Canine cop

Niles Police Department K-9 Odin gets a good grip on Niles Police Officer Timothy Naleway during a demonstration at Northridge Preparatory School in Niles. See Page 13.

Photo by Michelle La Vigne-Sun-Times Media
“The Best! The Best! The Best!”
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YIN AND YANG IN CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCE

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CANINE COP

Niles Police Department K-9 Odin gets a good grip on Niles Police Officer Timothy Nalway during a demonstration at Northridge Preparatory School in Niles. PAGE 13 | MICHELLE LAVIGNE-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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**DISTRICT 71**

Board to name replacement after three-term member steps down

*BY NATASHA WASINSKI*

Niles Elementary School District 71 is seeking a board member to fill a vacancy left by longtime board member Karen Johnson.

Johnson gave notice of her immediate resignation to Secretary Mary Kruppe last month.

"It had gotten to a point where I found difficult to support some things," Johnson told Pioneer Press.

First elected to the board in 2000, Johnson was in the middle of her third four-year term.

Johnson said she thought "long and hard" before deciding to leave because she was concerned about the message she was sending to her kids and the community.

"I don't view myself as a quitter," she said. "I wrestled with that and what was the right thing to do."

Though she wouldn't go into specifics, Johnson said Culver School has "a lot of change coming, most of it good" that requires the support of district officials.

"(For me) to stay on the board, it would not be fair to the district," she said.

Johnson said she thought "long and hard" before deciding to leave because she wanted to make a difference in students' lives.

"I was there for all the kids. I believe every child deserves every opportunity," she said.

During her board tenure Johnson had served as board president and vice president, and participated in the policy, curriculum and building and grounds committees.

Most recently she sat on the contract negotiation committee, which began meeting in January with Niles Council of Teachers Local 174.

"She's been a very active member," Superintendent Amy Kruppe said of Johnson. "She has seen a lot of changes and has been through a lot of wonderful things."

Kruppe added: "I've enjoyed working with her."

Johnson said as a board member she was challenged to make decisions that impacted her two children, now in eighth grade and high school.

"I sat at that table and voted on things that were not in the best interests of my children but in the interest of the greater whole," she said. "It was one of the hardest things I had to do."

Johnson said selflessness is needed to make a difference in students' lives.

"I was there for all the kids. I believe every child deserves every opportunity," she said.

Johnson gave notice of her immediate resignation to Secretary Mary Kruppe last month.

Johnson added that board member service is an "honorable privilege." She said the School Board would benefit from filling her seat with a non-parent resident, such as a local business owner or retired senior citizen.

"(The district) would get a perspective that you otherwise wouldn't have," she said. "It would remind (the board) that it is responsible to more than just the school, but to the whole community."

The District 71 Board of Education discussed its member appointment process its monthly meeting on Feb. 21.

District bylaws require that the board fill an empty seat within 45 days of a member's departure.

If a vacancy occurs with less than 60 percent of time remaining in the departed member's term, elections are not required and the appointee serves the remainder of the unexpired term.

"I don't have enough fight left in me."

Johnson said over the years she has appreciated officials' and administrators' hands-on approach to district operations because it instilled a sense of trust and transparency with their constituents.

"We think about what (our) actions say to public," she said. "We don't keep anything hidden."

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NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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PIONEER PROFILE

Niles retiree makes second career of volunteering

If anyone needs a helping hand, Ron Neukirch is their man. Neukirch, a longtime resident of Niles, has been a member of the Niles Citizen Corps since 2009. He began as a member of the Citizen's Police Academy and soon moved on to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program.

“I just enjoy helping people,” a humble Neukirch said. “I like giving something back.”

The Illinois Crime Prevention Association recognized his volunteerism and crime-prevention contributions, and named him “Citizen of the Year.”

Neukirch is a retired member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors. He said that when he retired, his son, Scot Neukirch, finance director for the village of Niles, suggested that he look into taking a police officer position. Unfortunately, he had always been busy working and now he is glad to have time to volunteer.

Neukirch got involved and became a certified CERT trainer. He is routinely asked by Niles police officers in need of assistance. For example, he was there to help during the recent major storms in Niles.

“We went out and directed traffic because the police were all overwhelmed,” Neukirch said.

Neukirch volunteers and directs traffic during the Fourth of July parade, and helps out at other community events, such as National Night Out. He became a citizen-corps instructor and teaches classes at the Niles Police and Fire departments.

“He’s the type of guy who doesn’t have ‘no’ or ‘I can’t’ in his vocabulary,” said Niles Police Chief Dean Strezlecki. “He’s always there pitching in. First to arrive, last to leave. You can always count on him.”

“I never, ever thought about receiving such an honor as this,” Neukirch said, noting that he was flabbergasted when a sergeant came to the door and handed him a letter about the award.

Neukirch is the field-operations supervisor for the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) program of the Niles Police Department.

He has also been through FEMA's ground search and rescue training. He is one of the people called when there is a lost child, because FEMA program graduates receive special training regarding how to handle such situations. He may also be called to help recover items at a crime scene.

Neukirch said he is proud of his two children, Dawn and Scot, and his grandchildren.

“Lucky for Niles, Neukirch’s volunteering to help fellow citizens is something he is passionate about. “I’ll be doing it as long as I’m healthy,” he said.

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PIONEER PRESS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 15, 2012

To the Editor:

The proposal includes the installation of a new heating system, creating a more attractive entrance, and adding an automatic check-in system for books. The teen area will also be relocated and will include a study area.

The proposal also includes a renovation cost of about $4 million, including furniture for $525,196 and technological upgrades for $325,000. In addition, costs include a $376,000 design contract.

At the Feb. 29 special board meeting, trustees decided to remove an outdoor roof garden area from the plan, eliminating $193,000 from the total proposed cost.

“Thank you for helping to make this happen,” library Trustee Morgan Dubiel said after the meeting.

Dubiels said his top-priority areas for renovation are the front entrance, children's area and teen area.

According to Dubiel the library has $4.2 million in special reserves for construction, and he believes they shouldn't spend more than that amount for the renovation project.

“We're moving forward with no real strategic plan in place,” Dubiel said.

Weiss contended that library officials have been working on the strategic plan for a long time. A discussion of the library's strategic plan had been on the agenda for Feb. 29 but was postponed.

The board's next step will be the selection of a construction manager for the renovation project.

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daytime phone.
Maine East alum donates ‘Kuehl’ $10K for disease studies

Dr. W. Michael Kuehl, a senior researcher for the National Cancer Institute and a 1967 graduate of Maine East High School in Park Ridge, recently donated $10,000 to the Maine Township Township High School District 207 Educational Foundation.

Kuehl’s donation was made in honor of his mother, Anne Z. Kuehl, who served as the first female member of the District 207 Board of Education.

Kuehl has requested that his donation be used to direct District 207 students’ attention to the study of environmental causes of disease. The foundation and the District 207 administration are creating a program in which teachers and students strive to create exemplary units of study and student projects. These will be acknowledged with monetary awards known as the “Kuehl Prizes.”

At Kuehl’s request District 207 teachers in all departments will be encouraged to submit proposals outlining units of study that will explore the environmental causes of disease in terms of scientific studies, but also in terms of politics, literature, the arts, music and health studies.

Kuehl Prize projects submitted by students from Maine East, West, and South will be on display for District 207 students and the community during the 2012-13 school year.

A group of judges, which will include Kuehl, public-health professionals, District 207 staff and foundation members, will choose the winners of Kuehl prizes. They will be announced at the Educational Foundation Benefit Dinner in April 2013.

Kuehl received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard University, completed post-doctoral research fellowships at the National Institutes of Health and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and served as professor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Virginia Medical School before coming to the National Cancer Institute in 1982.

Dissolution of special-ed program cited in the majority of 25 layoffs

Maine Township High School District 207 board members this month unanimously approved layoff notices that will be sent to 25 district employees.

“It’s a routine, annual exercise,” said David Beery, spokesman for District 207.

Of the 25 employees, 14 will be laid off due to the dissolution of Maine Township Special Education Program.

The remaining positions cut consist of two tenured teachers and nine part-time teachers.

“This does not at all reflect the kind of budgetary issues that existed when we had the large reduction in force a few years ago,” said Beery, referring to large reductions made in spring 2009.

Beery said in 2009 the district laid off 75 teachers and 62 noncertified employees.

At the March 5 board meeting staff explained that some of the employees may later be hired back by the district.

“That typically happens,” said Beery, noting that no one is guaranteed to get their position back. “It has happened in the past.”

Beery explained that the “reduction-in-force” notices need to be sent out 45 to 60 days prior to the end of the school year, depending on whether those being laid off are tenured teachers.

As for those laid off because of the dissolution of MTSEP, Beery said it’s a good possibility that some of them will be hired by one of the school districts that are still part of that special-education cooperative.

Whether teachers are hired back depends on factors such as the final counts of students in various courses.

Maine East alum donates ‘Kuehl’ $10K for disease studies

Maine East alum donates ‘Kuehl’ $10K for disease studies

Maine East High School’s 22nd annual International Celebration will again take visitors on a figurative trip around the world as they experience the traditions of the Park Ridge school’s diverse population.

International Celebration is open to the public and will be from noon to 3 p.m. on March 17 in the school gym, at 2801 W. Dempster St. in Park Ridge. Visitors may enter on the east side of the high school, which faces the football stadium and Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

Twenty ethnic student clubs will share entertainment, food and fashion of their native countries. Traditional dances, vocalists, a violinist and African drumming will comprise the entertainment portion, while a fashion show will give students an opportunity to display traditional and contemporary clothing from their cultures. Visitors can try a variety of ethnic foods and beverages available at booths set up around the gym.

“International Celebration is a special event when, for a few hours in one location, everyone in attendance comes together to celebrate the cultural and social diversity that is a fundamental aspect of who we are and what we do at Maine East High School,” Principal Michael Pressler said.

This year’s International Celebration will mark the culmination of a week-long event called “Springcoming 2012.” Springcoming will feature a week of “cultural awareness activities” focusing on Maine East’s international makeup, Pressler said. Students will also raise funds for a charitable cause.

Agent hired to sell house donated to fund art scholarship program

Maine Township High School District 207 on March 5 hired a real-estate agent to sell a home left to the district by longtime Maine East High School instructor Fred Bacon.

Bacon died in 2010 and left his home on the Northwest Side of Chicago, at 6600 N. Keota, and his possessions to the district.

It was Bacon’s desire to have his home and varied items such as his art collection sold, and the money to then provide art scholarships for students attending Maine East High School.

The house has been appraisal at $176,500, in addition to his “fairly large estate,” according to Mary Kalou, assistant superintendent for business.

“He had paintings and a lot of pottery that were sold,” Kalou said.

Kalou explained that a couple years ago a Century 21 McMullen real-estate agent heard about the home and expressed a desire to work with the district at a reduced commission. According to a memo the district was unsuccessful with the sale through sealed bids.

Recently when the board sent out seven requests for quotes to different agencies, the same agent was the only one to respond. Kalou said she is confident the agent would have offered the lowest broker commission at 3.75 percent, even if other interested agents had been interested.

“IT’s being handled in the appropriate manner,” said Michael Pressler, Maine East principal. “It’s a fabulous opportunity for some kids at our school.”

Last year the first art scholarship was given to a Maine East student who is now attending the Art Institute of Chicago.

Each year a $4,000 scholarship will be awarded to a senior at Maine East who is planning to get an art degree in college.

If a student is doing well academically the scholarship is renewable for up to four years.
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- Stuffed Shrimp $18.95
With spinach and crabmeat served with steamed asparagus

- Chilean Sea Bass $22.95
with a lemon wine sauce, steamed asparagus and sweet potatoes

ILLINOIS SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUNDRAISER

Polar ice cop? Niles officer takes plunge for purpose

Sgt. Ron Brandt, of the Niles Police Department, on Feb. 25 braved the frigid waters of Lake Michigan in Evanston while participating in the Illinois Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run’s statewide fundraising event.

The goal of the “Polar Plunge” was to raise funds for more than 21,000 Special Olympics Illinois Traditional Athletes and more than 11,000 Young Athletes with and without intellectual disabilities who train and compete throughout the year.

Brandt raised more than $1,400 himself toward the fundraiser.

Anyone is interested in donating to the Illinois Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run may contact Sgt. Eric Lambrecht, (847) 588-6566.

Upcoming Illinois Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run events include Cop on Top, June 15, and the Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 10.

The frigid fundraiser for Illinois Special Olympics was held at Northwestern University Beach in Evanston. 

NILES POLICE

Mark Twain school locked down amid false report of man with knife

Mark Twain School in Niles was placed on lockdown the afternoon of March 7 following a report that a man armed with a knife was heading toward the school, Gross stated. "Students, parents, and staff who were still on campus were asked to move into the building. Students who were already on the bus were dismised."

The suspect ran north and was eventually apprehended at Feldman Field House, at the corner of Kathy and Western. At 3:35 PM, everyone was allowed to leave the property, Gross explained. "At no time was there any threat toward the school, students, or staff," Gross stated.

Niles police Sgt. Robert Tornabene reported that the suspect had been facing a mental-health issue at the time of the incident and that he was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

Parents or others connected with the school who have questions about the incident should contact Gross at (847) 296-5341, or by email at ngross@emsd63.org.

- Tracy Gruen contributed to this report.
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.

BURGLARY
A 53-year-old Niles man told police that on March 6 someone entered his residence on the 6800 block of Oakton Street when he was not home. The man said nothing appeared to be missing. An investigation was pending.

A 88-year-old Niles man told police that on March 6 at his home on the 6800 block of Seward Street he heard a loud noise at his back door and reportedly found the door to have been forcibly opened. The victim's son called 911. An investigation was pending.

VANDALISM
Someone between March 6 and March 7 reportedly spray-painted an obscene image of a male body part on the side wall outside a residence in the 7700 block of Oleander Avenue.

IDENTITY THEFT
A 20-year-old man who lives on the 9800 block of Huber, said someone used his Social Security number March 7 to apply for a tax refund. The victim said it is the third consecutive year a similar attempt has been made.

THEFT
Someone allegedly opened a victim's locked locker March 7 at a fitness center on the 6300 block of Touhy Avenue. The offender reportedly stole the victim's brown leather wallet containing $60, credit cards and an Illinois driver's license.

A 17-year-old Niles man said someone entered his 2007 Toyota between March 2 and March 5 in a parking lot on the 7500 block of Harlem, and stole his wallet and school ID card.

A 47-year-old woman reported that on March 5 another woman, between 35 and 45 years old, wearing dark clothing, took an iPhone from her purse while the bag was in a shopping cart at a grocery store on the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The value of the phone is estimated at $300.

