate Team's inaugural season of competition is underway and they have already earned a championship from the University School Sun/Journal at Nova Southeastern University. The team of freshmen hope to gain more experience and knowledge by attending debate institutes this summer. They are holding public debates Feb. 11 at a book fair in order to raise funds for these debate opportunities.

The community is invited to watch free, public debates by Niles North debaters at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Westfield Old Orchard at 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the coaches and debaters about what team practices and competitions are like. There will also be information about the new Introduction to Debate Course, a one semester class that fulfills the new public speaking graduation requirement for all incoming freshmen at Niles Township High Schools. Purchases from the Feb. 11 Book Fair must be accompanied by a Niles North Debate Team voucher in order to support the team. Contact Head Debate Coach Katie Gjerpen at katgjed219.org for more information.

Distinguished alumni sought

Niles North High School is accepting nominations from the community and staff for its annual Distinguished Alumnus Award, which is presented each year to a former student during the Awards of Distinction ceremony.

Nominees must be a graduate of Niles North High School and should have distinguished themselves through accomplishments in their field or contributions to society. The nominees' accomplishments should reflect credit on their association with Niles North High School. Support for such nominations shall come from personal opinions and documented evidence. Those wishing to nominate a former Niles North High School graduate should email Hyun Briski at hyubriski@d219.org to request a nomination form.

The 47th Awards of Distinction ceremony will be held May 15. The deadline for receiving nomination forms is March 9. For information call Hyun Briski at (847) 626-2365.

West alumni helps undergrads

Three Niles West teachers who graduated from the University of Chicago offered professional advice to current sophomores and juniors at the "Taking the Next Step" program held at the Hyde Park campus on Jan. 7.

Niles West English teacher Tamara Jaffe-Noiiter, Director of English and Reading, Santilla Cheng and science teacher Ruth Gleicher facilitated roundtable conversations over lunch and answered questions from students interested in pursuing, or learning more about, education.

"This event is advertised to second- and third-year students at the university, to allow them to learn more about different career options and to begin networking," said Manju George, a Niles West graduate who is now a junior at U of C and who took part in the program.

Cheng said she was impressed with the size of the event, where more than 1,000 students were able to network with some 250 alumni.

"Education is not a major of its own at U. of C., so the students in my discussion group were interested in many different fields, with the common denominator being that they all want to work with children," Cheng said.

Cheng graduated from U. of C. in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in the teaching of English.

Gleicher, who earned her bachelor's degree in biology at the school in 1981, said she was pleased to see that the university seeks to pro-
Dinner time depends on how much you’ve got in the bank


I saw the results of a survey that stated most Americans eat dinner between 5 and 7 p.m.

Of course, I have a theory about dinner times. I think that the time at which a person eats dinner places him or her on the socio-economic scale. Wealthy people eat later than less wealthy people.

According to Masterpiece Theatre, wealthy people cannot possibly eat dinner before 8 p.m. Really wealthy people must

“Sometimes I change for dinner, too. When I’m having spaghetti, I often change into a darker shirt so the sauce stains won’t show.”

eat dinner even later. I bet Warren Buffett must eat dinner at 11:59 p.m. (Accordingly, I ought to have a dinner time of about 4:48 p.m.)

The late dinner time allows wealthy people to change for dinner. Sometimes I change for dinner, too. When I’m having spaghetti, I often change into a darker shirt so the sauce stains won’t show.

I guess it all goes back to how you were raised. My father didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.

Due to these hereditary and environmental influences, I still like to have dinner between 5 and 6 p.m.

Besides, I’m hungry.

Doesn’t Bill Gates get hungry? What does he do until 8 p.m.? It can’t take that long to dress for dinner.

I think they stave off hunger by having cocktails. There are always pictures on the society pages of pre-dinner wealthies having cocktails. This gives them something to do until they are allowed to eat dinner. Though a glass of cold gin with produce floating in it can’t do much to soothe those hunger pangs.

A big disadvantage to eating dinner late is that it pushes snacking time way back. If dinner is at 8, what time do

you start munching junk food? 1 or 2 in the morning? You can get really bad heartburn doing that.

Overall, then, I conclude that eating late is not a good idea.

The too-late dinner hour for wealthy people must be one of the reasons why F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote that the rich deserve our understanding and sympathy because they have special problems the rest of us don’t.

Of course they have.

Their biorythms are all messed up because they don’t eat at a decent hour.

Not to mention all that gas and acid indigestion from scarifying junk food at 2 in the morning.

One kid banked a shot past our players to score. My husband yelled, “Thattaway, Ben!”

The opposing coach thought he was making fun of him. I remembered Ben. He’d played on my son’s team in previous years and had been clumsy, less-skilled than the others.

“Not at all,” my husband explained to the coach. “I knew making that shot was hard for him. He’s a good kid.”

Later, he sent a personal note to the parents about their son’s progress. He sent our son one, too, to my email address. Hoarse, I call my son over to my laptop.

My husband wrote: “I’m writing this as a coach and

not as a father. As a coach, I see some tremendous improvement. I’ve come to rely on you to bolster the defense. You often get saddled with guarding the other team’s best player and have risen to that challenge over and over again. Too often, people look at the score and points made. But any smart coach will focus on what wins games. And you have won games for us.

Only good things are ahead. And as your father, all I can say is that I’m really proud of you, son. This time together is a memory that will stay with me for the rest of my days.”

I found a quote on fathers and sons but I can’t read it. My vision is too blurry.

Clarence Kelland wrote:

“My father didn’t tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.”

Clarence Kelland
VILLAGE BOARD

Complaint about gym thefts sparks police investigation

BY CATHRYN GRAN
cgrande@pioneertocal.com

At least one village resident is not satisfied with the change in leadership at a Morton Grove fitness facility.

The resident complained to officials at the Jan. 23 Village Board of Trustees meeting about his perceived lack of security since the Dec. 1 takeover by California-based LA Fitness of Bally Total Fitness, 6821 Dempster St.

Upon hearing the resident's complaint, Village President Daniel Staackmann directed Corporate Counsel Teresa Hoffman Liston and Police Chief Mark Erickson to investigate the village's options concerning thefts on private, commercial property.

Erickson said on Jan. 27 that the department is looking into the matter.

The resident was one of four theft victims during a two-day period, according to police reports.

Clothes, keys and wallets were reported stolen from two lockers Jan. 22, and again Jan. 23 from two additional lockers at the fitness center.

In all four instances the thief cut the locks to gain access, according to police.

"At least when it was Bally's, they some security there," the resident said.

The general manager at the facility, said employees do not give out their full names, said he was unable to provide any information concerning thefts or security matters.

He said members with questions should call the customer-service center.

The automated call system offered no options to address security concerns.

Phone calls and emails to the corporate office went unanswered.

Thefts reported at the facility, in which locks have been cut, include a gym bag with contents valued at about $815 stolen Nov. 26, and personal items stolen Jan. 8 from two lockers.

Police charged a 49-year-old Oak Brook resident with theft in Jan. 8 incident after a customer notified an employee about a suspicious person.

Why can't term papers and tweeting just get along?

I see high school term papers are going the way of, well, newspapers.

A recent report says that more high schools are doing away with the time-honored practice of students researching a topic and producing a 10- to 12-page paper on it, including footnotes and a bibliography. Teachers are replacing the term paper with PowerPoint presentations and Web pages.

Soon we may be down to tweets and Facebook postings with links to YouTube videos about a topic.

I don't mind schools incorporating other media in the classroom. In fact, I encourage them to teach students how to use technology to deliver a message. What irks me is the idea that technology should replace the term paper. In other words: Why not both?

Being able to use the latest technology to communicate certainly has value. Kids know how to use the latest techno tools.

Schools should be teaching kids how to use those tools intelligently and effectively. I would think we want kids to be able to communicate great thoughts via the Internet and not just tweet about what they had for breakfast or the latest boyfriend-girlfriend break-up.

But I don't want them to replace the term paper, especially for the reasons given in a recent news article about the topic.

Some of the teachers interviewed admitted the term paper is a lot of work, not just for the student, but also for them. It takes a lot of time to read and grade the papers.

Frankly, that excuse is pretty lame.

The old-fashioned term paper still has value. How do I know? Because New Trier still does it. And if New Trier still does it, it probably has a lot of value.

And Fenwick High School in Oak Park even makes time for the grading of the papers by giving teachers fewer classes. How about that for a novel idea?

I do believe there is value in teaching students how to develop a topic and theme, research the idea, take notes, cite the sources, and then organize it in a written form that spans 10 or 12 pages. It's basic, isn't it? Saying it takes too much time, or is too demanding, doesn't wash.

Try telling the school's football coach to forget about practicing blocking and tackling and just show some PowerPoints about it. That would be crazy. Yet no one complains that football practice, or any other athletic endeavor, takes too much time or is too hard.

If the football team can devote itself to rigorous practice, then should the school.

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Se Habla Español
NU series celebrates classical guitar

An international array of guitar players will star in Northwestern University's 2012 Segovia Classical Guitar Series, the 19th annual set of programs running periodically through winter and spring on the university's Evanston campus.

Guitarists include Irina Kulikova from Russia, Johannes Moller from Sweden, British/Indian sitarist Anoushka Shankar, multi-Grammy Award-winning American Sharon Isbin, and Eduardo Fernandez of Uruguay.

“This year Sharon Isbin is collaborating with a Brazilian percussionist,” said Richard Van Kleeck, director of concert activities for the Bienen School of Music. “Anoushka is the daughter of Ravi Shankar and her new recording ‘Traveler’ is exploring links between flamenco guitar and the music of India.

“It’s the most interesting and international that Northwestern has ever offered,” he said, adding that all the artists on the series have won major competitions.

The series, presented by Northwestern’s Bienen School of Music and the Chicago Classical Guitar Society, will use NU’s 400-seat Lutkin Hall at 700 University Place, and the nearly 1,000-seat Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, both in Evanston. All programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

Guitar stars

— Russia’s Kulikova launches the series Saturday, Feb. 4. She has won major guitar competitions in Europe and has two highly praised albums on Naxos. Her program in Lutkin includes music by Bach, Mertz and Barrios. “She is one of our up and coming guitar artists,” Van Kleeck declared.

— Sweden’s Moller will play Saturday, March 3 in Lutkin, and his music includes some of his own work, as well as pieces by Albeniz, Barrios and Gougeon. He is the winner of the 2010 Guitar Foundation of America’s International Concert Arts Competition. He will also present a master class for NU’s student guitarists at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 4, in Pick-Staiger’s rehearsal room. Admission is free.

— Shankar and her guests will play Wednesday, March 28, in Pick-Staiger. She is a two-time Grammy nominee, and for her “Travelers” recording on Deutsche Grammophon, she wrote works combining traditional sitar, tabla and bansuri flute with flamenco guitar, voice and percussion.

— Isbin will perform Saturday, March 31, in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. One of the best known American guitarists, she will collaborate with Thiago de Mello from Brazil in excerpts from her album “Journey to the Amazon.” She has appeared with more than 160 orchestras in Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Kennedy Center in D.C., as well as at Pick-Staiger with the Chicago Philharmonic, then known as Symphony II. Among her honors are two Grammy awards and she has commissioned work from John Corigliano, Christopher Rouse, Joan Tower and others.

— Uruguay’s Fernandez will play Saturday, April 14, in Pick-Staiger. The award-winning musician has made 18 albums for Decca, including some of the first recordings of classical guitar masterworks. He is also an educator, composer, author and researcher.

“South American music is incredibly rich,” said Van Kleeck, in reference to the series’ final performance, “and it is under-appreciated. It’s so easy to fall into the Western European trap, as if there was nothing else out there. I think Fernandez and the other performers in this series will change some of that.”
Jugglers, trapeze artists, clowns and other performers will burn a lasting impression into the memories of young audiences when Devonshire Playhouse hosts an Acrofabulous Spectacular.

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Jugglers, trapeze artists and clowns will amaze and amuse audiences at the Acrofabulous Spectacular, 7 p.m. Saturday at Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie.

"Rachel Findley and Daniel Findley are ready to blow the crowd away with their double trapeze act," reported James Schubert, founder and general director of Acrofabulous. He also noted that Sonja Richter will be spinning the Spanish web and Amy Chen will thrill audiences with her upside-down stunts.

The show will also feature performers doing elevated stunts on silk and examples of poi — swinging tethered weights through a variety of patterns.

Devonshire Cultural Center Facilities Manager Robin Horwitz said, "James is giving my daughter, Bonnie Ledford, the opportunity to open the show with a trapeze act that even has her own mother coming out of her seat. It's quite thrilling."

Tickets are $11, $9 for students and seniors.
For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400 or visit www.skokieparks.org.

Another balancing act
Music, dance and acrobatics will be combined by a troupe from Mombasa, Kenya, during An Evening With Jabali African Acrobats, 7:45 p.m. Feb. 9 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Pick up tickets starting at 6:30 p.m. that evening. The Village of Skokie Human Relations Commission is co-sponsoring the performance.
For details, call (847) 673-7774 or visit www.skokielibrary.info.

No fun like snow fun
Chill out with Frosty Fun at the Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge, 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 9. You and your children will paint with ice cubes, color snow and learn about these frozen states of water. The cost is $15 per family.
For details, call (847) 693-3570 or visit www.prparks.org.

Dance, dance, dance
That's what babies, toddlers and preschoolers will be doing with a favorite adult at the Bibliobop Dance Party, 10 a.m. Feb. 10 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Miss Cate will be DJ, selecting songs from the library's music collection to get dancers moving.
For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

Bright-eyed benefit
No one will snooze when Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players present a family concert to benefit Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago, 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11 at Christian Heritage Academy, 315 Waukegan Road, Northfield. Tickets are $15 per person in advance, $18 at the door.
For details, call (847) 832-6600 or visit www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org.
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folk songs, the play tells the
Depression-era story of two
women dependent on one
another to gain acceptance
in a divided society. Perfor-
mances on Tuesdays at 7:30
p.m. (Feb. 7 only); Wednes-
days at 1 p.m. 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 Feb. 19). Tickets: $25-$60. Tickets
for those 25 and under are
$10, subject to availability.
Call (847) 673-6300 or visit
www.northlight.org.

“The Cherry Orchard,” by
Anton Chekhov, presented
by Piccolo Theatre March
9-May 5 at the Evanston
Arts Depot, 600 Main St.,
Evanston. Curtain at 8 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m.
Sundays. Tickets: $25; $22
seniors; $15 students; $12.50
for previews, March 9-11. Call
(847) 424-0089 or visit www.
piccolotheatre.com.

“The Girl in the Yellow
Dress,” presented by Next
Theatre Company through
Feb. 26 at the Noyes Cultural
Arts Center, 927 Noyes St.,
Evanston. When Pierre, a
French-Congolese pupil,
signs up for English lessons
with Celia, a beautiful young
white teacher, they both get
more than they bargained for.
Set in contemporary Paris,
the play explores the ways
in which class, race, and
language continue to divide
us. Tickets: $6-$22. Ad-

TRIBUTE TO THE KING
Billy Cherry is among four finalists from Elvis Presley Enter-
prises’ annual worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest
appearing at the Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road,
Rosemont, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. Along with Cherry, Ben
Klein, Kevin Mills and Victor Trevino Jr. will each represent
Elvis during different stages in his career. The Elvis tribute
artists will be joined by a live band, back-up singers, dancers,
and an Ann-Margret tribute artist, as well as iconic imagery
made available from the Graceland archives. Tickets from
$24.50-$49.50 are available at www.ticketmaster.com or
(800) 7Le5-3000; 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.