THREATS
A 41-year-old Niles woman reported to police March 6 that her ex-boyfriend has been calling her home on the 7200 block of Lee Street since he was served with papers regarding child support. The suspect allegedly said that when he returned from a trip to Mexico he would hunt down the victim and make her pay.

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MAINE SOUTH

Trouble brews for Maine South student charged in coffee-cup theft

A Maine South High School student was charged with theft after he was accused of stealing a coffee mug belonging to a teacher.

Park Ridge Police arrested Kevin Jiang, 18, of the 700 block of Busse Highway, Park Ridge, March 1 in connection with the Feb. 24 incident. Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen said Jiang was accused of entering a Maine South classroom during the school day, taking a coffee mug from the room and disposing of it in a restroom's trash can.

The school's dean was notified of the incident Feb. 28, Jogmen said.

Jiang was released on his own recognizance and assigned an April 9 court date.

SCHOOLS BRIEFS

Two more pertussis cases reported in District 64

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 was notified last week that two additional students had recently been diagnosed with pertussis, also known as whooping cough.

Lincoln Middle School, 200 S. Lincoln Ave., Park Ridge, was notified March 5 by the Cook County Department of Public Health that a seventh-grader had contracted the highly contagious bacterial infection.

The same day, Roosevelt School, 1001 S. Fairview Ave., Park Ridge, learned that a fourth-grader had been diagnosed with pertussis, as well.

Since November there have been 12 cases of whooping cough reported in District 64, five of them at Lincoln.

Maine East students win awards at leadership contest

Several Maine East High School students took home awards at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America section competition on Feb. 17.

Ribbons were given in areas including:
- Preschool literature - Julie Joseph, first place; the team of Aarti Tahiliani and Hedi Martinez, first place; and the team of Margherita Giovenco and Michelle Vilchez, first place.
- Fashion apparel construction - Masera Ahmed, semi-formal/formal wear, second place; Shiva Sabet, casual wear, second place; and Femy Chirayath and Sharlin Usmani, casual wear, third place.
- Culinary arts - Nishi Prajepati, salad proficiency, second place, and Ahmad Qamar, salad proficiency, third place.

Toronto, pronto.

Porter's Downtown terminal is mere minutes from Toronto's world-famous shopping, dining, and entertainment.
About 600 people attended the 24th annual Taste of Morton Grove on March 15.
Though final totals were not in, the event raised an estimated $45,000, said Jacky Liston, executive director of the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce, which helped with the project.
Among the 25 organizations to benefit from the Taste are the Morton Grove Baseball and Softball Commission, the village Historical Society, Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserve, Misericordia, Autistic Kids Foundation and the American Brain Tumor Foundation.
This year the Morton Grove Foundation enlisted the assistance of 20 local restaurants, which donated the food and the time, Karp said.

People wait in line for food from Graziano's at Taste of Morton Grove, a community event that raises money for area charities, on March 8.

BELOW: Tony Kalogerakos (right), of Morton Grove, reacts after winning a prize as Ron and Pat Martin, also of Morton Grove, look at his winning ticket at Taste of Morton Grove on March 8.
K-9 visit adds bite to law enforcement class

The star of a recent Niles police presentation at Northridge Preparatory School wasn’t a police officer or commander — it was a four-legged local hero named Odin.

Niles Police Officer Marijo Zawilla brought her partner, Odin, a Belgian Malinois, to participate in a canine demonstration in the gymnasium at Northridge Prep in Niles on Feb. 21. The demonstration was for students in a new CSI class at Northridge.

During the demonstration, Odin quickly searched the walls, chairs and other items for 1 gram of marijuana that Zawilla hid earlier. The K-9 found the illegal substance in less than a minute.

Students at Northridge Prep watched in amazement as the dog quickly sniffed out the drugs.

Later in the demonstration, a man dressed in a puffy protective suit came in and was pretending to be an offender. On command, Odin ran up to the man and started biting and pulling on the arm of the body suit.

A few weeks ago, Odin was instrumental in two real armed robberies that took place in Niles and he recently located heroin in a vehicle.

"They need a lot of confidence to do this job," Zawilla said of the dogs. She has been training with Odin for three years.

In order to help boost the dogs' confidence, Zawilla said that in training they often let the dog win.

So, what motivates Odin to listen to his partner? Surprising it is not dog treats. It's a game of tug-of-war.

As a reward, Odin receives a few minutes of tug-of-war play with a chew toy and his tail wagged enthusiastically during the Northridge demonstration when he was given a chance to play short games.

Students had an opportunity to ask questions in-between the two demonstrations. Zawilla shared that Odin only understands Dutch since he's from Holland, but Zawilla is able to communicate with him through hand signals.

Zawilla explained that some dogs are friendly with strangers and others are more protective. Odin is only friendly around Zawilla and her family, she said. When her son is gone for periods of time, she has Odin smell his clothing before seeing him again.

Students seemed to enjoy the presentation.

"I thought it was really interesting," said Bobby Hang, a 10th-grader at Northridge.

Bill Whalen, dean of students, started the CSI class at Northridge this year and has had various members of law enforcement talk to the students. Students have also visited the Niles Police Department.

"I just want to expose the kids to different kinds of law enforcement," Whalen said.

NORTHRIDGE PREP

Niles Police Department K-9 handler Marijo Zawilla takes her dog, Odin, through the steps for searching a room for narcotics during a demonstration Feb. 21 at Northridge Preparatory School in Niles. | MICHELLE LAVIGNE-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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Jayendra Shah is the newest $2-million winner from the Illinois Lottery's "Platinum Payout 20X," according to a news release from the lottery.

Shah bought his ticket on Feb. 16 at N&M grocery store in Niles, the release stated.

Shah and his family were presented with an oversized, commemorative check March 7 by Illinois Lottery representatives, the release stated.

According to the release, Shah said he remembered buying the ticket "as if it was yesterday.

"I was at home when I decided to scratch my ticket. I thought I was just going to win $50," Shah said. "Then as I continued scratching I thought it was $100. I was shocked when I realized it was a lot more than that. I thought I was going crazy - crazy, in a good way."

He added that he feels blessed and is thrilled beyond words: "God has given me the best gift ever!"

Shah, who has been working since he was 13 years old, said his lottery win could not have come at a better time, the release stated.

"I just bought a house in Niles about eight months ago," he said. "This is going to help me pay the mortgage."

He also plans to help some of his family members pay their education bills and go back to Baroda, India, to visit his family.
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Real estate information goes green

BY JULIE MORSE

Green is the color of the month — from St. Patrick’s Day, to spring bulbs, and now to the Multiple Listing Service.

At the recommendation of green-certified Realtors, and to better serve environmentally-conscious consumers, Midwest Real Estate Data (MRED) has recently integrated a variety of green design, disclosure and data verification elements to its MLS listing service for the Chicagoland area. This information is either noted on the main listing, or accessed through the Walk Score website to the Walk Score website to correct it. The information is out there, and MRED’s goal is to make it more convenient for our users.”

There are other new tools available to consumers on the MLS related to green choices. For example, they and their Realtors can now search by green parameters, like LEED certification or energy efficiency ratings. To better protect consumers from washings — ill-informed marketing practices that are perceived to make a home sound more environmentally friendly than it might really be — there are also up to 14 different disclosures that green builders can fill out to stand by those assertions. These enhancements also make it easier for appraisers to gain better access to green and utility-savings information when it comes to secure green financing for So-designated properties. For more information, contact your local Realtor.

Julie Morse is a Realtor in Illinois and Wisconsin.
HOT PROPERTIES BY ROB PISKAC

Brick split-level
'60s-era property features updated kitchen

9204 Merrill Ave., Morton Grove — $349,000

Constructed in 1966, this 1,696-square-foot bi-level sits on a quarter-acre lot and comes with a two-car garage. Highlights of the kitchen include modern appliances, hardwood flooring and granite countertops. The lower-level family room has carpeted floors, recessed lighting and sliding-glass doors to the back yard. A three-bedroom, 1.5-bath home at 8847 N. Moody Ave. in Morton Grove is on the market for $265,000. The all-brick, ranch-style house has 1,250 square feet of living space. Highlights include a family room in the basement with a large cedar closet, and a lovely patio for family gatherings. The property location is convenient to shopping, dining, parks and downtown. George Torres of Dream Town Realty is the listing agent.

ON THE MARKET
A ROUNDP OF NEW LISTINGS

A two-bedroom, two-bath home at 5500 Lincoln Avenue, Unit 100-W, in Morton Grove is on the market for $314,999. The rehabbed condo, built in 1972, has 1,250 square feet of living space. Highlights include new baths with porcelain tile and a remodeled kitchen that features granite countertops, maple cabinetry and stainless steel appliances. The unit also has updated electrical and plumbing systems. Carol Mayer of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is the listing agent.

A four-bedroom, three-bath home at 8911 W. Monroe St. in Morton Grove is on the market for $388,000. The contemporary-style home was built in 1957. Highlights of the completely remodeled, two-story house include hardwood flooring, a new kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, a huge master suite with walk-in closet, and a large yard. Giovanni Laverde of Coldwell Banker Residential is the listing agent.

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

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Source: ChicagoBlockShopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.
Political novice takes on Jan Schakowsky for her ‘safe seat’

**BY SUN-TIMES MEDIA**

In the 2010 general election, liberal Democrat Rep. Jan Schakowsky was opposed for re-election by a real scrapper on the right, Joel Pollak, as well as by a mild-mannered Green Party candidate, Simon Ribeiro.

Political handicappers thought Pollak, who did his best to paint Schakowsky as soft on Israel, might give her a run for her money. But Schakowsky won decisively, doubling Pollak’s vote and, of course, leaving Ribeiro in the dust.

The lesson: Schakowsky, who has served the North Side and north suburban 9th District in Congress since 1999 — after a decade in the Illinois House — enjoys about as safe a seat as a seat can be.

This time around, Pollak is gone. He is not running in the GOP primary. But Ribeiro is back, this time taking on Schakowsky in the Democratic primary.

Nobody is predicting an upset.

In her 13 years in Washington, Schakowsky, 67, has built a record as one of the most progressive members of Congress, to the point of giving a certain more moderate Democrat, President Barack Obama, occasional grief. She has consistently urged Obama to stand more firm in negotiations with Republicans on Capitol Hill, and she was among the last Democrats to sign on to the president’s landmark Affordable Care Act — because she wanted stronger pro-choice abortion provisions. She is a leader in the House on women’s issues.

Ultimately, Schakowsky says, she voted for the health-care reform package, though it fell short of what she had fought for, because compromise was necessary to achieve a greater good. Unfortunately, she says, Republicans have thrown out the spirit of compromise.

“That’s our business, to compromise,” Schakowsky said, in a meeting with members of the Chicago Sun-Times Editorial Board. “That’s what we do.”

Battle lines are being drawn in Washington, she said, because the nation is “at a real crossroads” when it comes to “values and the soul of the country.” Democrats and Republicans, she said, hold fundamentally different views on the role of government, whom government should serve, and issues such as the growing income gap.

Ribeiro, 30, is a Catholic high school teacher and a former public school substitute teacher, jobs in which he says he has seen first-hand the consequences of our nation’s misplaced priorities — spending far too much on wars abroad and the “war on drugs,” rather than, for example, on education.

He would oppose bombing Iran, if it came to that, to stop it from building a nuclear bomb. And he would decriminalize marijuana.

When asked whether the administrations of either President George W. Bush or Obama have pursued any policies that might be unconstitutional, Ribeiro singled out the Patriot Act, enacted under Bush and reauthorized under Obama. He said it gives the government far too much power to probe American citizens’ private records and communications. Ribeiro also said he’s troubled that Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which allows the military to indefinitely detain terror suspects, including American citizens arrested in the United States, without charge.

Schakowsky, though an Obama loyalist in Washington, has been a consistent critic of both Bush and Obama on civil liberty and human rights issues. The United States, she says, needs “a national conversation” on the proper use of drone attacks and private military contractors, such as the company formerly known as Blackwater. Those sorts of arms-reach tactics, she said, could be the troubling “future of warfare.”

Family’s ‘mysteries’ call for staying on their case

**IN every household lingers a lifelong mystery.**

Who left the empty toilet roll in the bathroom and didn’t replace it?

I considered using forensics techniques to nail the offender, but those CSI guys banned me from the set.

In every family, there is someone-secret that permeates our home.

The “empty vessel” phenomenon permeates our home. When I open the fridge door, I groan. There, behind the milk jug, is an empty pitcher that once brimmed with iced tea.

Contemplating what to cook for dinner, I search the freezer for ham.

The likely perp is my young-est, because he looks the guiltiest.

He contributes to the “missing shoe” phenomenon. When the mailman or friend or irate bifi col-

And when a shoe is not available, Kirby improvises. He trots forward with an item between his teeth and I cringe in horror.

On a bad day, it’s underwear, but today, it’s a dirty crew sock.

With a showman’s flourish, Kirby drops it in the glaring sunlight for God and our guests to see.
Noted women's author to speak

Nationally-known spokeswoman and leading voice for young feminist issues Amy Richards brings her message to Oakton on March 22. The free event is part of Women's History Month at Oakton.

Richards is the author of "Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future," and co-founder of the Third Wave Foundation, an organization for young feminist activists between the ages of 15 and 30. Her talk, scheduled at 7 p.m., at Oakton's Performing Arts Center, 1660 E. Golf Road, will be followed by a screening of HBO's "Gloria: In Her Own Words," for which she served as a consultant.

Oakton also will celebrate Women's History Month with the Chicago Writers Series at 6 p.m. March 27 at Oakton's Performing Arts Center. The series features Angela Jackson, a poet, playwright, and novelist who produced her first book of poetry, "Voodoo Love Magic," in 1974. A recipient of numerous literary honors, including the Carl Sandburg Award, Jackson's first novel, "Where I Must Go," was published in 2009.

To view the full slate of events celebrating Women's History Month at Oakton, visit www.oakton.edu/whm.

Social-emotional learning workshop

Learn more about social and emotional learning on April 7 at Oakton, sponsored by Rush NeuroBehavioral Center, the conference, "Implementing Social and Emotional Learning for all Students." is designed for parents, teachers, and allied health and medical professionals. Ruth Cross, an educator for more than three decades and a trainer who leads workshops around the state geared to demonstrating that social and emotional learning promotes success in school and life, will serve as the speaker.

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to explain the social emotional competencies and how these relate to academic achievement; positive student development; and reductions in negative student behaviors. They will also plan and implement a systemic approach to social and emotional learning as part of their school district/school improvement process.

The conference will run from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Oakton's Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Registration fee is $50 before March 16 ($65 after March 16). Upon completion, participants will be eligible for continuing education credits. To register or for a detail program brochure, contact Oakton's Alliance for Lifelong Learning at (847) 635-1808 or visit the Rush NeuroBehavioral Center events page at www.rnbc.org.

Passport series in Glenview

Passport to the World, a series of popular lectures offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton, lands at Glenview's VI at the Glen, starting March 20.

The four-week series takes flight with "China on the World Stage," an examination of how China has re-emerged as a political, economic, and military world power.

Other lectures include "The Democratization of Arabs?" (March 27); "Operation Freedom: The Berlin Airlift" (April 3); and "Did Marx Forget Today's Economic Crisis?" (April 10).

Featured lectures meet 1-2:15 p.m. Tuesdays at VI, the Glen, 2500 Indigo Lane, Glenview.

The series-only fee is $40 for in-district residents age 60 and over, and $55 for out-of-district residents and those under age 60. Seating is limited.

All registrants will be charged an $8 non-refundable processing fee at the time of registration. However, students who register online will only be charged once per semester for an unlimited number of courses. Those registering in person, by fax, or mail, or fax will be charged an $8 fee with each registration form.

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

Study from home

Enhance professional development at home by enrolling in online courses offered through the Oakton Alliance for Lifelong Learning.

Medical Math (HEA C15-02)

- Ideal for students in any medical field, learn how to calculate medication dosages and use scientific formulas.

Teaching Math: Grades 4-6 (TCR A13-302) - This course will help new teachers and seasoned pros reinvent their math teaching. Learn easy, inexpensive, and creative ways to help students conquer fractions, multiplication, division, and more.

Enhancing Language Development in Childhood (TCR B03-302) - Discover how children learn to process language and how they become proficient speakers and thinkers.

Featured classes have a course fee of $114 ($75 for in-district seniors) and run March 21 through May 11. All registrants will be charged an $8 non-refundable processing fee at the time of registration. For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, including registration and fee information, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3.
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Lincolnwood orchestra presents new Korean music

By Elizabeth Owens-Schiele
Contributor

When the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra performs “Sounds of Korea” on Sunday, March 18 at the Lincolnwood Community Center, founder and music director Philip Simmons will introduce Isang Yun's Taps for Strings and two works commissioned by the Sejong Cultural Society especially for this concert: wu-ri-no-rae (our song) by Chicago composer Bun Young Lee and Images from Folk Tales for Violin and String Orchestra by Sung-Ki Kim.

Violinist Jennifer Cha also performs Fritz Kreisler's Prélude and Allegro at the concert that spotlights Korean classical music and performers.

A violinist since the age of 4, Cha, who hails from Seoul, Korea, said, “I love playing Korean pieces and performing them for audiences because as a Korean-American, I feel that it is very important to raise the awareness of Korean culture.”

Cha, 16, who now lives in Naper-ville, explained that, “I have a special connection to Korean music having been exposed to traditional Korean culture growing up in Korea. Most of all, I like that I can bring life to the notes on the page.”

New works

Cha will be performing a newly commissioned Korean piece composed by Sung-Ki Kim, who is the head of the music composition department at the Korean National University of Arts in Seoul.

The 20-piece string Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra will be led by Philip Simmons, its founder and music director, who also founded the American Music Festivals.

Those in attendance will hear some of the finest Korean classical music ever written and be treated to a stellar performance by one of Chicago’s most talented young violinists,” said Simmons, who founded AMF as a nonprofit corporation in 1997 to promote cultural exchange and American music in the United States and abroad.

AMF represents the Chicago-based Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestra of the Hawaiian Islands where Simmons now lives, and participates in a variety of programs of international exchange. Last November, the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra performed with the Sones de Mexico Ensemble in the Pilsen neighborhood, and is currently working with Chicago's Bulgarian and Bosnian communities.

In addition to Sunday's performance, AMF also is planning a presentation on Korean music for District 74 students at Lincoln Hall Middle School on Friday, March 16.

“Korea seemed like a good fit to promote 'world music' in Lincoln-wood,” Simmons said, “and we found a wonderful partner in the Sejong Cultural Society.”

Korean music is composed of simple folk tunes and melodies, describes Cha, yet ornamental elements generating excitement and flavor are interwoven into the melody to make it “virtuostic” and meandering throughout the piece.

The 'Sounds of Korea' are very open and flowing,” said Cha. “There are also many signature stylistic elements such as accents and slides. Open strings are widely used to mimic traditional Korean instru-ments such as the Gayageum and the Daegeum.

Korean subtleties

“This is brilliant music that challenges the performer, but is never self-indulgent,” Simmons said. “Korean music is closely linked to the pentatonic scale, with memorable and charming melodies that are often bittersweet. The Korean composers use a variety of interesting effects for the strings including exaggerated glissandi and other percussive techniques, evoking the sounds of their native instruments. The music is simultaneously sophisticated and sensitive, it is very unique.”

As the ensemble explored the music of the Far East, members also immersed themselves in the culture and tradition of Korea to better understand the music and the philosophy behind it.

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FAMILY FRIENDLY

Kids will learn about — and even touch — some exotic animals at the Exploritorium in Skokie at 11 a.m. March 24.

Exploritorium lets kids meet amazing critters

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Children will meet a variety of exotic creatures when Skokie's Exploritorium presents Amazing Animals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 24 at the Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St.

The event begins in the multipurpose room where the presenters will show kids and parents animals they might not normally see.

"Some of the animals [they] will be able to pet," said Mary Grear, Exploritorium and special events supervisor for the Skokie Park District. "The children will learn a little bit about the animals' habits — what they eat, where they live, their different environments."

There will be time for audience members to ask questions during the 45-minute presentation.

"Then the families can go downstairs and play in the Exploritorium until 1 p.m.,” Grear said.

The cost is $5 per person for residents, $7 for nonresidents. The show is recommended for ages 3 and older.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2700, or visit skokieparks.org/exploritorium.

Dino might

The author of 34 books on dinosaurs will share her knowledge with families during Dinosaur Encounter at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo, Harwood Heights. Janet Riehecky will bring along more than 40 fossils and museum-quality replicas. Registration is required.

For details, call (708) 867-7828 or visit eisenhowerlibrary.org.

Skate to celebrate

You and your kids don't have to wear green to the St. Patrick's Day Skate from 12:05 to 1:20 p.m. Saturday at IceLand, 8435 Ballard Road, Niles — but it might be nice. After all, they will be playing Irish tunes while you skate. Admission is $5, $3 for skate rental.

For details, call (847) 297-8010 or visit niles-parks.org.

Crafty way to mark the day

You also can join a St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Skokie Heritage Museum, 8081 Floral Ave., from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday. Kids 4 and older; with a parent, will learn a little about Irish culture and St. Patrick. Then kids can make a simple Irish craft at this family event. Cost is $5 per child for residents, $7 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 3000, or visit skokieparks.org.

Merry young time

Singing, dancing and instrument playing are all planned for the Merry Music Makers family music class for ages 1 month to 5 years with an adult, from 10:20 to 10:50 a.m. or 11 to 11:30 a.m. Monday at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. Reservations are required.

For details, call (847) 825-3123 or visit parkridgelibrary.org.
MOVIE REVIEW

Show ‘Jump’ started

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

21 JUMP STREET

* * * 1/2

Going back to high school might not seem so bad — if you had a badge and a gun within easy reach.

Those items don’t do much to help the clueless undercover cops who are assigned to bust a high school drug ring in this rude and crude, but surprisingly clever and occasionally hilarious parody of the late-’80s Fox TV show that launched the career of Johnny Depp. Popularity, figuring out how to be cool, coping with girls and parents and coaches and teachers — those are the real death traps in this “21 Jump Street.”

Drug dealers and motorcycle gangs are child’s play.

In fact, the framework of the original “Jump Street,” which featured Depp and crew as undercover agents posing as high school students, begins to seem like an awkward contrivance whenever the plot swings back around to police business.

What this at-times-inspired action/comedy remake — dreamed up by co-star Jonah Hill and screenwriter Michael Bacall (“Project X”) and directed by the guys who made the similarly crazed animated comedy “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs” — does best involves taking a ridiculous premise and making it far, far more outrageous. Not to mention foul-mouthed, politically incorrect and insanely violent. In other words, don’t expect much of the original “Jump Street” playbook.

What do we get instead?

Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum star in “21 Jump Street,” a new comedy based loosely on the ’80s television series.

Hill and Tatum as undercover officers Schmidt and Jenko, respectively. This is a major revelation in the film, as Tatum, very funny throughout and clearly having a blast playing off of his image as a hunky but not-so-bright action/romance leading man.

The new “Jump Street” opens with a flashback to Hill and Tatum during their high school days, when each was a loser in his own way — though dorky Schmidt, as a member of the Jugglers Society with a horrific Eminem dyed-blonde haircut, was much more of a crash and burn than snob Jenko, who basically couldn’t make the grade in class. This unlikely pair bonds during police academy training, swapping brains and brawn as needed. The same applies to the recently revived Jump Street squad, where much role-reversal comedy ensues. What’s more, a lot has changed in the years since our heroes left high school: Now environmentalism and tolerance is in and the big drug dealer on campus (David Franco, brother of James) sings protest songs about recycling.

You have to admire a film that turns out to be so much better than anyone had any right to expect, and that applies to the new “Jump Street” — though it certainly isn’t going to win any new converts to the Hard R-rated school of comedy. For every example of pure gross-out comedy, there are at least one or two instances in which the film earns its laughs through more sophisticated means: For example, the fantasy of its protagonists and still ringing true, for the most part, about the universally endured horrors of secondary education.

Unless you were home-schooled, there’s bound to be something in “21 Jump Street” that makes you laugh. Don’t be surprised, though, if you cringe first.
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MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH - MAY 13TH

Allgauer's on the Riverfront's spectacular, award-winning Mother's Day Champagne Brunch features over 100 decadent items ranging from Bubbly Champagne and Mimosa, Oysters on the Half Shell, Fett & Eat Shrimp, Snow Crab, Dozens of Fresh Salads and Made-To-Order Omelets to Hand Carved Prime Rib, a Variety of Hot Entrees, Special Kids Buffet, a Never-Ending Dessert Buffet & a Chocolate Fountain!

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21 JUMP STREET
Rated: R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, drug material, teen drinking and some violence
Stars: Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Two inept young cops (Hill and Tatum) go undercover at their old high school to bust a drug ring. Phil Lord and Chris Miller ("Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs") directed the action-comedy. Reviewed in this section.

CASA DE MI PADRE
Rated: R for bloody violence, language, some sexual content and drug use
Stars: Will Ferrell, Gael Garcia Bernal, Diego Luna
The Alvarez brothers (Ferrell and Luna) find themselves in a war with Mexico's most feared drug lord (Bernal) when they vow to protect their father's ranch. "Saturday Night Live" writer Matt Piedmont directed the comedy.

JEFF, WHO LIVES AT HOME
Rated: R for language including sexual references and some drug use
Stars: Jason Segel, Ed Helms, Susan Sarandon
A slacker (Segel) bonds with his disparaging brother (Helms) while helping him investigate his wife's possible infidelity. Jay and Mark Duplass ("Cyrus") wrote and directed the comedy.

SEEKING JUSTICE
Rated: R for violence, language and brief sexuality
Stars: Nicolas Cage, Guy Pearce, January Jones
After his wife is assaulted, a huband (Cage) makes a deal with a vigilante group to punish her attacker — then

FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY
FOOTNOTE
Rated: PG for thematic elements, brief nudity, language and smoking
Stars: Shiloh Bar-Aba, Lior Ashkenazy, Aliza Rosen
The competition between a father and son (Bar-Aba, Rosen) who both are ambitious Talmudic scholars reaches a new peak when the father receives a high honor. Joseph Cedar ("Beaufort") directed the drama. In Hebrew with subtitles.

STILL PLAYING
GOOD DEEDS
Rated: PG-13 for sexual content, language, some violence and thematic material
Stars: Tyler Perry, Gabrielle Union, Thandie Newton
A successful businessman (Perry) finds his well-ordered life changing when he becomes involved with a cleaning woman (Newton) in his office building. Perry also wrote and directed the romance.

JOHN CARTER
Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action
Stars: Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins, Willem Dafoe
Any chance that "Tarzan" author Edgar Rice Burrough's second most famous creation might catch on with the general public — pretty much bites the red Martian dust with this much-anticipated, mega-budgeted misfire from Pixar wizard Andrew Stanton ("Wall-E"). There are a fair number of impressively entertaining scenes in this tale of a transplanted Civil War hero (Kitsch) fighting to save a Martian princess (Collins), yet somehow the story fails to come to truly fantastic, adventurous life.

DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX
Rated: PG for brief mild language
Stars: Danny DeVito, Zac Efron, Betty White, Ed Helms
A young boy who learns how a mysterious old hermit (Helms) turned a natural paradise into a wasteland decides to make a difference in his home town. Chris Renaud and Kyle Balda ("Despicable Me") directed this animated adaptation of the Dr. Seuss tale.

SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
Rated: PG-13 for some violence, sexual content and brief language
Stars: Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt
A fisheries expert (McGregor) is asked by a wealthy sheik to bring the desert. Fortunately, they learn what's most important in life: doors.

WANDERLUST
Rated: R for sexual content, graphic nudity, language and drug use
Stars: Paul Rudd, Jennifer Aniston, Ken Marino
Producer Judd Apatow's Hard-R-rated touch is lightly applied in this surprisingly low-key and consistently entertaining comedy romance. Unemployed and homeless yuppies George and Linda (Rudd and Aniston, nicely matched) can't quite get comfortable -- not with George's pigish ultra-capitalist brother (Marino) or the neo-hippie commune they stumble into on the road. Fortunately, they learn what's most important in life: doors.

JEFF, WHO LIVES AT HOME
Rated: R for language including sexual references and some drug use
Stars: Jason Segel, Ed Helms, Susan Sarandon
A slacker (Segel) bonds with his dispersing brother (Helms) while helping him investigate his wife's possible infidelity. Jay and Mark Duplass ("Cyrus") wrote and directed the comedy.

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NEW ON VIDEO

Mild Payne and apocalypse wow

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

THE DESCENDANTS

** **
Rated: R for language including some sexual references
Stars: George Clooney, Judy Greer, Matthew Lillard
** Not up to writer/director Alexander Payne’s (“Sideways”) previous efforts in terms of sharp-edged, acerbic brilliance (Academy Award notwithstanding), but quietly satisfying nonetheless. No big dramatic moments here, but plenty of nicely observed small ones, as devoted family man Clooney struggles to cope while his unfaithful wife lies in a coma and his teenage girls threaten to unravel. Extras include deleted scenes, music videos and “A Conversation With Alexander Payne and George Clooney.”