Unforgettable songs including Ol’ Man River,
Make Believe, Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man and more!

Featuring Disney superstar soprano Ashley Brown and opera greats
Nathan Gunn, Alyson Cambridge, and Morris Robinson.
With the world-renowned Lyric Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

See Go, Page 7B
**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**BIG MIRACLE**

Rated: PG for language
Stars: John Krasinski, Drew Barrymore
A small-town Alaskan news reporter (Krasinski) enlists his Greenpeace volunteer ex-girlfriend (Barrymore) in a campaign to rescue a family of whales trapped by rapidly forming ice. Ken Kwapis ("He's Just Not That Into You") directed the romantic adventure.

**CHRONICLE**

Rated: PG-13 for intense action and violence, thematic material, some language, sexual content and teen drinking
Stars: Michael B. Jordan, Michael Kelly, Alex Russell
When three high-school friends make a discovery that accidently gives them super powers, their new abilities spin their lives out of control. Josh Trank (TV's "The Kill Point") directed the action drama.

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK**

Rated: PG-13 for thematic material and violence/disturbing images
Stars: Daniel Radcliffe, Janet McTeer, Ciaran Hinds
When a young lawyer (Radcliffe) travels to a remote English village to settle an estate, he discovers the vengeful ghost of a scorned woman haunting the town. James Watkins ("Eden Lake") directed the supernatural thriller.

**STILL PLAYING**

ALBERT NOBBS

**STAR**

Rated: R for some sexuality, brief nudity, and language
Stars: Glenn Close, Janet McTeer, Mia Wasikowska
"I think you are the strangest man I have ever met," says chambermaid Helen Mack (Wasikowska) to Mr. Nobbs while court- ing in 19th-century Dublin — and she has no idea how right she is. For one thing, Mr. Nobbs (Glenn Close) is a woman disguised as a man for employment and safety; for another, he has spent so many years living a lie he has become a virtual nonentity — a cipher even to himself. In addition to her peculiar, exquisitely subtle, Oscar-nominated performance, Close produced and co-wrote the screenplay to this odd, painful, but ultimately moving indie drama, directed with quiet restraint by Rodrigo Garcia ("Mother and Child"). Two things conspire to lure Mr. Nobbs out of the safety of his self-effacing existence: Realizing he has finally saved enough money to buy a small shop and meeting another man he has become a virtual nonentity - a cipher even to himself.

**THE ARTIST**

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

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

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

**CONTRABAND**

Rated: R for violence, pervasive language and brief drug use
Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Giovani 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
The strange thing about "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," director Stephen Daldry's ("Billy Elliot") adaptation of Jonathan Safran Fier's controversial 2005 novel, is that it can make you feel one way one moment and the other the next. Gradually, precocious young protagonist Oscar's (Horn) post-9/11 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), joins him on his search for meaning after "the worst day." For every moment that works well, though, there are a couple that don't quite make it — and for a subject like this one, not quite is not good enough.

**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.

**HUGO**

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

**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. Anger Leth ("Ghosts of Cite Soleil") directed the crime drama.
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.

RENAISSANCE PLACE
1850 2nd St., Highland Park (847) 258-7320
The Artist (PG-13) Fri, Sun 12:40-5:30; Sat, Mon-Tue 2:40-5:30
The Descendants (R) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:40-9:40; Mon 12:15-3:50-6:40-9:40
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (PG) Fri-Sun 12:01-2:50-5:40-8:30-11:15
The Grey in D-Box (R) Fri, Sat 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40-12:00; Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40-12
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) Fri, Sat 3:15-9:25
Haywire (R) Fri, Sat 12:10-4:10-7:40-10:40-12:35; Sun 12:10-4:10-7:40-10:40-12
The Grey in D-Box (R) Fri 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40-12:00; Sat 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40-12; Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40-12
The Vow (PG-13) Fri, Sat 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40-12; Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:40-12
Underworld: Awakening (PG-13) Fri 12:10-4:10-7:40-10:40-12; Sat 12:10-4:10-7:40-10:40-12; Sun 12:10-4:10-7:40-10:40-12
Man on a Ledge (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:10-4:10-7:40-10:40-12
One for the Money (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:10-4:10-7:40-10:40-12
Chronicle (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:05-12:40-3:50-6:25-9:30-12:00; Mon-Wed 10:05-12:40-3:50-6:25-9:30-12
The Artist at ALLGÄU'S on the Riverfront

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NEW ON VIDEO

Gosling’s riveting ‘Drive’

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

DRIVE
★★★★
Rated: R for strong, brutal, bloody violence, language and some nudity
Stars: Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan, Bryan Cranston, Albert Brooks, Ron Perlman

This ultra-stylish, ultra-tough, yet almost sociopathically understated modern film noir from Denmark’s Nicolas Winding Refn (the “Pusher” trilogy, “Bronson”) features an intense, tightly controlled performance by Gosling as a Hollywood stunt driver who works nights behind the wheel of getaway cars. While he clearly yearns for a decent life, especially after falling for the nice single mom (Mulligan) who lives next door and is being threatened by a couple of murderous gangsters (Brooks and Perlman), the Driver has an almost preternatural understanding of bad men. Perhaps because, deep down, where he keeps it a malignant secret, he is possibly the baddest, most merciless, most psychologically dangerous bad guy of them all.

TEXAS KILLING FIELDS
★★
Rated: R for violence and language including some sexual references
Stars: Sam Worthington, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Chloe Grace Moretz

The extraordinarily bleak “Texas Killing Fields” doesn’t have much to offer in the way of an original story or a coherent plot or detailed characterization, but it’s not short on atmosphere. Producer Michael Mann (whose most recent film was “Public Enemies”) commissioned this fact-based drama about a region of swamps outside of Texas City, Texas, where murderers apparently like to dump female bodies, from former DEA agent turned consultant turned screenwriter Don Ferrarone. And he finally settled on his daughter Ami Canaan Mann to direct. She and cinematographer Stuart Dryburgh (“The Piano”) make sure Texas City looks the part of the small-town hell hole and the solid cast provides plenty of conviction. Unfortunately, they can’t do much with Ferrarone’s over-complicated, under-developed script.

RECENT RELEASES

50/50
★★★ 1/2
Rated: R for language throughout, sexual content and some drug use
Stars: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Bryce Dallas Howard, Anna Kendrick

Though it’s packaged with crowd-pleasing elements ranging from buddy comedy to budding romance, all designed to take the hex off the Big C, the best thing about the cancer dramedy “50/50” is its stubborn streak of genuineness.

REAL STEEL
★★★ 1/2
Rated: PG-13 for some violence, intense action and brief language
Stars: Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo, Evangeline Lilly

Though it tries to mix the robo-thrills of the “Transformers” with the emotional uplift of “Rocky” and the heart of “E.T.,” this frequently spectacular, but soulless sci-fi boxing melodrama is far too pre-programmed and manipulative to generate anything but a semblance of an emotional response.

ALSO NEW

THE BIG YEAR
★★★★

Three rival birdwatchers (Jack Black, Steve Martin and Owen Wilson) compete to spot the rarest birds during the avian event of the year. David Frankel (“The Devil Wears Prada”) directed the comedy. Rated PG for language and some sensuality. Extras include extended version, deleted scenes and a gag reel.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION – THE NEXT LEVEL
★★★★

This Blu-ray sampler serves as a preview of the new high-definition transfers Paramount has made of all seven seasons of the “Star Trek” spin-off series, which will be released throughout the year. Included are the feature-length pilot “Encounter at Farpoint” as well as fan faves “The Inner Light” and “Sins of the Father.”

THE THING
★★★★

The discovery of an alien spacecraft at an Antarctic research station leads to intergalactic horror in this prequel to John Carpenter’s 1982 remake of a 1951 sci-fi classic. Rated R for strong creature violence and gore, disturbing images, and language.

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
★★★★

Three films about the true author of Shakespeare’s plays, or 18th century playwrights, or how about good old Texas City, Texas, where murderers apparently like to dump female bodies, from former DEA agent turned consultant turned screenwriter Don Ferrarone. And he finally settled on his daughter Ami Canaan Mann to direct. She and cinematographer Stuart Dryburgh (“The Piano”) make sure Texas City looks the part of the small-town hell hole and the solid cast provides plenty of conviction. Unfortunately, they can’t do much with Ferrarone’s over-complicated, under-developed script.

NEXT WEEK

It’s a chronological smorgasbord. You can go 17th century with “Anonymous,” a drama purporting to reveal the true author of Shakespeare’s plays, or 18th century with “Dangerous Liaisons,” with Glenn Close and John Malkovich as bored nobles trying to out-betray each other. Or how about good old 1955 with the Blu-ray debut of the Disney classic “Lady and the Tramp?”
available, with three courses for $20 excluding beverages, taxes and tip. Call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.theo-u.org.

“Mark Twain: Patriot, Teacher, Philosopher” will be presented by the Saint Sebastian Players Feb. 17-March 11 at St. Bonaventure, 1625 W. Diversey, Chicago. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $15; $10 students; $7 senior citizens. Group rates available. “Theater Thursday” performance, which includes refreshments and conversation with production team members, takes place Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.; cost is $20. For information, call (773) 404-7922 or visit www.saintsebastianplayers.org.

“Ten Chimeys,” March 9-April 15 at Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. For decades, Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne entertained the most influential artists of their time — from Noel Coward to Sydney Greenstreet — at Ten Chimneys, their legendary Wisconsin retreat. In this new play, the arrival of a young Uta Hagen for an onstage rehearsal sparks an offstage romantic triangle. Performances are Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 13 and April 3 only); Wednesdays: 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (except April 11); Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m. (except opening on March 16 at 7:30 p.m.); Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. (except March 10) and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except March 18, March 25 and April 8). Tickets: $25-$60; $25-$40 for previews, March 9-15. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

“You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown,” presented by the James Downing Theatre Feb. 18-March 4 at the John Waldran Arts Center, housed at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $20; $15 for students and seniors.

Call (224) 725-3696 or visit http://jamesdowningtheatre.typepad.com.

CLASSICAL
Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alan Heatherington, performs at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.arsviva.org. Tickets: $39-$70, with discounts for seniors and students. March 11, 3 p.m.: “Youthful Virtuosity.” The program includes Borodin: Overture to “Prince Igor” and Dvorak: Symphony No. 7 in D minor, as well as a piano concerto performed by the winner of the Emilio Del Rosario Concerto Competition.

Chicago a cappella presents “Wade in the Water,” a celebration of African-American spirituals, at 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program includes the world premiere of a new commission, “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen,” by Grammy Award-winning ars

SEE GO, PAGE 9B


Shows available Feb. 10th-12th with an added Feb. 14th performance.

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Call (847) 677.6663 or visit www.myronandphil.com
Friday, February 17, 8:00
SCP Jazz Series

New troupe offers magic of ‘Bell, Book and Candle’

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN
Contributor

Paradise Playhouse presents a bewitching tale of tricks and treats with its production of the rarely produced “Bell, Book, and Candle” by John Van Druten at Oak Park’s Open Door Theatre, Feb 10-26.

“It’s a great show,” said director Jim Leonard. “For a lot of people this is going to be a new experience. It’s going to be like seeing a brand new show, which is nice. It’s something they’re not used to seeing.

The story takes place in 1950s New York City and follows Gillian Holroyd, who happens to be a witch. She’s a thoroughly modern one but not averse to using that old black, or at least gray, magic.

When she meets publisher Shep Henderson, she’s taken with him. But he’s taken set to marry her old college rival. She casts a spell on Shep, but things become complicated when her aunt, and brother, also magic, summon a wacky witchcraft author. There’s also some inconvenient conflict between love and the black art. All in all, it is a comedy and just a drop of drama.

Park Ridge actor

The cast for this show, the company’s second, includes: Leonard, an Oak Park native now living in Chicago’s Galewood neighborhood, Jillann Gabrielle of Galewood, Bato Prostman from Chicago, Dee Norman of Oak Park, and Park Ridge’s David Bontumasi.

“It’s a lot of fun to work with. It’s a lot of fun to work with actors who enjoy that play and that fun and the script allows you to do it,” said Bontumasi. “It’s a great deal of fun for that small of a cast.”

Although “Bell, Book and Candle” may seem new to viewers, it originally opened on Broadway in 1950 starring Lilli Palmer and Rex Harrison. In 1958, the movie version starred Kim Novak, Jimmy Stewart, Jack Lemmon, Elsa Lanchester and Ernie Kovacs. The story also inspired the 1960s television sitcom, “Bewitched.”

Gabrielle, in the role of Gillian, relates to her characters. Gabrielle describes herself as an energy expert, making things happen with positive thoughts and love she sends, rather like Gillian’s magic. The role also allows her to expand, because she usually plays more domineering roles that reflect her strong personality.

“It was so good for me to have to do this,” she said.

“That’s part of why I started this company because I wanted to expand and I wanted to challenge myself, rather than always be cast in the same kind of roles. It develops my acting skills and it just helps me as a person to expand and to get in touch with that other side of myself, because everybody does have two major sides.”

Bontumasi says his character is something of a catalyst throughout the show, a bit immature and likes to have fun with his magic.

“It’s a fun play, a fun role, and it’s fun to do,” he said.

“It’s fun to let loose in that way because he doesn’t have a lot of boundaries. He kind of just does what he wants to do when he wants to do it and kind of rolls with it and I don’t do that.”

Bontumasi said he’d like the audience “to come away with a little bit of insight. Hopefully they’re a little smarter and a little happier than they were two hours before. I’d like it to be an enjoyable evening for folks and I think it will be.”
ranger Joseph Jennings; Jonathan Miller's new cycle, "Old Testament Spirituals; and arrangements by Robert Morris, Moses Hogan, and Oak Park composer Paul Carey. Tickets: $28 and $35; $22 senior citizens; $12 students. Call (773) 281-7820 or visit www.chicagoacappella.org.


Evanston Symphony Orchestra performs at 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 864-8804. www.evanstonsymphony.org. Tickets in advance are $27; $22 for senior citizens. Tickets at the door are $30; $25 for seniors. Tickets are $5 for students, subject to availability, at the box office with ID. Admission is free for children 12 and younger. Feb. 5: "Russian," with guest soloist Bella Hristova, violin. The program includes Mussorgsky: "Night on Bald Mountain"; Khachaturian: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D Minor; and Shostakovich: Symphony No. 1 in F Minor. Presbyterian Homes, 3200 Grant St., Evanston, will host Musical Insights, a free lecture/recital program focusing on the Evanston Symphony's "Russian" concert, at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 3. March 11: "Eternal Light," featuring the Chicago Chamber Choir. The program includes works by Theofanidis, Sibelius, Lauridsen and Smetana. May 13: "Dufour Plays Mozart," with guest soloist Mathieu Dufour, principal flute of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The program includes Bach: Toccata & Fugue in D Minor; Mozart: Flute Concerto #2 in D Major; and Brahms: Piano Quartet in G Minor.

Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Russell Vinick, performs at Northside College Prep High School, 5501 N. Kedzie, Chicago. Tickets are $18; $12 seniors and students. Call (312) 409-5670 or visit www.lssco.org. April 1, 3:30 p.m.: "Italian Gala," with guest soloist violinist Henry Criz. The program includes Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 "Italian." Bach: Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor; Wieniawski: Scherzo-Tarantelle; and Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2. Elayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park, Chicago. (773) 381-4554.
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847.674.1500, ext. 2400


The gallery will be open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily during the show. It will feature for sale one-of-a-kind fine art created by well known Chicago area and out-of-state artists. Among them are Deborah Eppstein and Jack Kreig (both of Evanston), Judith Roth, Laurie Rubin, Chuck Wickler, Mark McMahon, Gary Weidner, Gretchen Sigmund, Joyce and Steve Rehors, Rebecca Zemans, Eileen Nell, Eric Jensen, Nina Weiss, Ezra Siegel, Didier Nolet, Anna Dibble, Susan Clayton, Jill Specks, Robert T. Knill, John Showalter, Scott Fincher, and Scott Fishman.

"We will be showing a diverse mix of painters, photographers, sculptors, ceramists, and jewelers," said Horwich. "All their work is colorful, delightful, and finely executed. Everything is for sale."

The public is invited to an opening night party from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9. For more information, call (847) 881-6026, or email popupartshow@gmail.com.

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6355 N. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60646
www.maynestage.com, Feb. 24-25, 7:30 p.m.: Haymarket Opera Company presents "La Descente d'Orphee aux Enfers." $25 standing room; $45 reserved; $50 VIP booths.

March 21, 6:30 p.m.: Chicago Chamber Musicians presents its Classical Conversations series featuring music by Francis Poulenc, Leonard Bernstein, Mikhail Glinka and Roberto Sierra. $20; $10 students.

The Met: Live in HD, the Metropolitan Opera's series We've Always Been There... Always Will Be.


March 4 and 11, 3 p.m.: Four Score Festival celebrates the music of Charles Ives and Aaron Copland and explores how their inspiration threads through the works of two of their students: the March 4 performance focuses on the music of Ives and Gunther Schuller; the March 11 performance features the music of Copland and Mario Davidovsky. $25; $15 seniors; $10 students. March 9, 7:30 p.m.: Four Score Festival: Young Composer's Concert. Free.
“Great Lion,” an engraving by Jacques de Gheyn II, c. 1590, from the Fogg Museum of Harvard University, is among the works in “Prints and the Pursuit of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe,” an exhibition of rare prints, drawings, books, maps and scientific instruments at the Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, through April 8. Gallery talks during the exhibition include “Of Flowers and Autopsies: Making Early Modern Science,” noon Feb. 8; “Printed Scientific Instruments,” 6 p.m. Feb. 29; and “Exhibition Overview and Highlights,” 6 p.m. March 29. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Admission is free; unless noted, admission to all programs is also free. For more information, call (847) 491-4000 or see www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu.

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One of America’s premier roots-rock bands, the BoDeans, returns to Chicago for an acoustic performance. Twenty-five years after their debut Love & Hope & Sex & Dreams propelled them into the national spotlight, the BoDeans’ unique sound continues to resonate with audiences through avid writing, recording and touring. Don’t miss this unplugged performance of heartfelt lyrics and passionate harmonies live in the spectacular setting of Orchestra Hall.
Dave Rudolf's Beach Party!
Saturday, February 4, 3 p.m.
Do the limbo, pick up a hula hoop, join a conga line, jump rope, blow some bubbles, and listen to some great summer-time music with this Grammy-nominated family entertainer.
$7 general admission; $5 children under 12; $4 group rate.

Saturday, February 18, 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m.
A controversial drama about a university professor accused of sexual harassment by his female student. John, who is on the brink of tenure, and Carol, his student, become embroiled in a power struggle and a war of words—leading to a shocking conclusion.
$8 general admission

March 1 - 11
A timely look at class, immigration, and women's friendships, this Jeff-nominated play tells the tale of Fernanda, the privileged daughter of a wealthy Mexican family, and Kita, the child of the family's undocumented Mexican maid. When a chance meeting brings the women together after many years, it prompts a flood of memories.
$10 general admission; $8 students and seniors; $6 group rate.

Six Piano Ensemble
Saturday, April 28, 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 29, 3 p.m.
Celebrate the 31st anniversary of this unique group. Founded by Glenna Sprague, Oakton professor and coordinator of music, the Six Piano Ensemble performs classical, ragtime, and popular music.
$17 general admission; $14 students and seniors; $12 group rate.

March 3 - 13
The devious machinations of the deformed villain, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, made this story of war, power, and blind ambition an Elizabethan favorite. Determined to be king, Richard ruthlessly eliminates anyone who stands between him and the throne—from his wife and brothers to his innocent young nephews.
$10 general admission; $8 students and seniors; $6 group rate.

For ticket information, call 847.635.1900 or visit www.oakton.edu/tickets. The season concludes with Oakton music performances and a special Jim Gill Family Concert on May 12. For details visit www.oakton.edu/showtime.
Blondes have all the fun in "Legally Blonde"

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES

Suspend disbelief and enjoy the wonderful antics of "Legally Blonde: The Musical" by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, playing at Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire through March 25.

Chelsea Packard, who can sing, dance and act, embodies Miss Elle Woods, the ultimate California girl, pretty in pink and as bright as a new penny. Oh, and one smart cookie, when she puts her mind to it.

The story true to the 2001 movie "Legally Blonde" with Reese Witherspoon, tells of Elle, president of her Delta Nu sorority at UCLA, who expects a proposal from her long-time boyfriend Warner Huntington III, played by Cole Burden.

He, however, is headed to Harvard Law School and harbors political ambitions. So he tells her he is looking for a wife more serious than Elle, whose major is fashion merchandising.

Broken-hearted, she decides to enroll in Harvard Law to show Warner that she is a serious person. She studies for and passes the LSATS, but when she gets to Massachusetts, she not only faces her new girlfriend Vivienne, played well by Stephanie Binetti, but also scorn from her classmates who think she is a blonde bimbo.

She evolves, however, with the help of Emmett Forest, the ultimate good guy, played by David Larsen, and together they provide legal help to her manicurist Paulette, the sensational Christine Sherrill. By the end of the story, they win acquittal for Brooke Wyndham, Elle's Delta Nu sister accused of murder, played by another super-talented blonde cutie, Summer Naomi Smart.

This musical romp opens with "Omigod You Guys" performed by the highly caffeinated Delta Nu gals. The show's laurel-laden choreographer/director Marc Robin makes Marriott's arena stage seem like Radio City Music Hall with dance numbers that include gymnastics and synchronized jump rope routines, so precise that the opening night audience burst into applause.

Hyperactive Delta Nus provide a Greek chorus. Veteran actor Gene Weygandt plays Callahan, the tough law professor, whose number "Blood in the Water" gives a clue to his legal philosophy.

There are even two live, thoroughly professional dogs, Elle's tiny, beloved Bruiser and Paulette's big Bulldog Rufus, which Elle and Emmett reclaim from Paulette's former boyfriend.

As for Elle and Emmett, they bond over their outsider status in the number "Chip on my Shoulder," and provide the perfect Hollywood ending, as we knew they would.

Even Paulette finds love, in the person of Kyle, the UPS delivery man, played with manful glee by Steve Calzaretta, who stops the show with his Michael Flatley moment.

If you enjoyed the movie "Legally Blonde" you'll like this musical, which boasts an Elle as lively and cute as the original.
GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16B

A SWEETHEART OF A DEAL!

BINGO NIGHT
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012

1ST GAME PAYOUT - $150.00
12 GAME PAYOUT - $75.00
2 GAMES - COVERALL - $50.00 EACH GAME

Doors open at 5 p.m.
First Game at 6 p.m.

Ridgewood High School
7500 W. Montrose, Norridge

Vince's Restaurant Pizza and Allegretti's Bakery
desserts are available at our Concession Stand!

Questions?
Call The RHS Parents' Club
at 708-456-4242, extension 799

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave.
www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org
Feb. 15, 2 p.m.: Live @ Lincolnwood presents the
Lenny Marsch Trio.

Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.: Red Hot Chili Peppers - I'm With You World Tour. $39.50 and
in Germany 1995-2011 Tour. $49.50, $79.50, $149.50.

May 4: Rammstein - Made in Germany 1995-2011 Tour.

May 28, 7:30 p.m.: Red Hot Chili Peppers - I'm With You World Tour. $39.50 and
in Germany 1995-2011 Tour. $49.50, $79.50, $149.50.

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May 4: Rammstein - Made in Germany 1995-2011 Tour.
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JOFFREY DANCERS: RICARDO SANTOS | PHOTO BY: SANDRO
GO  CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

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. Feb. 4, 7 p.m.: ELVIS LIVES, featuring four finalists from Elvis Presley Enterprises’ annual worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest. Bill Cherry, Ben Klein, Kevin Mills and Victor Trevino Jr. will each represent Elvis during different stages in his career. The Elvis tribute artists will be joined by a live band, back-up singers, dancers, and an Ann-Margaret tribute artist, as well as 1960s icon imagery made available from the Graceland archives. Tickets: $24.50-$49.50. Feb. 24: Big Time Rush — “Better With U Tour.” March 30-31, 8 p.m.: Celtic Thunder. Sing to Live Community Chorus presents “Sing for the Cure” at 8 p.m. March 3 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: $20 general admission; $15 students and seniors; free for breast cancer survivors. Visit www.singtolive.org.


ART GALLERIES

Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 673-6300.

The Pioneer Page Turners chating online book club will discuss The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7. Lacks, an African-American tobacco farmer in the South, played a vital role in the development of the polio vaccine, as well as advances in gene mapping, in vitro fertilization and cloning. The only thing was, she wasn’t around to know about it. After being diagnosed with cervical cancer in January 1951, cell samples were sent to Dr. George Otto Gey, who discovered that they could grow in culture. Lacks died in October 1951, but the cells live on. Now known as the HeLa immortal cell line, the cells have led to a multi-million dollar industry of human biological materials, the profits of which have never filtered down to the Lacks family. Rebecca Skloot takes us on a journey encompassing race, poverty, and medical ethics and reminds us of the “human” aspect in “human biological materials.” To take part in the live, online chat, visit http://blogs.pioneero blocal.com/bookclub/; February’s book will be The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.
New play considers finders, keepers and losers of the faith

BY JOANNA BRODER
Contributor

When Chicago playwright Randall Colburn was in college, his world changed completely when he fell in love with a preacher's daughter.

He went from a "little hedonist" to a born-again Christian, he said. A few years later when his relationship collapsed, his religious identity faltered and he was left soul-searching.

No longer a Christian, and having negated so much of his former self for the sake of his relationship, he had to wonder what was left?

"If you're ever going to redefine yourself, it involves great sacrifice," he said in a telephone interview. "And I'm not trying to make a claim about whether that's good or bad, but it's like the things of your past are never really going to go away unless you kill them."

Colburn explores themes of love, sex, religion and reinvention in his newly-revised play "Hesperia," named after, but not based on, a real small town in western Michigan. The show runs through March 18 at Glencoe's Writers' Theatre.

Second chance

"Hesperia" first premiered in 2010 at Right Brain Project, a Chicago storefront theater. After seeing that production, leadership at Writers' offered to produce a second run of the play, providing Colburn the chance to continue to develop his play.

Lake Theater, 515 E. Thacker, Des Plaines. Tickets are $9-$12 in advance; $11-$14 at the door. Call (847) 516-2298 or visit www.chicagowriters.org

COMEDY
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 5050 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. www.northshorecenter.org. (847) 673-6300. Feb. 25, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Lily Tomlin, 542-763-7788. 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. Feb. 18, 8 p.m.: "Defending the Caveman." $41.55-$72.30. March 3, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Jerry Seinfeld, $45-$575. March 10: Gabriel Iglesias Stand-Up Revolution Tour, presented by Comedy Central, Starbucks, 4116 Dempster St., Skokie. (847) 674-5384. Feb. 11, 7-8:30 p.m.; Pre-Valentine's Day comedy performance by Debbie Sue Goodman, author of My Husband the Stranger, Still Single and Still Dating. No cover.

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

Happy Twirlers Square Dancing Club provides round and square dancing at 7:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month, through May 2012, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 195 N. Summit, downtown Park Ridge. First lesson free. Call (708) 685-A160.

Happy Twirlers Square Dancing Club offers square dancing lessons from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, at Norwood Crossing, 6016 N. Nina, Chicago. New members, age 16 and older, welcome. No dance experience needed, just interest in Scandinavian folk dance. For more information, call (847) 622-6616 or e-mail karlpr57@aol.com; or (847) 823-7996 or kerryo815@gmail.com.

Happy Twirlers Square Dancing Club offers square dancing lessons from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, at Norwood Crossing, 6016 N. Nina, Chicago. New members, age 16 and older, welcome. No dance experience needed, just interest in Scandinavian folk dance. For more information, call (847) 622-6616 or e-mail karlpr57@aol.com; or (847) 823-7996 or kerryo815@gmail.com.

LINE DANCING for all ages is held from 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6341 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. $10 per person, $15 for couples, or $20 for family of four. For information, call (847) 823-7996 or kerryo815@gmail.com.

FILM
Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Feb. 3, 1 p.m.: "Killing the Irishman." Feb. 9, 10:30 a.m.: "The Debt." Feb. 9, 1 p.m.: "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." Feb. 9, 10, 1 p.m.: "The Trip." Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m.: Higher Ground." Feb. 16, 1 p.m.: "Rebecca."
Featuring Dale Benson
Feb. 1 ~ March 4
Mayslake Hall, Oak Brook

“Two hours of nonstop laughter!” (WLAJ)

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www.firstfolio.org
PLAY REVIEW

 Petty mindgames of 'Yellow Dress' short on drama

BY CATEY SULLIVAN
Contributor

The fraught ethics of lying to someone and lying with someone come into play in "The Girl in the Yellow Dress," a well-performed but underwhelming two-hander wherein grammar and passion become intertwined.

In Craig Higginson’s slight drama, a brittle English teacher living in a chic Paris flat gets a lot more than her standard tuition fees for tutoring a handsome Sorbonne student who, as it turns out, is after a lot more than lessons in dangling participles and future perfect tenses.

As the relationship between Celia (Carrie A. Coon) and Pierre (Austin Talley) develops from rhetoric to romance, two primary problems become apparent with Higginson’s script. The first is that the dialogue is far too clever by half. Virtually everything Celia and Pierre say in their ongoing discussion of subjugatives, subjects and objects has a witty, effortless double meaning. Sentence structure and sex are woven into the text and the subtext, resulting in a bantering verbal ballet.

The back-and-forth is cute for a while, as double entendres give the staid topic of sentence structure a crackling undercurrent of naughtiness. But by the time the script is thick with grammar and romance become intertwined, the cramming has grown gimmicky.

And unrealistic — people talk like this when they’re reading from a carefully thought-out script, not when they’re in the first uncertain blush of a conflicted relationship.

The second, and larger problem is that as the lessons run their course, nothing worth emotionally investing in really transpires. Neither Celia nor Pierre rank high on the empathy meter. She’s haughty and secretive; he’s both childish and more than a little creepy. It’s tough to care whether their speech lessons will expand to include extracurricular physical activities.

Part of the trouble is the stasis inherent to the show. Director Joanie Schultz keeps the pacing snappy, but she can’t overcome the fact that this is a play in which two people spend 90 minutes in one room, talking about syntax and themselves.

Nor can she overcome some of the weirdness that Higginson has built into the plot. When Celia learns that Pierre has been secretly following her for years prior to inducing her to take him on as a student, she doesn’t throw him out. Instead, the two just keep on talking until the stalker becomes a sex object in what seems more like a fantasy than something that could credibly happen. Much as "The Girl in the Yellow Dress" tries to paint Pierre’s behavior as quirky or charming, it is in fact obsessive and scary.

Higginson structures the plot around the gradual revelation of secrets, but when the Big Reveal finally arrives, it’s an anti-climax. When Celia owns up to the real reason she left a comfortable life with her wealthy family in London, it’s more shrug-inducing than shocking (and not that hard to figure out well before the dialogue spells it out).

When Pierre turns out to be not quite the person he’s presented, that too is a dramatic letdown. And as the two continue talking after the revelations, “The Girl in the Yellow Dress” becomes a story of petty mind games and pernickety grammar rather than compelling drama.

The show’s saving grace is the appeal of Coon and Talley, both actors of excellence capable of making Celia and Pierre tolerably engaging. Coon does well portraying a young woman with a deep-seated inability to trust her own judgment and a thick outer shell constructed to keep people at arm’s length. As Pierre, Talley captures both the innocence and the anger of a young man ruled by his own judgment and a thick outer shell constructed to keep people at arm’s length.

As an acting exercise, “The Girl in the Yellow Dress” is wonderful — both players get the chance to emote from sadness to elation and back again. As a narrative, it falls short.

THE GIRL IN THE YELLOW DRESS
Next Theatre Company, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston
Through Feb. 26
$30-$40
(847) 475-1875 or visit www.nexttheatre.org

Austin Talley and Carrie Coon in "The Girl in the Yellow Dress."
Parenting can be murder

Mystery writer visits Skokie

BY LILLI KUZMA
Contributor

For William Landay, 48, of Boston, writing a book was on his "bucket list." It's very much a goal he can cross out and consider a done deal now. "At age 30, I decided to begin writing fiction just to see if I could do it," said Landay. "When I sold the first book, I ended up getting two new book deals, and that's how I became a (full-time) writer." His debut novel, Mission Flats, won the Creasey Memorial Dagger Award for Best First Crime Novel and was also a Barry Award nominee.

Landay's second book, The Stranger, was named a Los Angeles Times Favorite Crime Book of the Year.

Up-to-date
With his brand new publication, Defending Jacob (Random House), Landay delivers a thriller in the style of Scott Turow and John Grisham. This page-turner involves murder, family secrets, parenting issues, complex relationships, and a climactic courtroom trial. The book is current with its technology, involving the evidentiary use of social media, particularly Facebook, and touching on the emerging science of neurocriminology.

Jacob is a 14-year-old eighth-grader in an upscale small town, with parents who love him dearly and who want only the best for him. Then a classmate is found brutally stabbed in the park near their middle school and the evidence points to Jacob.

The young man will be put on trial as an adult in his state of Massachusetts, and his attorney father becomes involved as co-counsel for his defense. Dark family secrets that impact the whole situation lurk in shadows, like storm clouds that hover over each page, drawing the reader in but obscuring any solid conclusion of innocence.

More murder
Later in the book, additional twists and turns, not to mention another dead body, make for a harrowing ending. With the second death, circumstances are reminiscent of the sensational Natalie Holloway case and the disturbed young man, Joran van der Sloot.

Like authors Turow and Grisham, Landay has also practiced law, and is able to draw on years of experience and knowledge in crafting a crime novel.

"Turow, in (the book) Presumed Innocent, revived the genre and showed everybody how it's done," noted Landay, "and certainly being an attorney gives credibility and more fluency in writing about the criminal justice system."

Landay also excels at dialogue, and adeptly talks the "real" talk of teenagers, expletives not deleted.

"I have lots of nieces and nephews and teenagers in my life," he said, laughing, "so I'm very familiar with the way they talk. Adults are often shocked at how articulate and profane and smart teenagers are."

Landay himself enjoys young people. "Our kids are complex human beings, and it was important to me that Jacob not be a monster," he said. "Latent criminality exists in all of us. We are no better than the people we read about in the newspapers."
INSIDE:
Keeping campers happy & healthy in 2012

Clockwise from top left: The McGay YMCA, Evanston; Banner Day Camp, Northbrook Park District; Camp Echo, Decoma Day Camp, ICC.
HAPPY CAMPER
How to have a healthy camp experience

BY MARCY MARRO
For Sun-Times Media

While summer camp offers children a chance to experience many different activities, no one wants to spend the time wishing they could go home.

Meredith Stevens, Camp Echo program manager with McGaw YMCA in Evanston, said that they remind campers that everyone gets homesick, including the counselors and leadership staff.

“We tell them that it’s a good thing, that it means that they’ve got a healthy home life,” she said.

BEFORE CAMP
Before summer arrives, you can help prepare children for what to expect from the camp experience. Eve Thornton, clinical psychologist and founder of One in a Hundred camp in Highland Park, said that parents should be completely honest and truthful in telling children what to expect.

If children will be attending an overnight camp, prepare them for the experience of being away from you for a few nights. Danny Glassman, overnight camp director at JCYS Camp Henry Horner in Ingleside, recommends encouraging a child’s independence by having them do sleepovers with friends or relatives.

AT CAMP
A few days before camp, parents can send a package or letter so that it’s at camp when your child arrives. When writing letters, acknowledge in a positive way that while you are going to miss them, they are going to have a great time at camp and you are excited for them. Stevens said not to talk about all of the things that they are missing out on at home, but focus on how proud you are of them. Additionally, sending personal items with your child can give them strength and act as a connection to home, Glassman added.

STAYING ACTIVE
If a child does get homesick, the camp directors are equipped to handle the situation. Heidi Mairie, associate program director at Camp Anokijig in Plymouth, Wis., said you should encourage your child to talk to his or her camp counselor or camp director if they are starting to feel homesick.

“Often, a completely unrelated event, such as I lost my towel, can spark ideas of ‘I’m in trouble.’ Or ‘I want to go home because now I can’t go swimming,’” she said.

If you do receive a rescue letter, Glassman recommended staying calm.

“All smiles: Take the necessary steps to ensure your child’s camp experience is positive.”

“Preparing your child for what to expect from the camp experience is important,” she said.

Jonathan Pratscher, CPRP, leisure services supervisor at the Northbrook Park District, recommends immersing children into an activity as soon as possible to take their mind off any negative feelings.

“As the child participates and becomes acquainted with camp life the homesickness feelings tend to fade away,” he said.

While most of the time homesickness passes in the first three days, Glassman recommends staying in contact with your child’s unit head to make sure they are comfortable.

Mairie agreed and said: “Keeping an open line of communication is what really helps parents and their kids and the staff members deal with homesickness that comes up.”

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Camp options available from age 2 through Grade 10. Find all camp options at www.mcgawymca.org.
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www.bannerdaycamp.com

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Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 729-0450
www.northshorerc.com

In its 33rd year, Jerry Karzen Tennis and John Karzen Basketball Camp has been turning youngsters on to tennis and basketball (soccer for kids 5-7 coming this summer). Both Jerry and John are tops in their field and with their student to pro-ratios (tennis 1/1 and basketball 0/1), time-tested drills, experienced staff and a passion for everyone to have fun as they’re learning. It is the place to be and a camp where so many of the top athletes of the North Shore have attended. Flexible weekly sign-ups for camps/

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Summer camp empowers kids

BY PAUL HAACK
Banner Day Camp, camp director

When thinking about summer camp, the first thing that should come to mind is fun. However, a great camp is more than just fun and games. Camp also provides a tremendous opportunity for children to begin laying the foundation for a healthy and happy lifestyle, full of self-confidence. These long, cold winter days sometimes make it difficult to focus on the fun that awaits us every summer. Camp does more than just form a bridge between the school years. A summer at camp spent playing, laughing, growing and learning can be the catalyst for a lifetime of happiness and success for your children.

Camp provides a unique opportunity to enjoy and explore a wide variety of physical activities. Traditional sports, such as baseball, football, soccer and basketball, provide campers an engaging opportunity to learn and play. In addition, campers gain exposure to sports and activities that they might otherwise not have experienced, such as pioneering or kayaking. Daily swimming provides campers with both a great workout and a valuable opportunity to learn and play. In addition, experienced, such as pioneering or kayaking, outdoor experiences like these afford a remarkable opportunity to add a sense of wonder and awe back to play.

The beauty of camp is not just the opportunity to be more active; it is how and where camp allows children to dis connect from the TV or gaming platform and to reconnect and enjoy the expansive, natural beauty that once surrounded us. A traditional outdoor camp setting imparts a sense of adventure and offers the freedom and opportunity to explore our natural environment. From the simple exploration of a muddy creek bed in search of animal tracks to racing down a zip line through the trees, camp provides an opportunity for children to disconnect from the day to day grind and over-programming that has percolated down to our children.

Outdoor experiences like these afford a remarkable opportunity to add a sense of wonder and awe back to play. Camp offers all this in an environment that encourages and strengthens friendship, teamwork and the ability to grow while having fun. The spirit of outdoor experiences like these afford a remarkable opportunity to add a sense of wonder and awe back to play. Camp offers all this in an environment that encourages and strengthens friendship, teamwork and the ability to grow while having fun. The spirit of camp is fun. However, a great camp is more than just fun and games. Camp also provides a tremendous opportunity for children to begin laying the foundation for a healthy and happy lifestyle, full of self-confidence. These long, cold winter days sometimes make it difficult to focus on the fun that awaits us every summer. Camp does more than just form a bridge between the school years. A summer at camp spent playing, laughing, growing and learning can be the catalyst for a lifetime of happiness and success for your children.

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Answers: Inside today's classified section

HOROSCOPES

For the week of February 8 — February 14

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You don't like rejection. But instead of trying to "ram" your ideals through an unresponsive audience, stand back and wait for a more favorable environment later this month.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Job commitments call for the tidy Taurean to charge into those problem-plagued projects and get them into shape. Then go ahead and enjoy the fun and friendships of your expanding social life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) So much seems to be swirling around you these days that you might find it hard to focus on priorities. Best advice: Take things one at a time, and you'll get through them all.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Work out situations with what you have, and avoid the temptation to create complications where they don't exist. This applies both at home and in the workplace.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Keep your keen senses open to possible changes in personal and/or professional situations. Knowing what might lie ahead gives you an edge on how to handle it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Personal pressures at work could create a problem with your performance. Best advice: Focus on the job ahead of you. If necessary, you can deal with the other issue later.

BORN THIS WEEK: Like your fellow Aquarian Abraham Lincoln, you have a way of handling the most difficult situations with grace and conviction.

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General Information
Concerning The Death Notice Page
- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from area funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 p.m. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00 p.m.
- The death notice department is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Share the Memories
Place an In-Memoriam
Include a photo of your loved one

Email: deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)

Sign the Guest Book at pioneerlocal.com
Talent Acquisition Crisis: Bridging the Talent Gap

By: Recruiter Training Corner

With unemployment still looming large and the recovery slowing down, news headlines continue to report that there are "no jobs out there." But unemployment is only part of the issue – another crisis lies in talent acquisition and the talent gap.

According to the recent findings of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) Resourcing and Talent Planning Survey, "73% of organizations have noticed a marked increase in the number of unsuitable candidates applying for job vacancies." In that same survey, more than half of employers (52%) believe that competition for talent is becoming more and more competitive, compared with 20% in 2009.

This talent gap is an increasingly important issue for organizations to tackle. The four strategies below will help you tackle talent acquisition challenges and address succession planning.

**Persuade Retirees with Flexible Work Arrangements.**

It's estimated that by 2014, more than 44 million Americans will be 65 or older. That makes it imperative to have a knowledge transfer strategy in place when seasoned employees leave. Many organizations are also implementing strategies to persuade their Baby Boomer employees to stay on longer. Offering workplace flexibility, post-retirement health insurance, or contractual hiring arrangements are a few of the creative ways to entice the older workforce to remain longer.

Remember: Baby Boomers are open to redefining retirement due to uncertain financial times, longer life expectancy and a genuine willingness to remain in the workforce and contribute. Make sure that your workplace is prepared to meet the needs of older workers with acquired disabilities.

**Proactive Retraining and Education Strategy.**

Today's best companies emphasize on-demand, constant and informational learning to improve their employees' expertise and level of engagement. Workplace learning must be built around the skills you have, the skills you are missing and the skills you believe you will need in the future. Your company's success will be measured by how well you train employees to fill these skill shortages.

**Get Involved with Local Schools.**

One of the most effective ways to tap young talent is in your local schools. Encourage your company's thought leaders to be a guest speaker or teacher; they can also join a local school board.

Your development tools should go deep, in order to reach the highest number of people. Tools such as E-Learning, communities of practice, mentoring programs, face-to-face trainings, electronic performance support systems (EPSS), job aids and education incentives should all be utilized.

**Train your Business Leaders to be Talent Managers.**

Business leaders have always been involved in basic talent management. But in today's highly competitive talent environment, they must go beyond that. Organizations must invest in their managers so that they are able to proactively fill the critical needs that you have today and anticipate future needs. They must also be given the tools to be able to identify and address the development of skill gaps through targeted training.

A tangible way to train business leaders to be talent managers involves their studying the skills of high-performing employees and including those very targeted competencies to better refine the job description.

**Get Involved with Local Schools.**

One of the most effective ways to tap young talent is in your local schools. Encourage your company's thought leaders to be a guest speaker or teacher; they can also join a local school board to influence the school's curriculum and talent pipeline.

As the demographics and skills of the workforce shift, organizations that want to thrive will want to implement a multi-faceted talent management strategy to build a competitive workforce. By proactively trying to nurture and influence existing employees as well as future employees, organizations will put themselves at an advantage to prosper, even in difficult times.
Say it in the Classifieds, call 847-998-3400 to place your ad.

Happy Ads

Tell someone special how you feel with a happy ad in the Pioneer Press on Valentine's Day.

Large size of 2x3 available for $60

Deadline for ad submission is February 2nd at 12:00 p.m.

Aily, I know what love is because of you.

Happy Valentine's Day! Love, John

(Small $15)

Happy Valentine's Wine!

My Valentine for the past 12 years. I love you more and more each year.

Betty

(Medium $30)

To place your ad email and photo to johnson@medianetwork.com or call 630-976-8310 ext 4 for more information. When emailing, please include your name, address and a contact phone number in which you may be reached for payment.

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Sun-Times Media is a network of 40 newspapers and 46 websites and mobile editions. With nationally recognized columns and innovative content, Sun-Times Media is the 12th largest daily newspaper group in the country. The flagship Chicago Sun-Times is one of the nation's most visited newspaper websites, with experienced readership growth.

Additional brands include Pioneer Press, The Onion, Salon, B2B, The Daily Beast, and The Root. Our websites have been delivering hyperlocal news to people's homes for over 125 years. Additional websites include RaineEnet.com, SunTimes.com, and ChitownChic.com. We offer a variety of sales, sales, and advertising and media services.

Resumes with letter of interest should be emailed to Sun-Times Media, 311 N. Orleans, Chicago, IL 60654.