MELANCHOLIA

* * 1/2
Rated: R for some graphic nudity, sexual content and language
Stars: Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Kiefer Sutherland
** Controversial Danish director Lars Von Trier juxtaposes global catastrophe and chamber drama as a fantastically wealthy and fantastically miserable family lives a last few days before a rogue planet smashes into the Earth. There are moments of haunting beauty, particularly in the film’s eight-minute visual overture to the apocalypse. But “Melancholia” is also a cold, contemptuous, misanthropic piece of work, with a philosophy blending nihilism and petulance.

RECENT RELEASES

IMMORTALS

★★★★
Rated: R for sequences of strong bloody violence, and a scene of sexuality
Stars: Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, John Hurt
** More entertaining than you might expect, especially compared to last year’s punishingly bad “Clash of the Titans.” “Immortals” boils the ancient Greek myth of Theseus down to a grudge match between our boy (future Man of Steel Cavill), and barbaric King Hyperion (Rourke), who is not a nice man at all. There’s plenty of hacking, bludgeoning, blood-geysering 3-D carnage, but the real treat is the spectacular CGI eye-candy dreamed up by director Tarsem Singh (“The Fall”).

JACK AND JILL

★★
Rated: PG for crude material including suggestive references, language and comic violence
Stars: Adam Sandler, Al Pacino, Katie Holmes
** A one-joke movie and more entertaining than you might expect, especially compared to last year’s punishingly bad “Clash of the Titans.” “Immortals” boils the ancient Greek myth of Theseus down to a grudge match between our boy (future Man of Steel Cavill), and barbaric King Hyperion (Rourke), who is not a nice man at all. There’s plenty of hacking, bludgeoning, blood-geysering 3-D carnage, but the real treat is the spectacular CGI eye-candy dreamed up by director Tarsem Singh (“The Fall”).

ALSO NEW

BAG IT

“Plastics” might have been good career advice in the 1960s, but the global use of plastic bags and bottles has become a major environmental threat. This Docurama documentary explores the problem and proposes solutions.

HAPPY FEET TWO

- Tap-dancing Emperor penguin Mumble (Elijah Wood) returns in this sequel to the 2006 hit, this time helping his son cope with misfit problems. George Miller (“Mad Max”) returns to direct the animated family comedy. Rated PG for some rude humor and mild peril.

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN TWO HOURS

- As the title suggests, this A&E documentary tells the 14-billion-year story of planet Earth in 120 minutes — most likely skipping over a few details.

THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

- Martin Scorsese’s controversial 1988 film imagining an alternative fate for Jesus Christ gets the Criterion Collection Blu-ray treatment including a restored hi-definition digital transfer. Extras include commentary by Scorsese, production stills, research materials, location footage shot by Scorsese, and an interview with composer Peter Gabriel.

WALLACE & GROMIT’S THE WORLD OF INVENTION

- This six-part BBC series features Wallace as the host introducing viewers to unusual real-world contraptions.

NEXT WEEK

STAGE

"Absolute Hell," through April 29 at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. In London one month after World War II has ended the Nues North High School auditorium, 9800 Lawler, Skokie. Performances are Tuesdays at 1 p.m. (April 3 only); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (no show 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. and 7 p.m. (April 3 and 15 only). Tickets: $25-$50. For tickets, call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

"Fools," by Neil Simon, will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through April 29 at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 4 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: $32 and $35; $27 seniors; $20 students. Call (773) 761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com.

"The Cherry Orchard," by Anton Chekhov, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. March 25 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood, Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 27 in the Niles North High School auditorium, 9800 Lawler, Skokie. Tickets are $10 and may be reserved by calling (847) 262-2122.

"Hunger," through March 25 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. During the 900-day Nazi siege of Leningrad, a Russian botanist is charged with protecting a cache of valuable seeds for future generations. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 4 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $32 and $35; $27 seniors; $20 students. Call (773) 761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com.

"The Light in the Piazza" will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through April 29 at the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; and 4 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: $32 and $35; $27 seniors; $20 students. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolothetrical.com.

"The Ten Chimneys," through April 15 at Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Performances are Tuesdays at 1 p.m. (April 3 only) and 7:30 p.m. (April 3 only); Wednesdays: 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. (April 8 and 15 only). Tickets: $25-$60. Young Adult tickets (25 and under) are $10. Call (847) 973-6300 or visit www.northlight.org. Salon Series panel discussion will be held on March 25 at 1 p.m. and will feature a historian from The Ten Chimneys Foundation; reservations required at (847) 679-9501 or specialtyevents@northlight.org

CLASSICAL

Bella Voce a cappella choral ensemble presents "Music of the Sistine Chapel," a program of choral motets composed by members of the Papal Choir (the choir of the Sistine Chapel), at 7:30 p.m. March 26 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. $38 premium; $30 general; $35 for students. Visit http://bellavoce.org or call (847) 775-6277.

Chicago a cappella performs in the Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets are $35 for preferred seating, $28 for general admission, $22 for seniors, and $12 for students. For tickets, call (773) 281-7820 or visit www.chicagoacappella.org.

"Hunger," through March 25 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 27 in the Niles North High School auditorium, 9800 Lawler, Skokie. Tickets are $10 and may be reserved by calling (847) 262-2122.

"Hunger," through March 25 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago. During the 900-day Nazi siege of Leningrad, a Russian botanist is charged with protecting a cache of valuable seeds for future generations. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 4 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $32 and $35; $27 seniors; $20 students. Call (773) 761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com.

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Chamber Players will present "Blarney, Beethoven and Brahms" at 3 p.m. March 18 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. The program includes Frank Martin's Trio on Popular Irish Melodies; Beethoven's Irish Lieder for Violin, Cello, Flute and Piano; and Brahms' Piano Quartet in A Major. $15 in advance, $10 for seniors; $20/$15 at the door. Free admission for students. Visit www.chicagophilharmonic.org.


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.lssop.org.

Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra performs "Sounds of Korea" at 3 p.m. March 18 at the Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. The program includes "Our Song" by Eun Young Lee, "Images from Folk Tales" by Sungki Kim, and "Taps for Strings" by Isang Yun. In addition, violin soloist Jennifer Cha will perform "Praeludium and Allegro" by Fritz Kreisler. 

Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
5501 N. Kedzie, Chicago
Tickets: $18; $12 seniors and students
Call (312) 409-5670 or visit www.lssop.org

The Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra performs "Sounds of Korea" at 3 p.m. March 18 at the Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. The program includes "Our Song" by Eun Young Lee, "Images from Folk Tales" by Sungki Kim, and "Taps for Strings" by Isang Yun. In addition, violin soloist Jennifer Cha will perform "Praeludium and Allegro" by Fritz Kreisler.

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Mike Doughty says what he thinks

BY J.T. MORAND
jmorand@pioneerlocal.com

Anyone who has read Mike Doughty's memoir, The Book of Drugs, might get the feeling the singer/guitarist doesn't want to talk about his former band Soul Coughing, like the book said everything he had to say about the subject.

In it, he tells the story of playing a solo show in New Orleans after the band split up, when a woman came up to him and implored him to get back together with his friends. However, he's made it clear up to that point in the book that the other musicians who made up Soul Coughing are not his friends. After he told the woman that's not going to happen, she asked how he'll play "Casiotone Nation" without the rest of Soul Coughing.

He yelled in her face that his friends. After he told her, "I'm so glad you told me this. I'm sorry for yelling out, "Soul Coughing," in the middle of the shows. People appear to be genuinely shocked."

Doughty writes in The Book of Drugs about his self-esteem sinking to an all-time low during the Soul Coughing years and for a while after. At times, he believed the criticism from band members - Yuval Gabay, Sebastian Steinberg and Mark De Gli Antoni - in the book; he refers to them only as "the drummer," "the bass player," and "the sampler player."

But, the shows that make up his current tour called "The Book of Drugs: Concert, Reading, Q&A," which pulls into S.P.A.C.E. in Evanston, on March 22, and The Montrose Room, in Rosemont, on March 23, are your chance to safely ask questions about his relationship with Soul Coughing, the alternative rock band that somehow survived eight years, 1992 through 2000. Their best known single is "Super Bon Bon" off the 1996 album "Irresistible Bliss."

The tour is also in support of his two most recent solo albums, "Yes and Also Yes," which was released last year, and "The Question Jar Show," a live, two-disc album released in February.

Doughty doesn't pull any punches in the book or in conversation when it comes to Soul Coughing. He can't stand being referred to as "Mike Doughty of Soul Coughing" because of "indicates the present tense. He doesn't want to be associated with the other members whom, he says, own a majority interest in the songs he wrote, even the ones he wrote before meeting them.

The Soul Coughing years were dark, they were a time when his consumption of drugs transitioned from recreational to addiction.

"This tour is very specifically about answering the gnarly questions about Soul Coughing and talking about the darkness and the hurtfulness of those years," he said. "So, yeah, I welcome questions about that."

In the book, he tells of Soul Coughing fans showing up to his solo shows and shouting the titles of Soul Coughing songs, not knowing how much it hurt him. However, since the book was published in February, he's received apologies from fans.

"Now, it seems people are just startled by how dark it was," he said. "Now I'm getting people coming up and saying, 'I'm so glad you told me this. I'm so sorry for yelling at me.'"

Doughty was shocked to find out how much it hurt him. However, he's much happier and he's confident his songs are good. He can even laugh at the song "Na Na Nothing" from "Yes and Also Yes," which lists as co-writers Nikki Sixx of Motley Crue, Matthew Gerrard, who co-wrote and produced songs on the "High School Musical" soundtrack, and Dan Wilson, who has credits on Adele's album "21."

He said he lifted a small part from a song the three of them wrote, which he referred to as "a jaw-dropper of bad songness" to put in "Na Na Nothing" and therefore had to credit them. His song, however, is not bad songness.

"I felt like all the songs and all the recordings are exactly what I wanted them to be," he said. "I found so much satisfaction, I was so engaged with the music. It's been really amazing. It continues to be that way."
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GO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 88


Music Institute of Chicago, Nichols Concert Hall, 1690 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. March 18, 3 p.m.: Pianist Meng-Chieh Liu performs works by Robert Schumann, Isaac Albéniz, Fauré, Chopin and Liebermann. $25; $15 seniors; $10 students. March 31, 7:30 p.m.: The Three Choirs Festival, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Music Institute of Chicago Chorale. Joining the Music Institute of Chicago Chorale are City Voices, based in Oak Park, and the Choir of the First Congregational Church of La Grange. The program includes polyphonic works with brass by early Baroque composers Giovanni Gabrieli and Heinrich Schütz, as well as music by Henry Purcell, Gabriel Fauré, Percy Grainger and others. $15; $10 for seniors; $7 for students. April 15, 3 p.m.: Quintet Attacca and Axiom Brass perform a joint concert. $25; $15 seniors; $10 students. The Newberry Consort presents "Les Caractères de la Danse" at 3 p.m. April 15 at Northwestern University's Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, Evanston. Baroque dancers Paige Whitley-Bauguess and Thomas Baird perform 18th-century dance with accompaniment by The Newberry Consort on violin, harpsichord and cello. Pre-concert lecture begins one hour before the performance. $35; $5 for students. Visit www.newberryconsort.org.

Northwest Symphony Orchestra, Paul Vermel, music director, presents concerts at 3:30 p.m. Sundays in the Theatre for the Performing Arts at Maine West High School, 1755 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines. Pre-concert commentaries by Carolyn Paulin, a staff member of radio station WFMT, begin one hour prior to each concert. Tickets: $20; $15 for seniors; $10 for students. Children under age 14 are admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult. Visit www.northwestsymphony.org. March 18: "National Romanticism," featuring Ralph Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 5 and Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."

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Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. pickstaiger.org. March 16, 7:30 p.m.: Jeffrey Siegel's Keyboard Conversations, "Russian Rapture - Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky." $22; $16 for students.

Segovia Classical Guitar Series will be presented by the Northwestern University Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music and the Chicago Classical Guitar Society through April 14. All concerts take place at 7:30 p.m. at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, on Northwestern's Evanston campus. Call (847) 467-4000 or visit www.pickstaiger.org.

March 28: Two-time Grammy nominee Anoushka Shankar and guests will perform a program titled "Traveler." Shankar melds music of Spain with the ancient forms of Indian classical music. $26; $10 for students.

April 14: Eduardo Fernandez's program will conclude the 2012 Segovia series. $24; $10 for students.

Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra performs at 3 p.m. Sundays at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets are $26-$40; $13 for youth 17 and under. Free pre-concert lectures begin at 1:45 p.m. For tickets, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.svso.org. April 15: Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 4.

POPE/FOLK/JAZZ

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. March 24, 8 p.m.: Brit Floyd (Pink Floyd tribute show) — "A Foot In The Door" World Tour. $29.50, $39.50, $55. March 30-31, 8 p.m.: Celtic Woman. $32-$72.

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. APRIL 7:30 p.m.: Van Halen with special guest Kool & the Gang. $49.50, $79.50, $149.50. May 4: Rammstein — Made in Germany 1995-2011 Tour. May 26, 7 p.m.: LMFAO. $25, $35, $59.50, $69, $99.50. May 30, 6 p.m.: Nickelback with special guests Bush, Seether and My Darkest Days. $51.50, $65, $87.50, $96.50.
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Directed by ensemble member
K. TODD FREEMAN
Featuring ensemble members
ALANA ARENAS, MARIANN MAYBERRY and MOLLY REGAN

When Margie Walsh loses her job at a South Boston dollar store, she reaches out to her old friend and flame Mike, a Southie boy who made good when he became a successful doctor. What begins as an attempt to hit Mike up for a job takes on a threatening cast when Margie realizes the power that secrets from Mike's past life hold over his current one.

by STEPHEN ADLY GUIRGIS
Directed by ensemble member
ANNA D. SHAPIRO
Featuring ensemble members
IAN BARFORD, FRANCIS GUINAN, MOIRA HARRIS and JOHN MAHONEY

Shelah's family and friends plan a surprise birthday party for her. But the festivities are quickly overshadowed by a series of revelations that point to a dark secret in the family's past—revelations that leave Shelah trying to find faith, a footing and a truer sense of God.

by AMY HERZOG
Directed by ANNE KAUFFMAN
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Twenty-something American expats Zack and Abby live an enviably hip existence in up-and-coming Belleville, Paris. But a single encounter in the apartment they rent from landlords Afioune and Amina drastically tips the scales, revealing their idyllic life's feeble foundations. Anne Kaufman, director of Belleville's Yale Repertory Theatre premiere, directs this taut, thrilling exploration of the power of a lie.

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ART GALLERIES

Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. (847) 64-1500. Through April 29: Skokie Art Guild's 2012 Members Only spring exhibit. For information, visit www.skokieartguild.org.

Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood. March 20-24: "Viewpoints, Works in Fiber," featuring art by Barbara Schneider, Michelle Sales, Sally Schoch and Shelley Brucar. An artist's reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. March 20. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through March 23: "Two Plus Two = Jackson, Owens, Williams and Weatley." The exhibit features works by Preston Jackson, professor of sculpture at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago; Joyce Owens, curator of the Galleries Program at Chicago State University; Bernard Williams, a former instructor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Rhonda Weatley.

Services for Adults Staying in their Homes, Celebrating Singular Voices in Music, Northwestern University, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. www.oakton.edu/museum.

Evanston Art Guild, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. Through March 23: "Two Plus Two = Jackson, Owens, Williams and Weatley." The exhibit features works by Preston Jackson, professor of sculpture at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago; Joyce Owens, curator of the Galleries Program at Chicago State University; Bernard Williams, a former instructor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Rhonda Weatley.

S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, www.evansontime.com. (847) 492-8860. Shows at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise:


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Accordian master stays true to his art

BY DONALD LIEBENSON

Pescatore Palace is located at 3400 River Road, Franklin Park

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With his musical partner of 28 years, singer Luigi Lenzi, who passed away last year, Martino performed at Italian festivals and other venues. He has entertained an impressive array of politicians, including presidents Ronald Reagan and the elder George Bush. He and Lenzi were imported to California to perform at a private party for actor Roberto Benigni, the Oscar-winning star of "Life is Beautiful," who, like Lenzi, hailed from Tuscany.

At the Pescatore Palace Italian dinner and dance, Martino and Giannini will alternate between live and recorded music. The Volare Dancers will also perform.

Pop classics

In addition to "accordion classics," Martino will also perform the music of Frank Sinatra (he recorded a CD in 2008 entitled "Accordion to Sinatra"). "It's always part of the program," he said. "I have a passion for his music, and playing it on an acoustic accordion outfitted with MIDI technology gives it a unique flavor."

Martino belongs to the breed of enthusiastically, unashamedly old school entertainers dedicated to keeping a musical tradition alive. "You can't find accordion players on TV anymore unless you go to PBS," he notes. "So many of the composers of this music are no longer with us. Who carries the ball? Do young kids grasp this heritage? Who carries the ball?"

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**CORRECTION**

In a story last week on “The Houdini Box,” the Chicago Children’s Theatre production now at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie, the writer of the show’s book and lyrics was incorrectly named. Her name is Hannah Kohl. Pioneer Press regrets the error.

**OPENS NEXT WEEK!**

**AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE**
**GISSELLE**
March 22 – 25

**GO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15B**

Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with admission. Through June 17: “Ours To Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War.” The exhibition explores the achievements of Jewish men and women who were part of the American war effort on and off the battlefield. March 22, 6:30-8 p.m.: Elliot Lefkowitz, Loyola University and Sputnis Institute faculty member, leads a discussion of *Nazis on the Run: How Hitler’s Henchmen Fled Justice* by Gerald Steinacher, recipient of the 2011 National Jewish Book Award. Free with museum admission. Reservations recommended. March 25, 1:30-3 p.m.: Deborah Dash Moore discusses her book, *GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*. Her presentation will be followed by a book signing. Free with museum admission. Reservations recommended. April 5, 6:30 p.m.: “All the Missing Souls: A Personal History of the War Crimes Tribunals.” In partnership with the Illinois Holocaust & Genocide Commission, the museum presents former Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, David Scheffer, as he provides an insider’s account of the formation of the war crimes tribunals following atrocities in the Balkans, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Cambodia. The presentation will be followed by a book signing. Free with museum admission; reservations recommended. April 15, 2-3:30 p.m.: Linda Pressman discusses and signs her book, *Looking Up: A Memoir of Sisters, Survivors and Skokie*. 
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Horoscopes

For the week of March 21 - March 27

Aries (March 21 to April 19) Put your restlessness to good use by indulging the Arian love of exploring new places and seeking new challenges. There also could be a new romance waiting to be “discovered.”

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) A surprise message from someone in your past could lead to a long-awailed reunion with a close friend. Also, look for a workplace problem to be resolved in your favor.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Your self-confidence is rising, and that should be a significant factor in helping you adjust to a new social situation, as well as adjusting to a series of changes in the workplace.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Turnabout could be lots of fun when someone who previously accepted your tender, loving care without question now suggests that he or she wants to start taking care of you.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) Put the lessons you learned from past disappointments to work in planning your future. The way ahead opens to opportunities “purrrfectly” suited to the adventurous Lion.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to renew contacts with family members and/or old friends who somehow slipped off your personal viewing screen in recent years. Travel also is favored.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Most problems surrounding that recent personal situation have been resolved, and that means you should move on to other things that are important to you.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) Be careful how you advise a troubled friend. Even your wise counsel could be misunderstood. Better to suggest that he or she seek professional help.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Family problems once again dominate and, once again, everyone seeks your guidance in these matters. Later, you can indulge in some much-needed relaxation.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Some mixed signals create confusion in the workplace. Best advice: Ask for explanations before you attempt to deal with any of these matters on your own.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) A patch of roiling water in the workplace could be threatening, but stay the course and you’ll soon be clear of it. Then go out and have a great time with loved ones.

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The Catholic Cemeteries have been serving the Catholic community and their non-Catholic family members with pride and respect since 1837. We offer the finest selections of interment and entombment preferences, including cremation, with package plans to fit your budget. Your purchase may be made with a low-down payment and interest-free monthly installments and the prices at the time of purchase are locked in, regardless of future increases. Pre-plan your burial arrangements and have peace of mind now...and for your loved ones, peace of mind later.

Name
Address
Telephone
Email Address

Cemetery of Interest
City/State/Zip
Best Time to Contact

Personal information including e-mail address will be kept confidential and used only for responding to inquiries.

Catholic Cemeteries • 1400 South Wolf Road • Hillside, Illinois 60162-2197
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Sign a guest book, share memories and send flowers, gifts and charitable contributions online.
Visit legacy.pioneerlocal.com for a complete list of Death Notices and In Memoriams

SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Guest Book
Share your kind thoughts with the family and loved ones of those who have passed away by signing the online guest book:

www.legacy.pioneerlocal.com

PIONEER PRESS YOUR LOCAL SOURCE
Prep for the Top 10 Interview Questions
By Carole Martin, Monster Contributing Writer

Too many job seekers stumble through interviews as if the questions are coming out of left field. But many interview questions are to be expected. Study this list and plan your answers ahead of time so you'll be ready to deliver them with confidence.

1. What Are Your Weaknesses?
This is the most dreaded question of all. Handle it by minimizing your weakness and emphasizing your strengths. Stay away from personal qualities and concentrate on professional traits: “I am always working on improving my communication skills to be a more effective presenter. I recently joined Toastmasters, which I find very helpful.”

2. Why Should We Hire You?
Summarize your experiences: “With five years' experience working in the financial industry and my proven record of saving the company money, I could make a big difference in your company. I’m confident I would be a great addition to your team.”

3. Why Do You Want to Work Here?
The interviewer is listening for an answer that indicates you’ve given this some thought and are not sending out resumes just because there is an opening. For example, “I’ve selected key companies whose mission statements are in line with my values, where I know I could be excited about what the company does, and this company is very high on my list of desirable choices.”

4. What Are Your Goals?
Sometimes it’s best to talk about short-term and intermediate goals rather than locking yourself into the distant future. For example, “My immediate goal is to get a job in a growth-oriented company. My long-term goal will depend on where the company goes. I hope to eventually grow into a position of responsibility.”

5. Why Did You Leave (Or Why Are You Leaving) Your Job?
If you’re unemployed, state your reason for leaving in a positive context: “I managed to survive two rounds of corporate downsizing, but the third round was a 20 percent reduction in the workforce, which included me.”
If you are employed, focus on what you want in your next job: “After two years, I made the decision to look for a company that is team-focused, where I can add my experience.”

6. When Were You Most Satisfied In Your Job?
The interviewer wants to know what motivates you. If you can relate an example of a job or project when you were excited,
Help Wanted Full-Time

Plumbers Needed: Established North Shore Plumbing Contractor has full-time position(s) for experienced plumbers. Must have a minimum of 5 years experience in residential/commercial work. Must be able to work night shifts and weekends. Applications and resume sent to 132 P.O. Box 132, Highland Park, IL 60035/email: Winstonconstruction.com

Take charge of your career! Entry level openings now available for experienced Plumbers. Immediate Start. $40,000/yr. and up. No experience needed. Full Training Provided. Rapid Advancement. EOE. Apply to: Don@natabco.com

Sales Representatives Needed: www.salesmarketinggroup.com Do you have sales management experience? Have you demonstrated the ability to get the numbers? Are you able to motivate yourself and others? Are you trainable, capable of taking others? Are you looking for the right person to manage a new account? You will be helping to manage a group of friendly, up-and-coming sales reps in a variety of retail locations. Salary $40-60k. Email letter of interest to: newmarketing@salesmarketinggroup.com

Help Wanted Full-Time

Wood Finishing Assistant: For high end furniture company, experienced in spraying lacquers, sanding. Hazel Crest, IL 708-622-9061

Help Wanted Full-Time

Nurse Practitioner

Local companies are seeking nurses with all levels of experience for Nurse Practitioners.

These employers will never know who you are, what skills you have, and your potential to work for one of these companies. We will let them know you are MONSTER MATCH CAN HELP!

CREATE YOUR PROFILE NOW ON MONSTER FOR FREE!

Call Today Sunday, or any day!

Use Job Code: 521
1-866-374-8302 or
PioneerOnline/Monster

No Resume Needed!!

Our automated system creates one for your FREE! Fill in the resume form and let Monster Match find you with employers that are hiring NOW!

This FREE service is available 24 hours a day every day to Monster Online.

Don't Wait. Do It Today!

Help Wanted Full-Time

LAUNDRY - Chicago Location: Loading/unloading trucks, operating laundry equipment, handling equipment, supervising, training and other tasks. Must have experience operating washers, dryers, and related equipment. Must be able to handle heavy loads. Must be able to lift and carry loads. Must have excellent customer service skills. Must be able to work weekends. Must have a valid CDL. Starting $12-14/hr + benefits. Apply to: 3701 West Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026

SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Nationally Recognized General Contractor: Seeking talented individuals in all departments of our rapidly growing Schaumburg office. If you are a self-starter with good people skills who operates with the utmost integrity, then we may have an opportunity for you. We take pride in our reputation and expect the same in return. We have openings that are full-time, part-time, seasonal, and year-round. All sales/marketing opportunities are for independent contractors.

We offer excellent compensation programs, rapid advancement opportunities and full company training. If you are looking to build a career with a nationally growing company, or just looking for an opportunity to earn extra income, call us today.

Available positions:

PRODUCTION

INSPECTORS: $35-$52K/YR (base)
PROJECT SUPERVISOR: $30-45K/YR (base)
PERMITS/PART RUNNER: $12-$15/HR (base)
SALES SUPPORT
ENTRY LEVEL POSITION
SALES COORDINATOR: $30-$35K/YR (base)

ALSO SEEKING

SALES/SALES/SALES

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR 6 FIGURES IN COMMISSION THE 1ST YEAR.

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR INTERVIEW 847-310-9824

REAL ESTATE searchchicago.com/homes

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SEARCHchicago.com/homes
RADILOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS

By Jennifer LeClaire, Monster Contributing Writer

While the career path in radiologic technology hasn't been as clearly marked as in other healthcare professions, radiologic technologists (RTs) can still pursue a variety of career options within and outside healthcare.

In the clinical environment, RTs can branch out into one of the imaging specialties. In industry, RTs can develop rewarding — and lucrative — vocations in sales, training, consulting and education.

Among various RT careers, wages fluctuate fairly dramatically. For example, pay for a hospital staff technologist averages about $47,500 a year, according to the American Society of Radiologic Technologists' (ASRT) 2004 Wage and Salary Survey. Corporate technologists, such as those in sales or training, earn about $72,000, educators around $53,000, and hospital or outpatient radiologic technology department administrators make about $91,000.

Marketplace Technologists

While information from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that RTs work primarily in healthcare settings, technologists still have many other career options.

"Computer technology has really opened up the avenues in this field," says Jim Sutton, director of radiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. "Radiologic technologists are making a good living selling and repairing X-ray equipment, and going out into the field to train employees at healthcare facilities how to use it." RTs can look for such opportunities at X-ray equipment vendors like Del Medical Systems Group, Summit Industries and Tingle X-Ray Systems.

As healthcare consultants, RTs can work with radiology department managers, administrators and educators on strategies and methods for achieving desired outcomes. They can also be salespeople who develop long-range strategic plans for institutions. Much like company nurses, RTs can also work at industrial medical clinics, mobile-imaging companies, research centers and government agencies.

As educators, practicing RTs can teach at X-ray schools or hospital in-house training programs. Hospital or X-ray school program directors earn about $62,000 a year, according to the ASRT. Lending a faculty post at a university requires a master's degree or doctorate.

Get Ahead in Healthcare

Within healthcare, advancement means taking advantage of on-the-job learning opportunities. Once RTs pass their licensing exam, the majority of their remaining training occurs in-house, says Patricia Clark, manager of performance improvement and quality assurance for Temple University Hospital's radiology department.

"Technologists can take evening classes in-house to learn the skills necessary to move up from a starting position to a place in CT (computed tomography) or interventional or even MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)," she says, referring to some of the higher-paying specialties within the field. "When a position opens up, the ones who took the time to go to those classes will usually get the job, because they've already done some of the work in their clinical experience."

RT Stepping Stones

Two career levels designed to serve as stepping stones into the profession are emerging to address the lack of a well-defined RT career path: radiologist assistant and RT aide. "Radiologist assistants are the advanced practice level, and RT aides are the pre-professional level," explains Cathy Parsons, chairman of the ASRT board of directors. "This will remove some of the heavy load from radiologic technologists and give us a pool of future workers to draw from."

Visible career paths overcome a stigma that there's no room for advancement in radiologic technology, Parsons says. They also foster professional development, promote recruitment and encourage loyalty to the field by providing attainable rewards for pursuing additional education and credentialing, she adds.

RTs looking for that upward step in any setting should apply themselves and absorb all they can in an extern program, Clark says.

"Learn and become a good technologist and a good patient-care provider," she advises. "Providing the patient with excellent care is your first goal. Sometimes we miss that."

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Both Pioneer Press and the Dolings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.

RENT YOUR APARTMENT WITH EASE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS, CALL 847-993-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD.
OREGON IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above-captioned cause on June 18, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., at the South Dakota County Courthouse, the property located at 1300 W. 1st St., Spearfish, SD, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following description of real estate:

The property will NOT be open for viewing prior to the sale. The bidder must be present at the sale and must pay the full amount of the deposit immediately by the highest and best bidder, as set forth below, the following description of real estate:

The property will be sold subject to any charges against said real estate and is sold at the condition. The sale is subject to confirmation by the court. If the sale is not paid in full, the property will NOT be sold. The Purchaser will be entitled to a deed to the property. The property will NOT be sold at the auction. The bidder must be present at the auction and must pay the full amount of the deposit immediately.