PIONEER PRESS

Apprenticeship Program for Local 150 Operating Engineers

The Apprenticeship Office for Local 150 Operating Engineers is currently accepting applications for the trades of Heavy Equipment Operator, Heavy Equipment Repair Technician, and Construction Management Inspector. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled. All new employees must be United States citizens.

For more information, visit ChicagolandApprenticeship.com or call 847-998-3400.

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The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and the Doings with advertising of a national appeal. To advertise in this section, please call ICAN directly at (217) 241-1700.
SANDRA ALGHAZWI, COMMUNITY NONRECORD CLAIMANTS

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CODILIS 6 ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above mentioned action, the real estate set forth in the following description shall be sold by the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, on Thursday, February 2, 2012, at the hour of 10:30 A.M. in the Court of Cook County, Illinois, County of Cook, at the 260 South LaSalle Street, 4th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60604, and at the auction the personal property appurtenant to said real estate shall be sold with the real estate. Said real estate is situated in the City of Skokie, County of Cook, State of Illinois, and is described as follows:

Lot described as more particularly described in Cook County Survey 2145, plat book 5, page 35, in the name of the Mortgagee, the Deed of Trust contains the following language: "The property is hereby sold subject to confirmatory action by the Court at any time within 45 days after the date of sale."

Bids must be submitted in writing and must be in an amount not less than the minimum bid or such higher amount as the personal property may be bid on. The sale is open to the public, and all interested parties are invited to attend. The sale is subject to confirmation by the court. The person who offers the highest bid will be entitled to purchase the property subject to confirmation by the court. The sale is also subject to the provisions of Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 37, Sections 2-501 et seq. and 2-601 et seq.

The Sheriff’s Sale is final, and the party purchasing the property will be entitled to a certificate of title. The party purchasing the property shall pay the Sheriff the full amount of the sale within 30 days after the sale. The Sheriff will then issue a certificate of title to the party purchasing the property. The certificate of title shall be recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois. The party purchasing the property shall record the certificate of title in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois, as provided by law.

For further information, please contact the Sheriff’s Office at 312-996-5700 or visit the Sheriff’s Office website at www.cookcountyil.gov/sherriff. The Sheriff’s Office is located at 260 South LaSalle Street, 4th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The Sheriff’s Office is open from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Thursday, February 2, 2012
Pioneer Press (DC)
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by The Condominium Property Act,

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Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that certain information obtained will be used for that purpose.

To place a classified ad, call 847-998-3400 or visit PioneerLocal.com/classifieds.

Don't need it? Sell it fast. Call 847-998-3400.
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the foreclosure sale of the property described above, and pursuant to the order of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, the undersigned Sheriff will sell to the highest bidder, at public sale to be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the Skokie Village Hall, 9800 Lawler Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60076, the above described property, subject to prevailing lawful incumbrances, on the premises.

**Notice of Sale**

The property will be sold subject to all covenants, conditions, restrictions, and easements of record and any other restrictions, easements, conditions, and incumbrances of which the Sheriff has knowledge. The Sheriff reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to closing.

**Pre-Bid Meeting**

A pre-bid meeting will be held on February 3, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. at the Skokie Village Hall, 9800 Lawler Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60076, for interested bidders to view the property. Bidders must comply with the Illinois Statutory Standards for Pre-Bid Meetings.

**Lump Sum Bid Proposals**

Lump Sum Bid Proposals will be received until the scheduled time of closing the receipt of bids, and then will be publicly announced. Bidders must comply with applicable Illinois Law requiring the delivery of bids to the property owner.

**Closing and Payment**

The successful bidder will be required to furnish insurance, if required by the property owner, within 14 days of sale. The property owner shall be paid the proceeds of the sale within 14 days of sale. The time of closing the receipt of bids will be publicized in the local newspapers.

**Bidders**

Bidders must be registered bidders, and their proposals must be submitted in writing. Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage law of Cook County, Illinois, and the prevailing wage rates are required to be paid to all laborers employed in the performance of any work on the property.

**Insurance**

All bidders must comply with applicable insurance requirements, including liability insurance, workman's compensation insurance, and surety bonds, as required by the property owner. Bidders must comply with the Illinois Statutory Standards for Surety Bonds.

**Contacts**

For further information, please contact the Skokie Village Clerk at 847-673-5300 or the Village Manager at 847-673-5320.

**Public Hearings**

There will be a public hearing on February 26, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 110 at the Skokie Village Hall, 9800 Lawler Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60076, for the purpose of considering the proposed sale of the property described above.

**Property Description**

The property described above is located at 9800 Lawler Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60076, and is more fully described in the complaint filed in Case No. 09-CH-145, file number 14-151, Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. The property owner is the Village of Skokie, Illinois, and the property is subject to prevailing lawful incumbrances.

**Resident Bidders**

Resident bidders are defined as individuals who are residents of the Village of Skokie, Illinois, and who have resided in the Village for a period of at least one year prior to the date of the sale.

**Non-Resident Bidders**

Non-resident bidders are defined as individuals who are not residents of the Village of Skokie, Illinois, and who do not meet the criteria for resident bidders.

**Condition of Property**

The condition of the property is subject to the claims of all creditors and incumbrances of record, including liens, mortgages, and other encumbrances.

**Bidding Information**

For further information, please contact the Village of Skokie at 847-673-5300 or the Village Manager at 847-673-5320.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Skokie will conduct a public hearing for the presentation of the Draft Action Plan developed by the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) for the Village of Skokie, Illinois, to address the needs of the Village's citizens with disabilities. The Draft Action Plan is intended to address the needs of the Village's citizens with disabilities and to provide a framework for the implementation of services and programs that will improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities in the Village.


The public hearing will be conducted on Monday, February 6, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Skokie Village Hall, 9256 North Atchison Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60077.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing and to provide comments on the Draft Action Plan. Written comments may also be submitted to the Village of Skokie, Attention: Village Manager, 9256 North Atchison Avenue, Skokie, Illinois 60077, or by email to info@skokie.org.

The Village of Skokie will consider the comments received during the public hearing and will incorporate them into the final version of the Draft Action Plan. The final version of the Draft Action Plan will be submitted to the Illinois Department of Human Rights for approval.
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PIONEER PRESS & monster®
As I walked around pouring Sprite for 20 little kids at a birthday party, a 6-year-old looked up at me and asked, "Are you a clown?"

I was taken aback.

Most ladies who ask me that are much older.

"You talk funny," she said. "Say something funny."

Let me understand this because, you know, maybe it's me. I'm a little confused, maybe, but I'm funny how? You say I'm funny like I'm a clown. I amuse you?

This was a good little giggle, because first-graders have not yet heard this stuff done to death.

But the truth is I looked like a clown not because I was funny, but funny-looking.

It was the stupid hat. Mostly.

MaiLe Cope, the general manager of Party Fantasy in Mundelein, had given me a blindingly bright yellow baseball cap. I was the only employee who wore one. All my fellow workers had left theirs on the bus or something.

I also got a matching two-sizes-too-small T-shirt to model while I labored at the big playhouse at 342 Townline Road.

"This is plenty big for our employees," Cope said, holding up the shirt and smiling sweetly. "They are mainly 16-year-old girls."

The hat actually came in handy: Many parents figured that nobody wearing such a thing could possibly be in a position of power. So they left me alone.

But there were plenty of others who ignored the hat and noticed the obvious signs that I was by far the oldest employee on the floor.

There were times when I couldn't walk more than a few steps without being stopped.

"Where should I put his boots?"

"Are you sure there are no peanuts or tree nuts in this?" "Do you have to wear shoes in the go-carts?" "Our party starts at 3. Why is there someone else in our party room?"

"This game doesn't give out as many tickets as it says it does. So can I have two free tokens?" "Three tokens?" "Five tokens?"

Kevin Jordan, 6, of Mundelein is on the attack Jan. 22 as Irv Leavitt, The Unemployee, plays with children in one of the inflatables at Party Fantasy in Mundelein. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN TIMES MEDIA

But we had the bad luck of four of them going haywire at exactly the same time.

For most, the problem involved the tickets that you can trade in for stuffed animals and such. The prizes are nicer than at most similar places — one lady liked a plush frog so much she bought it with cash — but the intensity with which the parents worry over their ticket winnings is bizarre. Especially because the kids don't squawk much at all.

One gent apologized for complaining that a pink gizmo that looked like a radioactive hassock for Cinderella didn't put out the way the numbers read.

"Sorry," he said. "I'm into it. I'm a gamer."

I'm not a gamer. The following is how I remember what he said had happened.

"When it hits No. 6, it reverses, then a laser beam runs around the metal track until the little cricket player hits it and the left fielder and the right fielder and the center fielder. Then you get 3,000 Penguin Points, which entitle you to a ride around the Higgs boson. The little flipper explodes, automatically dialing the National Security Council, and a Halls Mentho-Lyptus slides down this chute, and either goes into Barbie's mouth or the second circle of Hell. Either way, you're supposed to get at least 40,000 tickets. I got seven." I went to get Cope.

She reloaded the machine, then pressed a large flashing button, and tickets started tripping out. This disturbed the gentleman.

"Aw, that's not fun," he said. "I wanted to do that."

If I knew where they kept the lolipops, I would have given him one.

Party Fantasy does something many other establishments of its ilk do not. At the parties in the private rooms, the guests don't ever have to leave their seats, because they're served by a staff member, who stays the whole time, except to restock pizza and pop, etc. This way, the kids tend to remain relatively stationary and actually hang out with each other.

Drink to the foam

As I walked back from the kitchen with a pitcher of Sprite, I noticed it was half foam. I went back and tried to whip off some of it with a flick of my wrist, but accidentally hit the Diet Coke lever. A gout of brown pop discharged itself into the right side of the pitcher.

"I'm into it. I'm a gamer," he said. "I'm into it. I'm a gamer."

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 496-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

**Center of Concern**

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
- **Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, and 27** - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays (starting Feb. 4)** - Income tax preparation, by appointment.
- **Tuesdays, Feb. 7 and 21** - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- **Wednesday, Feb. 8 and 22** - Grief and loss support group (call first).
- **Friday, Feb. 10** - Bunko parties to benefit the Center, 12:30-6:30 p.m., South Park Recreation Center, Park Ridge.
- **Saturday, Feb. 11 and 25** - Legal counseling, by appointment.
- **Saturday, Feb. 25** - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Note: The center will be closed Feb. 20 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 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Later, “La-dies’ Night” will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m.; $15 ticket includes Bunko games and prizes, choice of beef sandwich or mostaccioli, dessert, 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.

Homeworkers 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 wills 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 Cares Rx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the long-time-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 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 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 60062. Phone: (847) 297-6533; fax: (847) 297-2978; e-mail: repmul- ligan@usa.net; website and e-News sign-up: http://rep- muligan.com. The 65th District includes all or portions of Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Mount Prospect, Rosemont, Norridge, Harwood Heights, Niles, Elm Grove Village, and the northwest corner of the 41st Ward of Chicago.

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 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. Galston St., in Morton Grove. The fee

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 33
11 Retirement Realities
What you need to know before you retire.

Why We Wrote 11 Retirement Realities
The independent team of financial specialists at Accession, a service of Wealth Enhancement Group, created 11 Retirement Realities You Need to Know because we found most people planning for retirement had misconceptions or lacked the basic facts about wealth management in retirement. When you don't know the realities, you can't properly plan for them.

Retirement Facts vs. Retirement Myths
11 Retirement Realities You Need to Know gives you straightforward information to help affluent individuals anticipate and minimize income taxes in retirement, design estate planning strategies to pass on their wealth, and much more. This guide will help you better understand your situation and options, and plan ahead for the future, for a more successful retirement.

Who Should Request a Free Copy
This guide is written exclusively for affluent individuals and families with $500,000 or more in investments. If you've earned and saved your way to this significant level of retirement savings, you've done a lot of things right. But along with those significant assets comes the challenge of managing and protecting them well. Through this limited-time offer, you can get your copy of 11 Retirement Realities You Need to Know by calling (888) 747-9804.

Complimentary Review and Advice
As a special service, you're also invited to call (888) 747-9804 for a free, no-obligation consultation with an experienced Accession financial specialist. You can ask questions about any aspect of retirement and wealth planning, and they'll be answered as clearly as possible. It's a great opportunity for you to learn more about specific retirement issues as well as to get a sense of whether our firm is a good fit for your wealth management needs.

Limited-Time Offer - Get Your Copy Today
Please don't delay in getting your free copy, available without obligation while supplies last. The sooner you have this booklet and get the facts in front of you, the more alternatives you'll have to help improve your financial future. Best of all, you'll feel more confident about your options and more prepared to plan for a successful retirement.

Call Now for Your Free Retirement Guide and Free Financial Consultation
(888) 747-9804
(For best service, call between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Central time.)

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PIONEER PRESS
YOUR LOCAL SOURCE
Food

Shadow dancing

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

It’s party time in Punxsutawney. On Feb. 2, Phil, the world’s most beloved groundhog, will let us know the prognosis for spring. If he sees his shadow when he ventures out of his hibernation burrow for the day, it’s cold and snow for six more weeks. If he doesn’t see it and stays to party, spring, everyone hopes, comes sooner.

But no matter what Phil does, the folks of Punxsutawney, Pa. — and their tens of thousands of guests — will raise a glass to the prophetic critter.

The Punxsutawney Area School District takes the day off, and this year students even get a bonus Friday because Phil’s famed appearance falls on a Thursday.

To celebrate closer to home, head out to Woodstock, site of the classic Bill Murray comedy, “Groundhog Day,” through Feb. 4 for a variety of events, including the annual Groundhog Prognostication at 7 a.m. Feb. 7. See the community’s calendar at www.woodstock-il.com for a complete schedule.

Festive food

And out in Punxy, as with any festivity, food is a focal point. The bash there will abound in eats inspired by the region’s rich-as-sauerbraten German roots.

As far back as 1841, German settlers in and around Punxsutawney and Gobbler’s Knob, the tiny hamlet two miles away where Phil actually lives, dedicated Feb. 2 to Groundhog Day.

The day is actually “Candlemas,” a religious holiday observant of the presentation of Jesus Christ at the temple. Churches and municipal buildings in and around Punxsutawney will host banquet-sized breakfasts to herald Phil’s wake-up call. But the most difficult seats to attain will be at tables in Amish restaurants that dot the area, pulling off the phenomenal challenge of serving lunch and breakfast to hundreds without the luxury of electricity.

You won’t find a website or Yelp post for Esther’s, a kerosene lamplight spot about two miles outside Punxy. But you likely will find such regional staples as chicken and dumplings, schnitzel, pork with sauerkraut or Amish chicken soup. Shoofly pies will undoubtedly be on the dessert menu, as it is every day.

Chef Jay Lovell of Lovell’s of Lake Forest makes a corned beef Reuben with his own sauerkraut. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Lovell recommends slicing cabbage in strips about nickel width for sauerkraut. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

He uses a wooden rolling pin to break up the cabbage. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Lovell tosses cabbage with salt to make sauerkraut. | BUZZ ORR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

But you won’t need to go all the way to Pennsylvania for foods famous in Phil’s region. Right here on the North Shore, at Lovell’s of Lake Forest, sauerkraut will be on the menu, as it is every day. Chef/owner Jay Lovell pairs it with braised corned beef to make his Reuben sandwich. “Sauerkraut is really easy to make,” Lovell said. “It’s just cabbage and salt. As the salt draws out the moisture from the cabbage, natural brine is created.”

Plan ahead: Fermentation requires four weeks. Lovell recommended packing the cabbage and salt as tightly as possible, even pounding it down to pack it, at room temperature, 68-72 degrees. “That’s the best temperature for fermenting cabbage,” he said.

Cover the cabbage with cheese cloth, and keep it submerged under the brine to prevent bacteria growth. “If the cabbage is exposed to air, scum will grow on it,” Lovell said.

Lovell’s sauerkraut directions are good, but the question remains: Would Phil, the beloved rodent at the center of Punxsutawney’s perennial spring dance, eat it? “I have no idea,” Lovell said. “But I’d be willing to talk to him.”

Sauerkraut

(From Lovell’s of Lake Forest chef/owner Jay Lovell)

5 pounds fresh cabbage
3 tablespoons kosher salt
Cut cabbage in half. Remove core with knife, and slice each half into ribbons about a nickel in width. Place cabbage into bowl by layers, sprinkling salt between each layer. Toss cabbage and salt.

Put cabbage into crock. Using the end of a wooden rolling pin, mash down cabbage, packing it as tightly as possible.

Cover cabbage with clean, 26” x 24” cheese cloth, and tuck in the edges. Cover cabbage with a plate or wooden lid that just fits inside the container so cabbage is not exposed to the air.

Sanitize a 46-ounce mayonnaise glass jar and its lid inside and out. Fill with boiled water that has been cooled. Screw on the top and place the jar on top of the plate. (This acts as a clean weight that keeps the cabbage submerged in the brine.)

Cover top of crock with clean, heavy cloth to keep foreign objects out. Place crock at room temperature (68-72 degrees). Formation of bubbles indicates fermentation is taking place.

About one week into fermentation process, remove jar and carefully remove the plate and cheese cloth. Skim the top to remove mold. Replace with a new cheese cloth, then the plate and place jar back on plate and recover crock with cloth.

Three weeks into fermentation, remove sauerkraut from crock and place it with juice into sterilized glass jars filled to the top and seal tightly. Store refrigerated for up to one month.

See past food stories and recipes in the Lifestyles section at www.pioneerlocal.com
** Clubs **

The Chicago Northwest Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Delta Delta Delta will meet at 7 p.m. Feb. 1 at a member's home (a week later than usual due to Valentine's Day).

The program will focus on Women's Health and Workout Information. Call (847) 812-0862 for directions. All area tri-Deltas are welcome, whether a member or not.

The Park Ridge Catholic Woman's Club will meet at 12:15 p.m. Feb. 13 at the South Park Recreational Center, 833 Talcott Road, Park Ridge. The program will be the club's annual games and card party followed by dessert and coffee. Friends are welcome.

St. John Brebeuf's Holy Name Men's Club is hosting a Super Sunday Football Party on Feb. 5 at the St. John Brebeuf Parish Ministry Center, 8305 Harlem Ave. Doors open at 2 p.m. Admission price includes a variety of foods, dessert and coffee. Friends are welcome.

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 **

The Niles Lights on Afterschool Tile Art Project unveiling ceremony will be at noon Feb. 18 at the Golf Mill Shopping Center, Entrance 8, near JCPenney. Join with parents, kids, business and community leaders of Niles. Lights on Afterschool is a nationwide program that calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs and the resources required to keep the lights on and the doors open.

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.

Cotton 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, lithium polymer).

Before dropping off rechargeable batteries, residents need to tape the contact points on each battery or place them in an individual self-locking plastic baggie to avoid sparks. Local drop-off sites include: Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900; and at the Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, through Feb. 29.

All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamesbon54752@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

The Korean War Veterans Association, Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Mont Clare VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Hennecker, (773) 747-9671.

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Valentine Bingo will be run by the Holy Name Men's Club at St. John Brebeuf Ministry Center, 8305 Harlem Ave., on Feb. 12. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Admission is $2. The cost for 15 games is $15. The jackpot. Refreshments will be available at nominal cost. (Must be 18 years of age to play.) Call (847) 966-8145. (Bingo license No. 804357)

The Sweet Singers of Congregation Erets 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 Erets Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join.

Call the Erets Israel office at (773) 764-8820.

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 Tom 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 jamesbon54752@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

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You just ate 16 packs of sugar.

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

Rethink Your Drink.

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

It happened where?

We report on your police reports.

Turn to the police blotter inside this edition or click on our Web site to find out.
Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60+ years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "boutique" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. offers upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and fine merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 1-8 p.m. Donation are accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are only accepted on Tuesdays. Only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway. In Park Ridge, which offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

**Donations**

The Polish National Alliance, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, the Polish Women's Alliance, the Polish Women's Alliance, and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, along with the Polish Women's Alliance, have established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost at the Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. The Solid waste Agency of Northern Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost at the Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), the following items will be accepted: computers - PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals - mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs - printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVD/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses, institutions, or schools will not be accepted. Visit swanc.org.

Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Program can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

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

Historical Society
The Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., is now open to the public on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. Weekday hours are 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Call (847) 390-0160.

Library
Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

Creative individuals who love to write songs are invited to join the Niles Public Library Songwriters' Group from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 16. All songwriters are invited to bring original songs to play live and get feedback from others in the group. This group is open to the newest songwriter, the seasoned professional or anyone interested in the songwriting process. Songwriters are asked to register by calling (847) 663-1234 or online at nileslibrary.org/calender; for further questions, contact public and graphic design coordinator Sara Vasilic at (847) 663-6404.

For anyone who needs help downloading eBooks, go to www.nileslibrary.org/contactus and click on eBook Help or click on the Overdrive Download button to find step-by-step instructions for different eBook readers. As well as how to get started on MyMediaMail. MyMediaMail titles are now available for the Amazon Kindle.

BOOK BUDDIES—Book Buddies' new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results. Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.
Dear Fixer: Two weeks ago my wife and I traveled to Israel. We purchased round-trip tickets from Chicago to Tel Aviv, changing planes in Paris. The flight from Chicago to Paris was on American Airlines, and the flight to Tel Aviv was on El Al, although both tickets were purchased from El Al, which shared flight codes with American Airlines.

My ticket from the travel agent said we would get two pieces of luggage apiece for the trip. I checked on American Airlines’ website, which said that travelers to Asia get two pieces of checked luggage — confirming what my ticket information said.

However, when we arrived at the airport, we were told that we would only get one free checked bag per person, and that we would have to pay $60 for each additional suitcase. I pointed out that their website indicated we should get two pieces per person because we were flying to a city in Asia (the Middle East being on the continent of Asia). The agent informed us that since they were only flying to a city in Asia, we would only get one free bag. We sent a note to their website complaining about this. They responded that travelers only get one bag on flights to Europe. But on our return flight, El Al allowed two pieces of luggage per person.

An insurance checklist

- Is your homeowners’ insurance up to snuff? According to Consumer Reports, about two-thirds of victims of natural disasters were uninsured. Here are some of their tips to make sure you’re covered in case of disaster:
- Make sure you have sufficient insurance. Even if your home’s market price has dropped, you should be looking at the cost to rebuild, if necessary. Check out AccuCoverage.com, where for about $25, you can estimate the amount of coverage you need.
- Cover for major local risks. This might entail getting separate coverage with a specific deductible for that hazard.
- Compare rates on sites such as Insure.com, InsWeb.com or NetQuote.com, or work with an agent who sells policies from multiple companies.
- Address fire or tripping hazards, use surge suppressors for your electronics, install a burglar alarm — and ask whether your insurer offers a discount for doing so. Write down an inventory of your important belongings and include receipts, videos and photos. Keep this in a safe, fireproof place.
- If something happens, stop further damage but don’t start repairs until the adjuster arrives.

Getting the rundown about a consumer problem? Tell me to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com/fixer, where you’ll find a simple form to fill out. Or, you can mail a brief description of your problem, along with your name, address and telephone number, to The Fixer, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60025.

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Celebrate Assyrian culture

“Come Together” to celebrate Assyrian culture at Oakton on Feb. 14.

As part of “Coming Together in Skokie 2012,” an annual program that builds knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the various ethnic heritages that comprise the Village of Skokie, students and community members will host an Assyrian Festival at Oakton’s Skokie campus (Room P103, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.).

Attend a forum about author Deborah Ellis’ book that provides firsthand accounts of children displaced by war in Iraq.

Additional “Coming Together in Skokie 2012” events at Oakton include:

- “The Significance of the Epic of Gilgamesh,” 12:30-1:45 p.m. Feb. 21 (Room 1610, Des Plaines campus, 1600 Green Oaks Blvd.). Examine how the discovery of this ancient tale has changed understanding of Western culture.
- “Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees — A Book Discussion,” 12:30-1:45 p.m. Feb. 29 (Room P103, Skokie campus). Attend a forum about author Deborah Ellis’ book that provides firsthand accounts of children displaced by war in Iraq.

Oakton residents will be charged a $20 nonrefundable processing fee at the time of registration. However, students who register online will only be charged once per semester for an unlimited number of courses. Those registering in person, by mail, or fax will be charged an $8 fee with each registration form.

To view the entire schedule of “Coming Together in Skokie 2012” events, go to http://ComingTogether.skokielibrary.info. For more information about Oakton’s participation, contact Rose Novil at (847) 767-7632 or rnovil@oakton.edu.

Focus on presidential election

Take a closer look at the possible candidates by enrolling in two new classes offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton.

- “The Republican Presidential Candidate’s Campaign Plan” (PSE B32-71) - Discuss the platforms of the potential Republican challengers and dig deeper into the early primary dates. One-week course meets 1-2:15 p.m. Feb. 7.
- “President Obama’s Reelection Campaign” (PSE C05-71) - How does Barack Obama’s current re-election bid stack up to his 2008 campaign? One-week course meets 1-2:15 p.m. Feb. 14.

Both courses are $30 and meet at the Glen, 2500t Indian Lake, Glenview. All registrants will be charged an $8 nonrefundable processing fee at the time of registration. However, students who register online will only be charged once per semester for an unlimited number of courses. Those registering in person, by mail, or fax will be charged an $8 fee with each registration form.

For more information call (847) 982-9888, press 3.
bilities. Call (847) 967-6633

Golf Maine
Visit one of the Golf Maine Park District offices, Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), Niles; or Dee Park,
Your Local Worship Guide

CHICAGO

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

Morton Grove Community Church
Pawsonian Church (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcpcpawsonian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

MORTON GROVE

NORTFIELD

Willow Creek
Community Church
North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Road
847-441-9599
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 am
Promised Land (Infants-Gr5): 9 & 11 am
Elevate (Grades 6-8): 11 am
Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm
For more information visit
www.WillowNorthShore.org

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

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6201 W Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffery Kling

NILES

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631.
(708) 867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 AM
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and Jeffery Kling

To showcase your House of Worship here
call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
SKOKIE

Central United Methodist Church
8237 Kintore Ave., Skokie
(847) 673-1311
www.skokiecentralumc.org
Worship: Sundays at 10:30 AM

St. Timothy Lutheran Church
9000 Kildare Ave., Skokie
(847) 676-1300
www.StTimothySkokie.org
Worship: Sundays at 10 AM

Congregation Bene Shalom
4435 Oakton, Skokie
(847) 677-3330
www.beneshalom.org
Interfaith Families Welcome
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer
Ass. Rabbi Shari Chen, Soloist Chadene Brooks
All services voice and sign language
Check our website for service times

Evanshire Presbyterian Church
4555 Church Street
www.evanshirepresbyterian.com
Every Sunday at 11 AM

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
(847) 673-8166
www.stpeterruccskokie.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Sunday School 9 AM (Sept. thru May)
Rev. Richard Lanford
Childcare Provided
Air Conditioned Sanctuary

SKOKIE

Temple Beth Israel
3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076
(847) 675-0951
www.tbiskokie.org

Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue
7800 Niles Ave, Skokie
(847) 674-4441
www.deveremet.org
Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am
"A Community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah"

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie
www.cwupc.org
WE'RE GROWING & MAKING CHANGES!!
10 am-Traditional Service with Choir
12 Noon - CW Café & Praise & Celebration
(Contemporary) Service
10 am-Sunday School (All Ages)
& Adult Bible Studies
(Adult Classes in English & Assyrian)
Fridays: 7:30-9:30 pm - Assyrian Fellowship
Sunday Evenings 5:30-8:30 pm
New Life Youth Group (for Jr&Sr High Youth)
2nd Saturday
Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM
Religious School Wed & Sat,
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus

KEHILLAT SHALOM
An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation
7800 Niles Center Rd, Skokie
(847) 679-6513
www.kehillatshalom.org

KOL EMETH
Conservative Congregation
Rabbi Barry Schechter
5130 Touhy, Skokie
(1 block west of Eden's)
(847) 673-3370

SKOKIE CENTRAL TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION
Traditional Service - Mixed Seating
Services led by:
Rabbi Dr. Michael Gottesman
Minyons: Mon. & Thurs. 8:00 AM
Kabbala Shabbos-Sept. to June at candle lighting time
Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by breakfast
Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast
Sanctuary handicapped accessible
4040 Main Street, Skokie, Illinois
(847) 674-4117
www.wb.com/skokiecentral/shul

SKOKIE

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation
You home for Jewish, Learning, Living and Loving
3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076
(847) 675-0951, Fax: 675-0327
www.ehtjc.org
Weekly Shabbat Services -
Fri 8PM & Sat 9:30AM
Minyan Mon-Thurs 7PM;
Sat & Sun 6PM
Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM
Religious School Wed & Sat,
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus

Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah
3200 Big Tree Lane, (847) 256-1213
www.bhcbe.org
Kabbalat Shabbat Fridays 6:30 PM
Shabbat Service - Saturdays 9:15 AM
Jr. Congregation, Tot Shabbat,
Torah Time 10:30 AM
Followed by Kiddush
Daily Minyan AM and PM
Rabbi Allan Kersky
Cantor Pavel Roytman
Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir.

To showcase your House of Worship here call 630-978-8277 or worship@Pioneerlocal.com
ages 2 and older. Children under 2 are free. The 2011-12 classes will be held two Sundays per month from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Schedule to be determined. Tuition per semester will be $50 and $75, respectively, for members enrolling one or two children; and $85 and $100, respectively, for nonmembers 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 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, will hold Adult Education hour at 9 a.m.

The Temple Beth El in Kenilworth, 1030 W. Lake St., Skokie, will offer its K’tonim program, for children in grades 3 and 4. The tuition for this program is $350 for members and $425 for nonmembers. An informational session will be held the evening of Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The class will begin the new school year in September. Call (847) 675-1566.

The Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, offers a Hebrew class for nonmembers. Members pay $30 for the class. Registration is through the center. Call (847) 588-2400.

Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Call (847) 675-4143, or go to www.ehnt.org.

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George Button, the popular organizer of this unique group of musicians has led to a very active performance schedule throughout Niles and the surrounding communities. If you like to sing, play the spoons, or are interested in learning how to play a ukulele, consider joining this fun group. Learn about the history of numerology from 10-30 to 11-30 a.m. Feb. 2 and 16. Some people believe that numerology can help unlock the door to a better understanding of oneself and others. Pre-register. Bring a pencil to class. Cost is $9, members; $13.50, nonmembers.

Join the Computer Interest Group to discuss all the recent computer innovations or individual problems or concerns. Contact Jaym for dates, (847) 588-8420.