The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, who will be entitled to a deed to the property. The property will be sold as is, without representation or warranty of any kind. The property will NOT be sold at the auction. The bidder must be present at the auction and must pay the full amount of the deposit immediately.

The property will be sold subject to the following conditions: The property will NOT be sold at the auction. The bidder must be present at the auction and must pay the full amount of the deposit immediately.

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NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Intercounty Judicial Sales-Real Estate Court Order, a sale of the following described real estate:

[Address]

shall be held at the place of sale on the date and time specified in the notice.

The sale is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with applicable law. Bidders must register at the sale location with the appropriate fees paid.

The following parties have an interest in the subject property:

1. [Name]
2. [Name]
3. [Name]

The sale will commence at [time] on [date] and will continue until all offers have been considered or until the property is sold.

The sale is subject to confirmation by the court. The court may set aside the sale if it deems it necessary in the interests of justice.

Any party who has an interest in the subject property and who believes that they have a right to redeem the property should contact the court directly.

For more information, please contact [Attorney Name] at [Phone Number].

[Attorney's Business Address]
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled action, the undersigned Plaintiff has applied for a Certificate of Sale that will be issued to the highest bidder for the following described property:

Property Index No. 261910

The mortgage or the mortgagee has been determined to be the highest bidder.

The sale will be held on Monday, April 15, 2013, at 10:00 AM at 120 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602.

The subject property is subject to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(4), and is subject to the following conditions:

1. The sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the mortgage.
2. The sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the foreclosure.
3. The sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the judgment.
4. The sale is subject to the terms and conditions of the sale notice.

The sale is subject to confirmation by the court, and the court may order that the sale be set aside or rescinded.

The court may order that the sale be set aside or rescinded if the court finds that the sale was not conducted in accordance with law, or if the court finds that the sale was conducted in a manner that was unfair to the parties.

The court may order that the sale be set aside or rescinded if the court finds that the sale was conducted in a manner that was unfair to the parties.

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Adoption
Assumed Name
Auction-Real Estate
Bid Notice
Foreclosures
Foundation Notices
Judicial Sales
Mechanics Liens
Name Change
Probate
Public Hearings
Public Notices
Storage - Legal Notice
Take Notice

The following notices are for real estate, foreclosures, mechanics liens, and probate matters. Each notice includes specific details such as case numbers, dates, and locations. For example, the adoption notice details the process for adoption and the name change notice outlines the procedure for changing a name in the records. Probate notices may include information about estates and the probate process. The public notices and storage notices may pertain to various legal matters related to real estate and personal property. Each notice is designed to inform interested parties of relevant legal proceedings and requirements.
Notices of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned, Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., will conduct sale(s) by competitive bidding on March 28, 2012, at 12:00 pm on the premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., 1300 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60607.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, the undersigned, Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., will conduct sale(s) by competitive bidding on March 29, 2012, at 12:00 pm on the premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., 350 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60607.

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Your Community.
Your Interests.
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YIPPY YIPPY, Carmelita turns fifty and she'll be shakin' it big, at her shindig not as a brunette, but as an "Ikettes!"

Friday, March 30, 2012

The Blue Note Jazz Club
1715 West Roosevelt Road, Broadview, IL
8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. • Attire: leopard
Free before 10:00 p.m.

Tina Turner Ike The Ikettes

Mayer - Balow Engagement

Roderick and Catherine Mayer are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Allison Mayer to Mark Balow, son of Richard and Patricia Balow. Allison and Mark were raised in Park Ridge, and attended Maine South High School where they began dating in their senior year. Allison is in her final semester of college, studying Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mark is also in his final semester of college studying Civil Engineering at Iowa State University in Ames. The couple plans to marry in March 2013 at Mary Seat of Wisdom Church.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Community Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information is faxed to (847) 486-7455 or emailed to mbottori@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern

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

- Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays - Income tax preparation by appointment.
- Mondays, March 19 and 26 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Tuesday, March 20 - Medicare counseling, by appointment. (Sponsored by the federally funded Senior Health Insurance Program)
- Wednesday, March 21 - Grief and loss support group (call first).
- Saturday, March 24 - Legal counseling, by appointment.

Civic

- March 21 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed)
- Homeowners desiring additional income, companionship, or the ability to remain in their homes may wish to consider the Center of Concern's Shared Housing Program. Residents are matched with homeowners who possess a temperament suitable to shared accommodations.

Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney is available for a minimum fee. Information is also available by appointment. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (The center is open on Monday noon to Friday.)

The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing. Programs are designed to prevent homelessness and are available to eligible visitors for the homeless, and volunteer opportunities in the area and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

Chamber


Civic

The village of Niles was informed of a grant opportunity for homeowners with a minimum of $10,000 worth of damage remaining from the 2008 federally declared flood. To be eligible, the following requirements must be met: Home must have been damaged by the 2008 disaster; must be a single family home; must be located outside the 100-year flood plain; must be the homeowner's primary residence; homeowner must be owner of record at the time of the damage; must continue to be the owner; homeowner must have applied for FEMA for disaster assistance in 2008; household must be considered Low and Moderate Income; home must still have a minimum of $10,000 worth of damage. If all of the requirements above are met, contact the village's assistant manager at (847) 858-9007 before March 20.

 Choirs

Chicago Crossroads, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, 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.

Clubs

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 botany. Call (847) 966-0526 or visit www.chicagobotanic.org for information or to register.

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc., is offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Doris King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (847) 635-8261.

The Sweet Singers of Illinois, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join the choir. For information, call the door at 872-5752. Check out www.twicenasievents.com. Donations will also be accepted for the Bear Necessities Pediatric Foundation, dedicated to eliminating pediatric cancer.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, (847) 967-4800; reservations, (847) 967-7670; www.holocaustmuseum.org. Museum admission prices: General Admission, $12; seniors (65+), $8; students (ages 12-18), $6; children (ages 5-11), $4. Reservations required for programs. Through June 17: Special Exhibition - Ours to Fight for: American Jews in the Second World War. Through the month of May, the Montgomerys, letters, and photographs, the "Greatest Generation" tell the story of the war as it was for all its participants, and for Jews in particular. Ours to Fight for brings to life the actions and feelings of these young men and women. Free with museum admission.

March 15, 6:30-8 p.m.:— Clark University professor, author and Holocaust scholar Deborah Dwork discusses her book, Flight from the Reich: Refugees Jews, 1933-1946. Comprehensive research contributes to this compelling look at the search for safe haven from the Nazis. Free with museum admission.

March 17, 6:30-8 p.m.:— 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 botany. Call (847) 966-0526 or visit www.chicagobotanic.org for information or to register.

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on Women's Health during March. All lectures will be held at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's West End Grille, 775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, at 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Free valet parking is available and refreshments will be served. There is no charge to attend however registration is required. Call (800) 323-8622 and mention class code 8562 or visit www.advocatehealth.com/luth click on “I need a class or support group” and type in the class code. March 20:


### Historical Society

Celebrate an afternoon of fun, food and friends at 2 p.m. March 25 at the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 Milwaukee Ave., when Peter Opiolko presents “The Rat Pack.” He will deliver anecdotes of their antics and camaraderie. Free refreshments. Free admission. Call (847) 390-0160.

The Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., is open to the public from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. The new magnetic elevator makes the auditorium easily accessible. Call (847) 390-0160.

### Kids

The Resurrection College Prep High School Alumnae Association presents Breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 9-11:30 a.m. March 31. All are welcome to have breakfast with the Easter Bunny, enjoy entertainment by Resurrection students and make Easter arts and crafts. Each child will have the opportunity to take a photo with the Easter Bunny and receive a special gift. Tickets are $10 per child and $5 per adult and are required in advance. Tickets are available at www.reshs.org or by calling (773) 775-6616. Ext. 127 or by e-mail at shophreshs.org. Resurrection College Prep High School for girls is located at 7500 W. Talcott Ave. in Chicago.

### 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.

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver call Ed Oken at (847) 696-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek at (847) 297-2510, Ext. 283.

Parks

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities.

MNAR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

Niles

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

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

Golf Maine

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

Resident Advisory Committee - The District is in the process of assembling a group of residents to offer their input to better serve future community programs and activities. Interested parties should contact the Director, Bret Fahnstrom at (847) 297-3000, ext. 26, or email bret@gmpd.org.

And Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 7 at 10 a.m. at Deer Park.

Cricket classes and clinics begin in April at Deer Park. Learn the fundamentals of this very popular sport. Children ages 7-17.

Spring Break Youth Basketball Camp will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, March 26 to 30 at Feldman. Work on dribbling, shooting, footwork, offensive and defensive techniques.

L'il Shooters Youth Soccer - Learn basic soccer skills including footwork, dribbling and passing. Ages 5-8 years old. Next session April 10 to May 15 at Deer Park.

The Painting Studio meets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays or 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at Feldman. Over the rainbow allows young children to have fun learning the colors of the rainbow through stories and songs at Deer Park on Fridays. For ages 3-5 years.

Before & After School Child Care is available for children attending Mark Twain, Apollo or Stevenson schools in District 63. Call for details.

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

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

The Golf Maine Park District offers community opportunities to recycle paper products. A recognizable green-and-yellow container supplied by AbitibiBowater was dropped off in the Feldman Park lot, 8800 Kathy Lane, near the corner of Western Avenue and Kathy Lane. Call (847) 297-3000 or visit www.paperretriever.com/.

Religion

Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will offer its K'tonim Pre-School Program of Judaic Arts and Play, for children ages 2 and older. Children will enjoy Judaic arts and crafts, stories, games, sing-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 28
Premium payments finally land in Blue Cross coffers

Dear Fixer: I've had a policy with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois for 14 years and have not had any problems up until this past October, when I did not receive an invoice for my premium.

The next month, I again did not receive an invoice, so I called again. This time, I paid over the phone and asked if I could pay by automatic deduction each month, which I thought would solve the problem. I filled out a form and received a confirmation, but in January no deduction was taken.

I called again. The representative told me my premiums for January and February would be taken out in February.

But by Feb. 1, the premiums were still not deducted. I called again but couldn't get this corrected. I called again Feb. 18 and talked to a supervisor who said he would work on it that week. A week later, I called and asked for him again, but was told he was not available and they weren't allowed to give me his last name.

I asked if I could send $428 to bring my account up to date. I have been postponing cataract surgery, since I was not sure if they would pay a claim, as my account still was showing I was only paid to Dec. 31.

I mailed the payment and they said the auto deduction would begin the next month.

I think five months to get this straightened out is ridiculous. They keep telling me it is a computer problem. I have never worked so hard to make a premium payment.

Audrey Scholly

Costly lesson

Some things you can let slide. If you forget to empty the recycling bin, water a plant or cut your kid's toenails for a few days, chances are nothing catastrophic will happen.

That's not the case when it comes to keeping tabs on your debit card, as G.S. found out.

Her checkbook, debit card and state ID disappeared — lost or stolen, she doesn't know.

The first she learned of it was when her bank sent her overdraft notices. By then, someone had fraudulently reached into her account and taken all her money.

Sadly, she didn't have a legal leg to stand on. The law says that consumers can be liable for $50 in losses if they report a lost or stolen debit card within two business days but liable for up to $500 in losses if they wait up to 60 days to report it. If they fail to report it after that, they can be on the hook for unlimited losses.

In a related tale of woe, another Fixer found out the hard way that consumers should never write their PIN on the back of a debit card.

She did, and when the card was later lost and used fraudulently, her bank wouldn't help. The bank said that by not protecting her PIN from a thief, she essentially helped them take her money.

So dear readers, please keep your PINs private — and check your account activity frequently.

Not all plastic is equal

As The Fixer has written before, there are important differences between debit and credit cards when it comes to theft or fraud.

A debit card is a straight line into your bank account — and if you don't catch the fraud right away, you can potentially be on the hook for unlimited losses.

Bankrate.com recently identified certain transactions in which it could be risky to use your debit card:

• Online purchases. Not to get paranoid, but with the potential for malware on your computer or someone eavesdropping on a wireless network or the merchant having its data compromised, there are all sorts of reasons to not use a debit card online. By using a credit card, you'll have more protection in case something goes wrong.

• ATMs in low-traffic, outdoor places. Scammers can quietly attach a skimmer to an ATM to capture your account information, plus install a pinhole camera to record your PIN. Stick to ATMs in busy, well-lit areas and stay away from any machine that appears to have been tampered with.

• At the gas pump. Gas stations are another spot where skimmers can be placed. Better to use a credit card or cash.

• Restaurants. Sadly, skimming has been known to take place in the back rooms of eateries, when the employee has taken your card for payment.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it 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 60026.

To subscribe, call 847-486-9300
Or visit us online at www.pioneerlocal.com

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CALENDAR

Nonmembers enrolling one or two children; and $85 for members enrolling one child. Tuition per semester will be $60 and $75, respectively.

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 $60 and $75, respectively, for members enrolling one or two children; and $85 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 Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services. Classes will be held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with "Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch" the first Sunday of each month. Call the church at (847) 673-1434.

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:30 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-4688.

St. John Brebeuf Adoration Chapel in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for spiritual devotion, prayers and meditation. Call (847) 966-8145.

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

Reunions

Resurrection College Prep High School will celebrate an All-School Reunion on April 21, beginning at 6 p.m. at the school, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Classes that are celebrating a milestone year will be honored in a special way during the evening. Resurrection Alumnae Coordinator Stefanie Thorpe is seeking graduates who are available to reach out to friends and help promote the event to their former classmates. Contact Resurrection Alumnae Coordinator Stefanie Thorpe at sthorpe@reshs.org or (773) 775-6616, Ext. 167.

The St. Columbkille Alumnae Association will sponsor its annual reunion luncheon March 25 at The Fountain Blue, 2300 S. Mannheim Road, Des Plaines. Cocktail service will begin at noon and lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Cost is $35. Proceeds go toward the retirement fund of the Sisters of Providence, St. Mary of the Woods, Ind. Call Charlene Swintek, president of the St. Columbkille Alumnae Board, at (847) 427-1981.
Athletic Fund is holding an all-year reunion May 4 in the school cafeteria, 3436 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago. There will be a buffet dinner and musical entertainment. Cost is $60 per person. Call Arnie Kamem, class of 1950, at (847) 432-2773; visit www.roosevelthschicago.org.