Niles Senior Center Issues in the News meets at 9:30 a.m. Thursdays.

An Effective Communications group for persons with hearing loss meets monthly from 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 22. Learn about the latest equipment and devices. Contact Trudi, (847) 588-8441.

A Valentine's Day trip to Tommy Guns Garage will be taken from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 15 for an interactive dinner show. Lunch features choice of prime rib, lasagne or boneless breast of chicken, served with side dishes. Cost is $13.50, nonmembers.

Registration is required for the following winter program sessions; there is no cost for members of the Niles Senior Center; non-members pay a $12 fee for each group - Social Card Play of Billiards, Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m., Drop-in Art, Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon; Sudoku Club, Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon; Choral Group, Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.; Social Mahjong, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Social Bridge, Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m.; Line Dancing, Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m.; Social Bunco, third Tuesday of the month, 1-3 p.m.; Computer Interest Group, every other Wednesday, 1:30-3 p.m.; All American, 9 a.m. to noon; Issues in the News, Thursdays, 9-11:30 a.m.; Social Mahjong, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Drop-in Ceramics, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; Drop-in Wood Carving, Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; Social Scrabble, Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon.

The Niles Senior Center offers a wide variety of support groups. Cost per group is $10, members; $15, nonmembers. Weight Management meets the first Thursday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Diabetic Management meets the second Thursday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Virtually Impaired Motorists (VIM) meets the third Tuesday of month, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cancer Survivor Group meets the third Thursday of the month, 1-2 p.m.

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Classes winter term, running to June 25 – Level 4 Advanced, meets 9-10 a.m. Mondays; Includes weight training with under 3-pound weights, standing and sitting exercises. Level 1 Beginners/ Pain Management meets 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays; includes gentle stretching, mostly chair exercises. Cost for each session is $10, members; $15, nonmembers. Contact Sue Friedman.

The Sudoku Club meets from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Admission is free for members; $12 for six months for nonmembers.

Seniors

Attend a special presentation, sponsored by Norwood Life Care Foundation, on "Why Do I Need a Will?" at 8 a.m. Feb. 15 at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave. in Chicago. Making the presentation will be James A. Marino, an attorney with an office located on Chicago's Far Northwest Side. He has expertise in wills and trust planning as well estate and asset protection in addition to a variety of other legal areas. A Q-and-A session will follow along with light refreshments. Parking is available behind the building (entrance off Avondale Avenue). Call (773) 577-5367 or email info@norwoodlifecarefoundation.org.

Paul C. Odrobina, vice president of the Polish National Alliance, announces that the PNA North Side Seniors will conduct their monthly meeting at 10 a.m. Feb. 8 at the PNA Home Office Cafeteria, 6100 N. Cicero Ave. in Chicago. Doors will open about 9:15 a.m. The theme of the meeting is "Welcome Back after the Holidays." Items to be discussed include the upcoming seniors trip to the Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo, Mich., on March 7. All seniors ages 55 and over (members and non-members) are invited to the meeting. Refreshments will be served. There is plenty of parking available in the lot behind the building. Call (773) 286-0500, Ext. 316, or visit www.pna-znp.org and click on "Events."

Mather's—More Than a Cafe, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., invites adults 55 and older to experience professionally taught, free-to-moderate-priced programs such as lifelong learning programs, fitness classes, free blood-pressure checks and health screenings, free consumer seminars, special-interest workshops, special events and day trips. Call (773) 774-4804 for more information, except where noted. Chess Club for checkmates champs and new people who want to learn the rules and basic strategies. Sessions are Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Jazzercise – Jazzercise is a fitness program that combines aerobic exercises with elements of jazz dance. A series of dance routines is set to popular music while incorporating yoga, Pilates, cardio-kickboxing, and other fitness styles. The classes move incrementally through different intensity levels, so anyone is welcome to join. Classes are held at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and the cost is $5.35. Line Dancing is offered at 11:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Each class costs $3.25. A variety of exercise classes fit for every level is available. Try the gentle-moderate exercise class, 11:15 a.m. on Mondays and 10 a.m. on Tuesdays that features a combination of seated and standing exercises for a complete cardiovascular workout. The moderate-high energy class is at 11 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, giving more of a challenge with cardio, strengthening, stretching, and toning routines. Each class costs $3.25. Computer Classes – All courses are four weeks and meet once a week for two hours. Begin with level one and advance through to level four. Classes are regularly forming and are offered every month.

Golf Mill Shopping Center is hosting "Feats of Fitness," a mall-walking program Mondays through Saturdays, to enable seniors to walk within an enclosed environment. The program is sponsored by Bethany Terrace, Golf Mill Shopping Center, Maine Township MaineStreamers.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 42
and Partners in Healthcare
(North Shore Physicians Group). Health seminars and blood pressure screenings will be offered throughout the year on the second Wednesday. Call the Golf Mill management office at (847) 699-1070.

Golf Mill manages the Robineau Residence, 7550 N. Kostner Ave., in Skokie. Robineau offers a residential community composed of 24 affordable units in a one-story building.

For an application and tour of Robineau, contact Dorothy Levant at (847) 675-8580.

Super Seniors, a Jewish Seniors group for people older than 60, meets 3-6 p.m. on the first and third Sundays at the North Shore University Health System Skokie Hospital, 9600 Gross Point Road, Skokie. Topics include current events, books, jokes, and Israel. Call (847) 583-9328.

Support

Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter, 2050 Claire Court, Glenview offers grief support groups for up to eight months and are offered at no charge to the general public.

The schedule for winter includes: Hope & Healing: Adult Loss, Thursdays, Feb. 9 to March 29, 6:30-8 p.m.; First Light: Spouse/Partner Loss, Wednesdays, Feb. 8 to March 28, 6:30-8 p.m.; and Families with Children, Wednesdays, Feb. 8 to March 28, 6:30-8 p.m., (847) 556-1999; Drop-in Group, first and third Fridays of each month, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Call (847) 556-1777 to register. Registration deadline is four business days before the start date of each group. Visit www.palliative.org/groupsupport.

NorthShore Hospice will sponsor grief support groups. Soul Mates is an ongoing support group for those who have experienced the death of a spouse or life partner. This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30-8 p.m. at NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searles Avenue, Park Ridge. Call (847) 679-4229.

The Lutheran General Hospital Soul Mates Club for stroke survivors and their caregivers meets from 3-4:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month (except January and July) at the Outpatient Therapy Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines; use south entrance. Contact Meg Potterfield, (847) 723-4765.

Chadstoke Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago invites those who have experienced the loss of a loved one 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 7-9 p.m. 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 831 meets at 10 a.m. every Friday at Carter Westminster Church, 4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie, in the basement; enter from parking lot in the rear. Group 173 meets at 7:30 p.m. every Monday (except holidays) at First United Methodist Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, in the Parlor Room, south portion of main level; entrance at rear (Grant Place), across from the parking lot. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit www.familiesanonymous.org.

NorthShore Hospice will sponsor grief support groups. Soul Mates is an ongoing support group for those who have experienced the death of a spouse or life partner. This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30-8 p.m. at NorthShore University HealthSystem Home & Hospice Services office, 4901 Searles Avenue, Park Ridge. Call (847) 679-4229.

Tops Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), an international weight-loss network of support groups, holds a local meeting weekly on Mondays beginning at 5 p.m. at the Niles Park District Center, 6676 W. Howard St., Niles, on the lower level. The building is handicap accessible. Tops has helped individuals live healthier lives since 1948 with a combination of sensible eating, regular exercise, and ongoing support to help members achieve and maintain their weight-loss goals. Women, men, and preteens committed to attaining and maintaining a healthy weight are all invited to join. Visitors are welcome 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 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 7-9 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month and also on the second Wednesday of each month.

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The Maryville Crisis Nursery is a safe haven for children, offering twice-monthly tours of the facility. Tours are available to those in need of childcare volunteers. The nursery cares for children for newborn to age 6, whose families are experiencing crisis situations such as job/life instability, medical issues, homelessness, or severe family stress. Children are cared for by professional and skilled personnel, and no charges are given to a child in need. Programs are available to help families in need, and a registration number is (773) 205-3637.

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CALENDAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

Support group for children 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 group is for teens ages 13 to 18 whose parent or caretaker has been diagnosed with cancer. The 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 each month in the Health Management Classroom. The selection is from 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. Call (773) 504-7856.

Parkinson's Support Group meets the third Wednesday of the month in the 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 the opportunity to share information and experiences with other women. The group will be at Advocate Lutheran General's Center for Advanced Care, 1700 Lutheran Ln., Park Ridge, in the ground-floor conference room.

The meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Monday in the Benedict Center Chapel, 6275 N. Iona. To participate in the confidential 12-step program, call Queen of All Saints Rectory, (773) 736-6060. Additional meetings are 7-8 p.m. Friday at St. Julian Parish Center, 7200 Osceola Ave., Call Linda, (773) 271-2281.

Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide

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**Gymnasts use CSL meet as regional tuneup**

BY DAN SHALIN

For the first time in weeks, Niles West was near full-strength at Friday's CSL South meet in Evanston.

Though talented freshman Catherine Steegmueller and senior Jenny Marin were not 100-percent healthy, their presence was a boost to the Wolves, who scored 132.25 and finished third behind New Trier (142.95) and Maine South (136.025) and ahead of Glenbrook South (129.5).

"I was hoping to be a little closer to (Maine South), but with the injuries we've had...at least the girls are competing again," Niles West's first-year head coach Susan Arcus said.

Steegmueller turned in a solid performance, despite having to practice only a few days earlier. She had been out for two weeks with a bone bruise. The rookie finished eighth in the all-around (38.35), which included a sixth-place finish on bars (8.25).

Marin placed ninth in the all-around (36.05) despite competing in all four events for the first time in three weeks due to an ankle sprain. Marin also came in eighth on floor (8.45).

Niles West senior Kelly Sanks was 11th in the all-around (32.7), taking ninth on beam (8.45).

Niles West will compete in the New Trier Regional at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Arcus said her team has a slim margin to eight points on three occasions. Two late free throws by DJ Harris (6 points) gave West a 25-17 lead at the intermission.

Sophomore Ahmad Gibson hit three shots from long distance in the second half, including a three-pointer with 42 ticks left. He led Niles West (3-4, 1-6) to a 60-57 win against the Bison.

"We though about (the game slipping away), but we have been through this enough," Dolins explained. "We had nothing to lose, so we just gave it our all and played our hearts out. We have not quit - that is what it is all about. Since we did not quit, we competed each day, and (Friday) we never gave up, and played with our hearts."

Niles West held a slim 9-7 lead after the first quarter, but started to open things up in the second. Joe Younan knocked down two three-pointers, and the Wolves pushed the margin to 8 points on three occasions. Two late free throws by DJ Harris (6 points) gave West a 25-17 lead at the intermission.

Sophomore Ahmad Gibson hit three shots from long distance in the second half, including a three-pointer with 42 ticks left. He led Niles West (3-4, 1-6) to a 60-57 win against the Bison.

"I am really happy with the character of our team," said Niles West coach Bob Williams. "We have been working on it all year, to continue to improve all year. That is something that I am very proud of our kids for, because our record is not good, but our hearts are big - and they are working, getting better. This is a big win for us in that regard. I could not be more pleased with their attitudes and their efforts, and it is nice to see it pay off. And now we have to build off this."

Niles West was unable to maintain its success, however, and fell to Buffalo Grove 49-39 on Saturday.

Niles West took command early, limiting the Bison to just seven points in each of the first two quarters, The Wolves led 20-7 midway through the second quarter following a bucket by McCoy (7 rebounds). McCoy led Niles West with 14 points, including 10 before the intermission. Joe Younan had six points before the intermission.

"I am really happy with the character of our team," said Niles West coach Bob Williams. "We have been working on it all year, to continue to improve all year. That is something that I am very proud of our kids for, because our record is not good, but our hearts are big - and they are working, getting better. This is a big win for us in that regard. I could not be more pleased with their attitudes and their efforts, and it is nice to see it pay off. And now we have to build off this."

Niles West was unable to maintain its success, however, and fell to Buffalo Grove 49-39 on Saturday.

"I think we just lost our focus and forgot what coach (Williams) was telling us," explained McCoy. "We try to take it one possession at a time, but as they got on their run, we started to lose focus and got down on ourselves and each other."

"In the first half we were moving well, cutting and setting screens. In the second half, it just stopped."

**Feb. 8 Vikings head coach Charlie Friedman said she hopes the home team will be represented.**

"I'd like to see Brittany (Ebeling) go through (to sectional)," the coach said. "Despite her performance (at regional), she could go, (Rusnak) has a chance on floor or vault, (Wong) is a possibility on beam. I'd like to get some of them through. But I know Brittany could go and I hope it works out for her. That would be an awesome way to end her career."

**Maine East**

With a team decimated by injuries, Maine East had just four gymnasts available for Saturday's CSL North Meet in Deerfield. Two of the Blue Demons were recently called up from the freshman team.

The Blue Demons scored 100.35. Senior Tori Walley placed ninth on vault (8.56) and scored 7.625 on floor, though she was not yet doing her full routine after injuring her ankle. Sophomore Alyssa Benjamin scored 7.5 on vault. Freshmen Andrea Lela and Aonirin Abrams also participated.

The Blue Demons were scheduled to compete at Wednesday's Stevenson Regional and head coach Amanda Harrison was hoping Walley could qualify for her first sectional.

"(Walley) counted two falls on beam at conference and scored a 7.0," the coach said. "If you take away those falls, that is a sectional-qualifying beam routine. If she has a flawless beam routine, she can go to sectional."
Nix explodes for 28 in 10th straight victory

By Dan Shalin

In the world of boys basketball, Niles North is certainly a team trending upward. A 50-40 victory over Highland Park at home on Friday was the Vikings' 10th straight, and kept Niles North (15-5, 5-2) tied with Glenbrook North atop the CSL North standings, a full game ahead of Highland Park and Maine West.

During a two-week stretch, the Vikings defeated both CHS and HP, avenging both conference losses in the process. This month, North also expects to gain the services of talented Evanston transfer Lorenzo Dillard, a junior who scheduled to play in his first game, against Maine East, on Feb. 10.

The Vikings looked to be rebuilding following the graduation of superstar Abdel Nadir, now burning the nets at Northern Illinois. But North has managed to stay extremely relevant.

"(Friday's first-place showdown) is what we want. We want to play meaningful games during the regular season. Not every team gets that opportunity," said North head coach Glenn Olson. "We're going to take advantage of it. We talk to our kids about wanting to 'key' more big games, and give our kids the best opportunity when late February and March come around, preparing them for those (postseason) situations."

If postseason success comes down to guard play, Niles North will turn to the capable hands of Malachi Nix. The 5-foot-6 playmaker/scorer was at the top of his game Friday. Despite injuring his hip early in the third quarter, Nix scored 28 points, including eight during a decisive 13-2 run late in the fourth quarter. The Vikings trailed 30-24 before that spurt.

"It was nice having No. 2 on our side. He hit some big shots," Olson said about Nix, who collected treys late in the third quarter and early in the fourth. "Malachi is outstanding. He's a Division I player, the real deal. But he hasn't had a real great shooting night in a while. He came out and had one. It was nice. He hit shots at the right time."