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

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

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

Maine Senior Men's Club will host a St. Joe's/St. Pat's Party from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 16. This year's menu will feature corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes. The afternoon entertainment will feature Enzo Incandela. Door prizes will be included. Seating is reserved; pick up a Table Reservation Form at the Front Desk. Cost is $15 members; $20, nonmembers.

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

Beginning Conversational Spanish will be taught from 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays, April 4 to May 9. Lisa Bas of Oakton Community College will lead the class. Cost is $30, members; $35, non-members. Registration deadline is March 26.

Yoga in Chairs will be conducted from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Thursdays, April 5 to 26. The class will provide a way to increase flexibility, strength and balance. Cost is $24, members; $29, nonmembers.

A workshop for persons who are losing their vision will take place at 11:30 a.m. March 21. The program will deal with "Maintaining Your Lifestyle"—dining with confidence, communicating with friends and family, and finding local resources.

See Calendar, page 31.
Butter gets an upgrade with European style, flavor varieties and a new, brick shape

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

Julia Child said “fat gives things flavor.” One of her favorite fat flavors was that of butter. So once a guilty luxury, butter suddenly got a liberating green light when in 2009, Columbia Pictures released the quirky bio, “Julie & Julia,” that glorified that rich, dairy fat as a most necessary ingredient in Child’s classic recipes.

Butter sales have soared. And no one has watched those butter sales increase with more interest than Earl Haberkamp. He’s the manager of the dairy and frozen foods sections at Sunset Foods in Highland Park.

Not only have butter sales increased, but choices have multiplied. In the last six months or so, Haberkamp has particularly noticed more choices in flavored butters.

“Before it was just the standard butter or margarine,” Haberkamp said.

New tastes

New on the shelves are brands like Twisted Butter, a line launched a few months ago by Northbrook natives, business partners Jane Johnson and Dave Milazzo. A highlight of their website (www.twistedfoods.com/recipes.asp) is a spread of sweet and savory recipes, which showcases the many uses for their six flavored butters: Bacon, Dijon, Mustard & Green Onion; Blueberry, Honey & Lemon Zest; Cinnamon, Honey & Brown Sugar; Chive & Parsley; Cilantro & Lime; and Portobello Mushroom with Boursin-Garlic & Herb Cheese.

Just in time for St. Patrick’s Day, they’ve introduced a recipe for Corned Beef and Cabbage with Twisted Chive & Parsley Butter.

All Twisted varieties, each an offshoot of Johnson’s days flavoring butters for sale at farmers markets in Northfield and Northbrook, are made with fresh ingredients. “To get the butters to where they are today was a lot of trial and error,” she said. “The goal was to be able to taste the flavors, but not too much.”

Her biggest challenge? Cilantro and lime.

“At certain times of the year your cilantro is a lot fresher,” she said. Johnson, once the chef at the helm of her former Northbrook catering company, “You’ve Got & Made,” is considering more new flavors. Tomato, Basil and Garlic has been a hit at the farmers markets.

And she’s getting serious about tarragon. “You can use it on anything,” she said.

Haberkamp has lately noticed a lot of recipes now even specifically calling for European butter. “It has a different taste to it,” he explained. “It’s richer, creamier.”

Free range cows

That’s because, as explained by the Irish Dairy Board, which has an outpost in Evanston, Irish butters are made from “cows that roam freely in Ireland’s lush pastures.”

The board’s brand communications manager, Molly O’Loughlin, said she’s lately even noticed high profile retailers in the U.S. accommodating the interest in European butter by manufacturing butter dishes to fit European butter. “It has a different taste to it,” he explained. “It’s richer, creamier.”

For their part, European butter makers are keeping up with trends in the U.S.

Kerrygold, one of the more prominent brands of Ireland, which has recently launched a soft butter made naturally, without oils, that sometimes is used to make spreadable butters; a reduced fat option has half the sodium and 20 percent less fat than typical butters.

The company’s garlic and herb flavor butter has sold consistently since 2006. “The trend is for people to make their own compound butters, but people don’t have the time,” O’Loughlin said.

If you’re low on time on St. Patrick’s Day weekend, Grant Slauterbeck and his team at Glenview House in Glenview have a traditional menu planned — and plenty of butter will be incorporated. “My training is classic French,” Slauterbeck said. “There will be plenty of butter in the mashed potatoes, pretty much everything we make here is finished with butter. Its richness plays against the acidity in dishes, exposing more of the complex flavors you might not get without it.”

Somewhere, Julia is beaming.

Corned Beef and Cabbage with Twisted Chive & Parsley Butter

From Twisted Butter
Makes 8 servings

5 pounds corned brisket of beef
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper or 6 whole black peppercorns
1 teaspoon bay leaf
2 large carrots, cut into 4 pieces each
4 medium turnips, quartered
1 medium onion, peeled and quartered
1 small medium green cabbage, cut into 8 wedges
6 tablespoons Twisted Butter Chive & Parsley Butter, melted
4 tablespoons flour, sifted
1 cup half and half cream (can substitute milk)
Salt and pepper, to taste

Place corned beef in large pot with peppercorns, bay leaf and water to cover. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 4-5 hours until tender, skimming fat occasionally. During the final hour of simmering, add carrots, turnips and onion.

During last 20 minutes, add cabbage.

For the cream sauce:
Make a roux by melting 6 tablespoons of Twisted Chive & Parsley Butter and stirring in 4 tablespoons flour. Slowly add cream, stir until it thickens. (Add more cream if it gets too thin.)

Transfer meat to cutting board, and thinly slice against grain. Arrange on platter with vegetables. Pour cream sauce over top and serve. Season with salt and pepper.
In addition to these events, the Niles Senior Center offers a variety of classes and workshops, including dance, computer training, and health-related seminars. The center is open to all residents of the community, and members pay reduced fees for most programs and events. To learn more about the Niles Senior Center and its offerings, visit their website at www.nilescenter.org or call (847) 588-8441. Join today to experience a safe and supportive environment for lifelong learning and socializing.
through to level four. Classes are regularly forming and are offered every month. Trained AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are preparing 2011 tax returns until April 9. Bring your 2010 tax return and 2011 income statements. Call (888) 600-6290 to schedule an appointment. Caryl Dennenfeld will present “Feisty Females: Women of Our Times” discussing movers and shakers like Hillary Clinton, Maya Angelou, Doris Haddock and more at 12:30 p.m. March 15. Suggested donation is $8.

A St. Patrick’s Day Special will be served on March 16 including corned beef and cabbage, potato salad, carrots, celery and horseradish. Bailey Blarney soup, soda bread and a Bailey’s brownie. Cost is $13; discount $9.60. Also during St. Patrick’s Day will be the Poppins’ Rogets at 4 p.m. March 16. Enjoy a complete corned beef dinner, then celebrate with Irish music!

The program is sponsored by Healthy Babies, Happy Families, 8267 W. Golf Road in Niles. For more information about Healthy Babies, Happy Families, call (847) 556-1999; Drop-in room of Nesset Pavilion, 255 Ridge, Evanston, in Rooms G952 and 954. Call Elaine at (847) 674-6376.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) has several chapters around Chicagoland. DBSA has several chapters around Chicagoland. DBSA’s website offers free support groups for people with mood disorders and support groups for their families. Meetings take place 6:30–8 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge, Evanston, in Rooms G952 and 954. Call Elaine at (847) 674-6376.

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Care Center, 9375 Church St., Des Plaines. The program is a support group for children, teens and families who have lost a loved one through death. Preliminary interview is required before registration. To register, call Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Bereavement Support, (847) 692-8884.

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

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

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

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

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

Parkinson's Support Group meets the third Wednesday of the month 5-7 p.m. at Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C. Call Alzheimer's Support Group, (773) 594-7866.

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 Resurrection Rehabilitation Center of Chicago, first floor, Professional Building, Entrance C. Call Alzheimer's Support Group, (773) 594-7856.

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

Northwest Suburban Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome Support Group of Illinois meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, Conference Room 1064. E-mail bszarkowski@aol.com to be added to the e-mail list for meeting announcements.

A care group for caregivers and family members of people with Alzheimer's Disease meets at 10:30 a.m. every second Saturday at Central Baptist Village, the Commons Theater Lounge, 4747 N. Canfield Ave., Norridge. New members are always welcome.

Call Jessi-Ann, group facilitator, (708) 792-8894.

Queen of All Saints hosts a weekly meeting for female survivors of sexual abuse. The meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. on Mondays in the Benedict Center Chapel, 6275 N. Ionia. To participate in the confidential, 12-step program, call Queen of All Saints Rectory, (773) 736-6060. Additional meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. Fridays at St. Juliana Parish Center, 720 Osceola Ave.
SKOKIE

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

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

Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue  
7800 Niles Ave., Skokie  
847-674-9146  
www.devarem.com  
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  
847-673-4441

KEHILLAT SHALOM  
An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation  
Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45AM  
8610 Nues 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

Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah  
3220 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  
Dally Minyan AM and PM  
Rabbi Allan Kansky  
Cantor Pavel Royzman  
Rabbi Michael Cohen, Ed. Dir.

To showcase your House of Worship here call  
630-978-8277  
or  
worship@Pioneerlocal.com
number of lost or stolen bikes and is forced to sell them at an auction because their owners cannot be identified. By registering your bike, you are issued a Village of Niles Police Department sticker and your bicycle's information is entered into a national database allowing the Police Department to reconnect it if it is ever lost or stolen.

**Volunteers**
The Center of Concern, 1560 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, a not-for-profit that serves the elderly and low-income families in the north and northwest city and suburbs, needs volunteers to help with a variety of medical, financial, legal, and computer issues. Hours are flexible. The center needs volunteers to:
- Provide friendly visits and transportation to elderly clients;
- Make telephone reassurance calls to the homebound and frail elderly;
- Install, troubleshoot, and maintain computer hardware, software, and networks;
- Produce video for the center's website or fundraising campaigns;
- Promote the center on Facebook and other social media;
- Assist with public relations and facilitate media coverage of center events;
- Prepare income tax returns for center clients;
- Provide Medicaid counseling (federally funded by the Senior Health Insurance Program);
- Prepare simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property. Call (847) 423-8553 or visit www.centerofconcern.org.

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

Individuals who have a few hours to spare are urged to join the Avenues to Independence Thrift Shoppe team of volunteers, including: Volunteers are needed for friendly, hard-working men and women to help staff the Thrift Shoppe, 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, or 1-8 p.m. on Thursdays. Volunteers receive a discount. No experience is needed. All proceeds from the Thrift Shoppe help Avenues continue valuable programs for adults with developmental disabilities. Contact the store manager, Michael Frustini, (619) 292-0870, Ext. 771.

The Center of Concern's Women's Association of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is looking for new members. The community-based philanthropic and social organization raises funds for the hospital through a variety of events, including an annual golf outing, glove sale and concert. The organization's donations have funded the hospital in expanding programs, purchasing state-of-the-art medical equipment, and pursuing research and education initiatives. Yearly dues are $35. Call (630) 723-6100.
Wolves' Loyd gifted in many ways

By Mike Cameron

Jewell Loyd has been that and more for Niles West the past four years.

The Pioneer Press North Stars Player of the Year led the previously moribund Wolves to an 8-14 record, including this season's outright CSL South championship and third straight regional title to go with a shared conference crown and sectional berth two years ago.

"It is another very well-deserved award," said Niles West head coach Tony Konsewicz. "Jewell will go down as one of the greatest two-way players in the history of the state and the country. Her will to win is second to none. She was an even better person. As a player, she's right up there with (former Naperville Central standout) Candace Parker for best ever."

Rated as the nation's top shooting guard, Loyd scored 3,077 career points to rank seventh in state history. Never taller than 5-foot-10, she snared 1,478 rebounds to rank No. 12, blocked 275 shots and collected 402 steals. Her 31 points and a sore ankle, back and knee, Loyd overcame it all to go 40-41 with passes in a sectional loss.

"Now I'm working on my ballhandling and change of speeds for the next level," Loyd said. "I always want to get better. This year, I wanted to improve my defense and help my team win," said Loyd. "Now I'm working on my ballhandling and change of speeds for the next level." Loyd will go down as one of the best to ever play in the state. The Wolves' Loyd gifted in many ways.

Player of the Year: Jewell Loyd, Niles West senior

Coach of the Year: Jeremy Schoenecker, Loyola

Jacqui Grant
Maine South junior center

One of the top juniors in the state, the 6-foot-3 Division I recruit led the Hawks in scoring (13.1) and rebounding (9.4) as they won their third consecutive regional championship. Grant was an all-CSL South selection and was named to all-tournament teams at both the Bison Classic and State Farm Classic. She has offers from DePaul, Marquette, South Florida and New Mexico.

Michelle Maher
Niles North senior guard

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New Trier junior Kerry Scafidi advanced in all-around last month to the state gymnastics meet, helping the Trevians make it as a team. [PHOTOS BY JOE CIYANOWSKI-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA]

NORTH STARS GYMNASTS OF THE YEAR

Scafidi, Stoddart form dynamic duo for Trevs

BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

Kerry Scafidi was the top gymnast for New Trier her first two seasons, competing in at the state meet as both a freshman and sophomore. It wasn't until Scafidi teamed up with Sam Stoddart this season that the Trevians accomplished something not done in a long time.

The junior Scafidi and freshman Stoddart guided the team to its first trip to the state meet since the 1994-95 season. The Trevians totaled 141.775 points to finish eighth in the field.

"Obviously, Kerry's had a huge impact on our team," New Trier coach Jennifer Pistorius said. "She's an awesome gymnast and is up there with some of the best in the state."

The addition of Stoddart, another all-arounder, pushed the Trevians back to the final weekend of the season for the first time in nearly two decades.

"Sam also made a huge impact, especially as a freshman," the coach said. "It was such a different atmosphere this year than in the past. When the team goes to the state meet, it's awesome. Everybody is screaming and yelling."

Both Scafidi and Stoddart advanced to the state meet as all-rounders. What's more, Stoddart's 9.65 on the balance beam at Niles North was the top score in the event at all four sectionals.

Stoddart's season was even more impressive considering she struggled with chronic knee pain.

"I know she was hurt," Pistorius said. "But she always said she was fine. She learned so much from the experience."

Scafidi also shined on the beam, as well as the uneven parallel bars.

"She has some of the hardest tricks in the state," Pistorius said. "Her bars routine is one of the harder, but she had a fall in the preliminaries at the state meet that kept her from advancing."

Pistorius said Scafidi and Stoddart both are back at work this offseason. Scafidi trains at the Wheeling-based American Academy of Gymnastics, and Stoddart is at Flips Gymnastics in Lake Forest.

"I am excited about the future knowing how hard they are working right now," said Pistorius, who also expects sophomore all-around Elana Benishay back next season. "We should be much stronger than they were."
Pieces are in place for another extended run

BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

In no way is Glenn Olson disappointed with Niles North's season.