With Highland Park playing a tight zone defense, points were hard to come by. But Nix contributed four three-pointers in all, connecting from well behind the arc in the waning seconds of the first and third quarters.

"I practice those shots a lot - in the gym," Nix said. "Coach helps me. My teammates help me. They find me. I brought it to the game, and I knocked them down."

Junior Billy Voitik added eight points for Niles North, and Junior B.J. Beckford (6 points) had two important, second-half three-pointers for the Vikings, who played without regular starter Jayden White. Senior starter Mychal Henley also spent much of the night in foul trouble.

But Niles North showed its depth, as senior Ali Rafiq started and played solid minutes, and junior Avery Wells scored five key fourth-quarter points.

The Vikings expect to get even deeper in a few weeks, when Dillard becomes eligible. The 6-4 Dillard has been practicing with Niles North, and was hoping to have his eligibility reinstated as early as Wednesday.

Nix calls Dillard, "a great player who is无私和 can do it all."

Olson, too, is anxiously waiting the arrival of Dillard, but cautious against getting overly excited about adding a player so late in the season.

"I think (Dillard) is a very talented kid, incredibly unselfish," Olson said. "He's a strong kid. He plays very hard defensively on the ball. He's got great instincts and likes to play fast. He's got a great motor and wants to go out and compete. We play the way he plays, the more depth we have, the better. But it's going to be a huge adjustment. People are so excited because they've been waiting so long for him."

But at that point, we will have played 22 games. At this time of year, we are using practice time wisely and integrating him more into the first group."

The Vikings were scheduled to face Maine South on Tuesday, and will host Maine West at 7:30 p.m. Friday.
Demons will go young rest of the season

BY JEFF ZIMMERMAN
Contributor

Maine East head basketball coach David Genis is close to finishing up his second season.

Genis replaced Glenn Olson, who pole-valed over to Niles North, leaving Genis with a big rebuilding project.

The second season for Genis was similar to his first, as the varsity program takes its lumps and bruises and losses by some wide margins.

It was the same story Friday night against Central Suburban North rival Maine West. The Demons started the contest slowly, caught up and went cold from the field.

"We're at a point this season where I'm beginning to bring up and use some sophomores and freshmen," Genis said. "The starters against Maine West consisted of two freshmen, a sophomore, one junior and senior Aaron Shannon."

Maine West ended up running off 16 consecutive points in the second quarter leading up to a decisive 59-41 win. The defeat was Maine East's seventh straight, dropping the Demons to 0-4-1.

Maine East never led but tied the Warriors four times in the first half behind ofensive threat Evan Nazal. The red-hot junior sank 3-of-4 attempts from three-point range to tie the score for the final time at 19-19. Maine West, following a timeout, erupted for 16 unanswered points.

Conor Hart penetrated to the hoop and Kevin Garcia drained three-pointer to post Maine West to a 36-16 lead at the break. Maine West quickly climbed into double bonus and converted 9-of-15 at the line, while Maine East went 0-for-2.

"Since our first game in January, we played pretty good basketball in the early stages of the game," said Genis, "and then hit a lull and that's when our opponents take advantage of our lack of scoring power."

Maine East opened the second half with a 1-2-2 zone that made up some ground and cut the Maine West lead to 38-26. But the Warriors brought just too much firepower.

For the second straight week, freshman Abby George started at point guard. George, the smallest player on the court, scored seven points and dished three assists playing almost the entire game.

"I look for George to play at the point the balance of the season," Genis said. "I believe we had all-underclassmen on the floor at one point in the second half. The more playing time together, the quicker we'll grow."

Maine West focused on stopping Shannon, who poured in 20 points during their first meeting, but this time was limited to 10 points, all in the second half.

"Aaron is in a scoring slump," admitted Genis. "He's been pressing in the last few games. Aaron is still our most productive scorer and with the game on the line he'll probably take the shot to win the game."

Nazal led Maine East with 12 points and Ezeke Omeke totaled nine.

Maine East earlier in the week stumbled to Buffalo Grove 64-39 in a nonconference clash. The Bisons tossed in 10 threes, while Omeke paced the Demons with 16 points.

Velez split sparks Resurrection to title

Resurrection won its sixth straight GCAC championship Saturday at Brunswick Zone in Niles by bowling a six-game team score of 5,302 to easily outdistance runner-up Trinity by 353 pins.

The team was consistent throughout, bowling a 2,680 in the morning session followed by a 2,622 in the afternoon for a 888.6 per game average.

After taking a 108-pin lead after game 1, the team struggled a bit for the only time all day until Luisa Velez (Morton Grove) picked up the 6-7 split in the 10th frame to fire up the team. Sami Comiskey continued her excellent bowling, averaging 188.5 on the day for second place in the tournament. Jennifer Voss (Niles) followed with a 181.8 average, Alicia Gamboa rolled to a 176.5 average (4th place), Anastasia Marchiori (6th, 169.5) and Velez (10th, 167.3) also placed in the top 10.

The Bandits' top games were turned in by Voss (216) and Voss (215). Series honors went to Comiskey (1,313) and Voss (1,091).

All-conference honors went to Marchiori, Voss, Comiskey, Gamboa and Velez.
Kleppin, Shumate deliver to halt Hawks' hex

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

A major bummer loomed for Niles West on its own court Friday night, as No. 8 Maine South, which trailed 31-17 three minutes into the third quarter, grabbed its first lead at 41-40 when everclutch Michelle Mahler hit two free throws with just six seconds remaining in the fourth.

The Wolves were suddenly in danger of losing their fifth straight game to the rival Hawks, putting Maine South in the driver's seat to repeat as CSL South champions. A planned postseason ceremony honoring senior superstar Jewell Loyd, who prefers walking barefoot on hot coals to losing to Maine South, would have been about as much fun as a funeral.

But Niles West, brilliantly improvising on the fly after a timeout, rejected that script. Guarded heavily at midcourt, Loyd spotted streaking sophomore southpaw Dashae Shumate, who caught the ball in stride on her strong side and banked in a short runner with a tick left on the clock for a 42-41 triumph.

"We were supposed to come up and set screens for Jewell, but they didn't press and were all over her at midnight. I stayed low and cut across instead," Shumate said. "This is such a great feeling. I never made a game-winning shot before."

The giddy Wolves briefly stopped dancing while athletic director David Rosengard saluted Loyd with genuine warmth, emotion and about half a truckload of apple juice and candy — her favorite munchie combo. The night could get no better, until Loyd happily settled for a tick left on the clock for a 42-41 triumph.

"It was pretty funny in the timeout: 'No, that's not going to work. No, not that either. Or that,'" recalled Loyd. "We were loose and ready, and we just reacted to what they gave us. I wasn't looking to score for the whole game, and the last play went the same way."

Maine South, which averages eight three-pointers per game, made only five after nailing it in its 65-55 win over Niles West on Dec. 9. The Hawks, who blew several layups, missed their first eight shots to fall behind 7-0, and doubled that deficit before storming back.

This was dramatic but not always efficient basketball, with the Wolves turning over the ball 20 times to the veteran Hawks' unusually high 17. Niles West halted a 1-4 skid and sent Maine South, which is in a 1-5 funk, into an 0-8 slide.

"We ran our sets to death in practice — don't leave (their shooters) alone on the outside," said Wolves head coach Tony Konsewicz. "We did a nice job on defense, especially in the first half. Our problems lately have been poor starts, and still our bugaboo of too many unforced errors. We still need to cut that down on those. But this was a great win for our girls."

The Wolves began the season at 10-0 and 13-1 before their schedule ramped up from difficult to brutal in the second half. Niles West, which has played 11 games against ranked teams, has absorbed losses (since Dec. 23) to No. 1 Whitney Young, No. 2 Bolingbrook, No. 3 Trinity, No. 14 Loyola and No. 20 Proviso East.

"We know we'll take more losses with our schedule. But then our girls feel like they can beat anyone in our conference after facing the very best teams," explained assistant coach Mike Parker.

The CSL South race, arguably the conference's best ever, is far from over. Niles West hosts ascendant, revenge-minded Evanston (4-10, 4-4) at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The athletic Wildcats felt they were robbed Dec. 16 in a 61-60 home defeat on a buzzer call that allowed Loyd to go to the line. Sierra Clayborn, twin of fellow guard Seara, came back from a knee injury two weeks later.

Niles West finishes the regular season at Glenbrook South's Titan Dome — an expansion layout that tends to mess with the depth perception of visiting shooters — on Feb. 10. Maine South closes by hosting the Titans and Waukegan (2-18, 0-8).
Reigning ESCC champs survive Dons in 2 OTs

BY JASON IVANITZ
Contributor

It was one of those games where you wished that no one had to take a loss.
Notre Dame pushed the two-time defending Eastern Suburban Catholic champions, Benet Academy, to the limit on Friday but couldn't pull out a victory falling 60-59 in double-overtime at the Redwings' Alumni Night.

"We have played down quite a bit this season and normally we were able to pull it (the game) out. Tonight we just couldn't do it," Dons coach Tom Lee said. "We can't use that we were young as an excuse anymore. We have played 21 games now and I consider all of our players seniors."

It appeared that the Redwings (18-1, 1-1 ESCC) were going to cruise to victory easily in the second overtime as they held a 60-54 advantage with 1:31 remaining in the period. Notre Dame (16-6, 2-2 ESCC) didn't go down without a fight. Joe Ferrici converted a three-point play and on the ensuing in-bound pass, Ferrici ripped the ball away from the Benet guard and made a highly contested lay-up to make it 60-59.

Benet's poor free-throw shooting gave the Dons life as the Redwings' Pat McNerney missed them both and the Dons got one last chance for the win but 12.1 seconds remaining. After a Notre Dame timeout, the Dons tried to get the ball down low. However, McNerney anticipated a pass into the corner and stole the ball from the Dons' guard. The time expired before the Dons could foul, securing the Benet victory.

McNerney scored 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the game for the Redwings.

"This was a game that we would have lost two weeks ago. We just beat a good young team and it is always big when you get a conference win," Redwings coach Gene Heldkamp said. "It was a little frustrating that we didn't hit some of our free throws late but we hung in there."

The game almost didn't make it to a second overtime.
Benet held a 50-48 advantage with 33 seconds left in regulation after Bobby Wehrli split his free throws. On the ensuing possession Notre Dame's Duante Williams did not have his best game as he was called for an involuntary move.

"We overall played a good game but we had some lapses and that hurt us tonight," Lee said. "Our trap worked at times during the end of the game but we gave up too many looks down low."

Nine different Dons scored in the game led by Matt Mooney who contributed 20 points, two coming in overtime. Ferrici scored five of the Dons' seven points in the second overtime.

Whittington protects top seed at ESCC meet

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

Roark Whittington is no longer a secret weapon for Notre Dame.
After wresting only four varsity matches last season, the 145-pound junior is now a conference champion sporting an impressive 29-7 record.

Whittington lived up to his top seed with a 7-3 decision and a first-period pin of his Marist foe after rolling to a major decision 18-6. He placed second in last year's meet at 140.

Gallardo showed up his fundamentals in a 2-0 victory over Danny Kasper, one of Marist's two strong 106-pounders. The Redwings held out Nick Gasbarro.

Scott Smith earned his second straight runner-up conference finish, hanging tough in a 9-4 loss to Marist sophomore Mark Duda, ranked No. 1 in Class 3A by Illinois Matmen. Smith trailed Duda by only a point going into the third period. A returning state qualifier, Smith recently dropped a weight to 113.

Joe Cortese, also a returning state qualifier, was the runner-up at 162. He blew the doors off a quality opponent 6-1 before losing 8-0 to eighth-ranked Peter Androviti, another sophomore star for Marist. Cortese (19-4) was back in action after missing a month with a dislocated shoulder.

Kevin Brand (120), Anthony McDermott (130) and Jack Pracek (136) outperformed their No. 4 seeds with third-place performances. Brand put up a worthy struggle into the third period before Marist's Portable Lukeville gained a fall. McDermott bounced back with a 6-1 win after a pin by St. Patrick's ranked junior Dominic Boggs.

Tim Donnelly (138) aggravated a groin injury in a 9-6 loss, but the Dons' senior standout gamely came back with a tech fall and fall to take third place. Conlon Kelly, another senior leader at 195, was too ill to compete.

A few Dons appeared a bit rusty after snow prevented the teams from traveling to Edwardsville for a tournament the previous week. Senior Kevin Stahmer (29-5, 182) was too hurt, always makes weight, and he's been very consistent after missing a month with a dislocated shoulder.

``Roark has been very consistent and quietly become one our top five guys," praised Dons head coach Ange Genovesi. "He was sixth in the state last year on the frosh-soph level. He was just a little too delicate in the past. Roark is never hurt, always makes weight, and he's a multi-sport athlete and outstanding student."
Vikings ready for first-place North showdown

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

Niles North turned in a fine defensive performance Friday in a win over Highland Park, as the Vikings kept their CSL North title hopes very much alive. The victory set up this week’s showdown between Niles North (15-10, 8-1) and Maine West (8-1 CSL North). The winner of that contest, at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Des Plaines, will be in the driver’s seat for a conference crown.

A CSL North title would be Niles North’s first since 2004. “If we win, we secure at least a first-place spot. If we win the next two, we are in first-place by ourselves,” Niles North head coach Dan Paxson said. “We haven’t really talked about winning a championship. We’re really just talked about the next game. In practice (this week), we will talk about the need to have good practices. We won’t be focused on the big picture. But we know Friday is an important, big game.”

The Vikings held Highland Park on Friday to just 16 second-half points in a 48-36 win on the road. “I was really pleased with our defense,” Paxson said. “We made Highland Park work for any kind of open look. They used a lot of a clock trying to get a clean look. Our half-court defense is what gets us through the game.”

Niles North led 26-20 at halftime and 38-30 after three, before outscoring the Giants 10-6 in the final frame. It was another strong late-game effort by the visitors. “We know that every conference game is going to be a battle; there is not one game that isn’t,” Paxson said. “We’ve really been playing well these last few in the third and fourth quarters. I think it’s a testament to how hard the kids work in practice.”

“We have two-hour practices and from start to finish, we go full-court working hard. That’s helping us late in games. We still look pretty fresh in the fourth quarter, getting to the ball, pressuring the ball.”

Senior forward Mariyah Henley led Niles North with 14 points, senior guard Alissa Hirsh had 11, junior Shelley-Rae Moody scored 10 and played fine defense and senior Angela Jones had five points and five assists. Junior Kristin Reichert (6 points) also made a key contribution off the bench.

One of the key plays in the contest, according to Paxson, was when Hirsh located senior Lizzie Rivers for a three-pointer at the end of the second quarter, which put the Vikings up 26-20.

“That really turned the momentum. It was the biggest lead of the game to that point,” Paxson said. “We had led by one or two points in the first half. When we got that three with time running out, it helped our momentum. We built off of it in the third quarter.”

Jones then opened the third quarter with another three-pointer.

Highland Park star Lena Munzer did have 22 points, but Paxson said the junior needed to work hard for everything she got, and the Vikings didn’t let any of the other Giants hurt them.

Paxson did say his team needed to do a better job rebounding. Last week they are the No. 7 seed in the Class 4A New Trier Sectional. Niles North opens postseason play on Feb. 14 against No. 9 Maine West in the Niles North Regional. The winner could meet No. 1 Maine South in the regional title game on Feb. 16.
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