Of course, the coach wanted the Vikings to capture another sectional championship.

But Olson understands the difficulty of winning one, much less two in a row.

"Since the four-class system, winning a regional title is a big deal," said the third-year coach, who's guided the Vikings to back-to-back regional crowns. "You want to keep going, and you're devastated when you lose. But there's an element of icing on the cake."

"We felt very good about this season, with this group, especially where we were at the beginning of the year." I'd be crazy to say I wasn't proud of what they achieved."

A four-game losing streak early in the season left the Vikings searching for answers. They started the turnaround at Wheeling's tournament and continued it in the new year, winning 13 of their final 17 games to end up 21-9.

Things were looking good in the first half Friday during the Vikings' 62-42 loss to Evanston at Glenbrook South.

Niles North took a two-point lead into the half, even though star point guard Malachi Nix missed all five of his shots and had zero points.

The Wildkits surged ahead by as many as 16 in the third before the Vikings (21-9) got on track after Mychal Hennessee's three-pointer. Nix, who missed his first 10 shots and first two free throws, then buried a three-pointer at the buzzer to bring the Vikings within nine at 43-34 by the start of the fourth.

But Evanston was too much for Niles North. "A lot of the shots they hit were tough shots, and they were able to get closer to the basket than us," Olson said.

But Olson was happy with how his players fought through the fourth quarter.

"That speaks volumes about our group, especially on a night when we literally had our worst shooting performance of the year," he said. "I am really proud of the maturity of our group. We scrapped as best we could on a really off night for us."

Henley is one the starter who will graduate. He finished his prep career with a team-best 17 points. Lorenzo Dillard added 12 points, while Nix ended up with seven.

Niles North's Eron Washington (21) scores against Evanston's Randy Ollie during the Glenbrook South Sectional final. Evanston won 62-42. | JOEL LERNER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
George grabs showcase opportunity

BY MIKE CAMERON
mcameron@pioneerlocal.com

Donovan “Da Bomb” George is ready to rumble.
He will step into the ring at 9 p.m. Saturday at New York City's Madison Square Garden in front of St. Patrick’s Day revelers shell out $50 for a ringside seat and millions watching live on HBO.

George, 22-1 with 19 knockouts, will take on undefeated Edwin “La Bomba” Rodriguez (20-0, 14 KO) in a scheduled 10-round bout. A 2008 graduate of Maine East, George is ranked No. 4 in the world among super middleweights by the International Boxing Federation. Rodriguez is No. 5.

The winner not only earns a six-figure purse, but likely a title shot.

“I think you only get one big opportunity, and this is it for me,” said the 27-year-old George, a taut 5-foot-11, 168 pounds. “Every boxer dreams of fighting on HBO, and every boxer dreams of fighting at Madison Square Garden. If I win, I should get a world title fight and another HBO fight. This is my shot.”

The similarities between the combatants end with their nicknames, top-five rankings and outstanding records. Rodriguez, who will have a six-inch reach advantage, is a methodical, efficient jabber and punching body puncher willing to go the distance. George is always the aggressor, packs more wallop and ends more fights early.

“My game plan is to knock his head off,” said George. “I am a long shot in this fight, and I am not as polished. My strengths are my right hand and punching power. If I hit anyone just right, they’re going down. I am either going to come out victorious, or you have to come out to carry me out on my shield.”

Two years ago, George suffered a badly broken nose at the beginning of his bout against highly ranked Francisco Sierra in Miami, Okla. The Niles native absorbed his only defeat, but showed nearly superhuman pain tolerance by lasting seven rounds.

Upon healing, George demolished previously undefeated Cornelius White in the first round on Showtime in Atlantic City. “Da Bomb” then thrilled a UIC Pavilion home crowd by flooring bigger, more experienced Maxwell Taylor in eight rounds to win the USAE title last April.

Some fighters’ styles just mesh, and that is exactly what you have with Edwin versus Donovan,” said promoter Lou DiBella of New York City-based DiBella Entertainment. “Knowing both of these guys, I am predicting someone is going to get knocked out in this fight. They will be throwing bombs from the opening bell. This is going to be a good, old-fashioned barnburner.”

George was a three-year varsity wide receiver at Maine East who reeled in passes from quarterback Nick George, his big brother. But Donovan was aimless after high school until he dedicated himself to boxing under the tutelage of his father, Pete.

The younger George was a three-time Chicago Golden Gloves champion and turned pro in 2004. He now lives in Chicago and is engaged to Maine South alumnus Aleksandra Peric.

“I’m not the typical boxer who was poor or came from a broken home. I chose to fight. It saved my life,” said Donovan George. “When I became disciplined about boxing, I also found discipline in my regular life. I owe a lot to my dad, who was a great boxer and has been a great trainer for me the whole way through.”

Peter George, a Lincolnwood police officer for the past 30 years, has built up quite a record as a trainer. In addition to his son, he trains Mike “Hollywood” Jimenez, who is 5-0 with three knockouts as a super middleweight pro, and super heavyweight amateur Matt Cameron, a Golden Gloves finalist last year.

“I believe in my heart that I will bring Don to New York City at 10 percent and ready to explode at the Garden,” said Pete. “He won’t be defined. He will make the people in the Chicago area proud. He is the hardest worker I have ever trained.”

George splits his demanding training regimen between Windy City Fight Club and Chicago Fight Club. He has two more big fans in advisor Mike Michael and manager Gha Iacovou of New Jersey-based Cestus Management.

“Donovan is a great fighter and a great guy. I fell in love with him the first day I saw him,” said Michael. “For those who consider him an underdog, I am telling you that he is alive, he is real, and there will be only one bomb left standing, and that is Don ‘Da Bomb’ George.”

Wolves have inside track at reaching state

BY DAN SHALIN

The top story in the Niles West girls track program in recent seasons has been the exploits of sprinter Kellion George.

But after finishing sixth in the state in the 100 meters in 2011, Gordon has graduated and moved on to Iowa Central Jr. College.

For the Wolves, who are winding down the indoor season, return two state qualifiers in junior thrower Jasmine Townsend and junior hurdler Sydney Hellwig.

Head coach Mark Medland said the pair, along with senior Jessica Suffin, another veteran of state competition, will play important roles.

“It’s helpful to have girls like Jasmine and Sydney, who have been state qualifiers and competed at that high level,” he said. “They can share with the girls that experience.”

Medland said the indoor season is more about preparation than results. Everything the team is doing now is geared toward success late in the outdoor campaign.

“Right now, it’s kind of experimenting with the lineup to see where we stand,” Medland said. “Our true goal every year is to qualify kids for the outdoor state meet and there are places where we’re going to be able to do that. But we want to make sure girls are healthy and ready for the outdoor season.”

Hellwig is sitting out the last few meets of the indoor season to nurse a bruised foot. After the hurdler battled a stress fracture last season, Medland and the training staff are not taking any chances. She will miss today’s (Thursday’s) CSL South Meet at Glenbrook South.

Medland expects to see more strong performances by junior twins Sunshine and Sunbright Simon. Sunbright Simon took third in the 55 hurdles at Rockton Hononegah March 3, and came in seventh in the hurdles at Saturday’s 20-plus-team Proviso West Invite.

Sunbright Simon crossed fifth in the high hurdles at the Illinois Prep Top Times Meet in Bloomington.

The Wolves head north Saturday for the Wisconsin Whitewater Invite (9:35 a.m.).
NILES WEST

By Dan Shalin

The Adrian Batista era at Niles West has gotten off to a glittering start.

The first-year boys gymnastics coach already has led his team to three solid results, including first place in Saturday's Foerch Invite. It was the Wolves' first title in that event's 26-year history.

Batista, a 1994 Niles West grad, spent last season assisting longtime Wolves head coach Steve Foerch. This season, the two swapped roles.

This always was going to be a big season for Niles West because its boys program has moved into the school's new state-of-the-art gymnastics room for the first time.

"The facility is fantastic," Batista said. "It's impacted the boys already. (With the foam pit) it's much easier to get some of the kids to work on tricks. The true impact of the gym and the pit will still take a couple of years. With our freshmen, it's going to make a big difference over time."

Batista said there are currently around 65 gymnasts in the program.

"We really did not have to do too much advertising -- the gym did that for us," the coach said. "It's the biggest team Niles West has ever had. But we have a big facility to house that many and it's great."

The Wolves also have 16 gymnasts. That has allowed the team to use specialists, rather than all-arounders.

"We want the kids to focus on two or three clean routines and try and do the best tricks they can do," he said. "Instead of trying to be OK on five events, we want them to be real good on two or three."

"We're not depending on one or two guys, it's the whole team. If you only have three or four guys, and one gets hurt, it can ruin the team."

The squad returns three 2011 state meet qualifiers in seniors Casey Mahoney-Muno (vault and floor), Josh Nicolaisin (rings) and Ari Lazar (pommel horse), the team captain.

Junior Elijah Bond, senior Chris Dwyer, junior Brandon Naguita and senior David Imamkarimov also will compete.

The Wolves opened the season by scoring 121 against Glenbrook South, climbed to 127 against Evanston and posted 131 at the Foerch Invite, which included teams from Palatine, Naperville North and Deerfield/Higshland Park.

"I don't have a number, but the sky is the limit," Batista said. "I'd love to see us score 150 and be a state-qualifying team. Are we that good? I'm not going to say no. I don't think there is a cap to this team and I don't want to say we can't get in the 140s and then go higher."

Among the highlights Saturday at Niles West were: Mahoney-Muno winning floor (9.0) and coming in second on vault (8.76); Lazar taking second on horse (8.2) and fifth on parallel bars (7.2); Nicolaisin finishing second on rings (8.4); Bond capturing vault (8.6); Naguita placing fourth on p-bars (7.6); and Imamkarimov finishing fifth on high bar (6.7).

The Wolves host Maine co-op at 6 p.m. today Thursday.

Vikings looking for good things down the road

By Dan Shalin

Niles North boys gymnastics coach Rick Meyer said he doesn't like to use the expression "building for next year," but it seems an appropriate way to describe his current team.

The Vikings lost a talent-laden group of seniors, including state qualifiers Manny Magbanua (7th on rings), Brian Oh and Erik Suh.

The current team counts just two seniors. Despite being short on experience, Meyer said there is some talent. However, the coach reluctantly admits the group's best days may be down the road.

"We definitely got younger (after last year)," Meyer said. "We have a great group of sophomores and a lot of them will be moved up to varsity by season's end. We're in a rebuilding phase, so to speak."

The Vikings do have one experienced returnee in senior Mendel Moskovits, who qualified for state on parallel bars last season.

Meyer said he expects Moskovits to get back to state this season, potentially on two or three events. The gymnast is competing all-around, somewhat out of necessity.

"(Moskovits) is our anchor this year," Meyer said. "He's gotten better. He's not real strong on horse or vault. But in the position we're in, we needed all the help we can get, even though those aren't his strongest events."

The team will rely heavily on several juniors, including Marco Verceles (who excels on high bar and rings), Shaun DeGuzman (rings and floor) and Justin Salomon (vault, p-bars and high bar).

Sophomore Scott Wong is a quality pommel horseman and will open the season on varsity. Meyer said Wong has a bright future.

"He's going to be good," the coach said. "If he's willing to work, I don't think it would be a stretch to say he could qualify (for state) on horse this season."

Daniel Matti is another sophomore Meyer said has been making positive strides on p-bars and high bar.

Meyer has taken the unusual step of naming captains this season. The coach said nobody had earned the distinction, and he hoped everybody would share some of the leadership duties.

"I'm kind of waiting to see who was going to emerge as natural leaders. We have a lot of kids capable of doing it," Meyer said. "We have a lot of kids trying to take on that leadership role, but I'm reluctant to give them the title (of captain)."

Early in the season, Niles North has been scoring near 110. Meyer said he hopes to climb to 120 later in the campaign.

"We're hoping, but it's going to be a tough year," the coach said. "We're in a rebuilding phase and we're trying to get the most out of what we have in the gym. It's a good group of kids, they are buying into what we're selling and that's enjoyable and fun."

The Vikings return to action at 6 p.m. Tuesday when they visit rival Niles West.
Blue Demons unofficial Garvey champs

BY DAN SHALIN

The Maine East girls track team can take comfort in knowing it won the school's first James Garvey Invitational since 2004, even though history will show otherwise.

In the final standings of Friday's six-team event at Maine East, the Blue Demons scored 119, but were edged out by St. Ignatius (121).

However, according to Lirette, the scorers had incorrectly recorded the times of a Maine East sprinter in the 60-meter dash, giving her fifth place instead of third. Had the timing been done correctly, Maine East would have prevailed 123-119.

"I was so thrilled for my team," Lirette said. "The last time we won this meet was in '04 and (this year) the girls ran and jumped really, really well across the board. It was a total team effort. We placed very well in several races and there were several races in which we double-scored."

Among the highlights for Maine East was the performance of sophomore Elisa Gerena in the long jump (5-10). "Elanta has a lot of spring in her legs and she loves to jump. She's a really good meet performer," Lirette said.

The coach said Slowek has benefited from working with assistant Karolina Poulos, the former Maine East and Millikin University athlete whose name is in the Park Ridge school's record books.

Also victorious for Maine East was senior Elisa Gerena in the long jump (5-10.25) and the team of sophomore Veronica Malesinski, freshman Julia Skrzynek, Slowek and Gerena in the 4 x 1 lap relay (1:28.6). The group was just .5 from breaking the indoor school record.

"I'm cautiously optimistic to be honest with you. I know we won't finish first, but other than that, everything else is kind of up for grabs," Lirette said.

The conference meet will mark the end of the indoor season for Maine East, unless any of its athletes qualify for the March 24 Prep Top Times Meet, which some refer to as the Indoor State Meet.

"Deerfield is probably the favorite and maybe Highland Park. I'm hoping we could be third, maybe second. But you don't know what any of the other teams have done this year," she said. "I'm cautiously optimistic to be honest with you. I know we won't finish sixth. But other than that, everything else is kind of up for grabs."

Among other highlights for Maine East were Malesinski finishing second in the 50-yard dash (6.3); the team of freshmen Leslie Christianson, senior Aashuti Patel, junior Lena Sedeta and freshman Jessica Cuevas coming in third in the 3,200 relay (11:06); senior Kristen Georgopoulos finishing fourth in the 50-yard high hurdles (8.4); and senior Tori Walley coming in third in the long jump (5-10).

Next, Maine East will compete in the CSL North Indoor Meet at 3:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at Niles West.

Lirette said she is not sure what to expect.

"It's hard to say, to be honest. We're a small team (in numbers), even though we have some power. But you don't know what any of the other teams have done this year," she said. "We have some power. But you don't know what any of the other teams have done this year."
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