RAT PACK RETURNS Peter Oprisko sings the Dean Martin signature song from 1953, "That's Amore," to a packed room. Peter Oprisko presented his "Rat Pack" show of songs and stories at the Niles Historical Society. PAGE 5. JON LANGHAM-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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Village Board

Trustees reject sales-tax hike for Golf Mill mall

BY TRACY GRUEN

Contributed

Golf Mill Shopping Center was denied a partnership with the village of Niles when only one trustee voted to support the establishment of a special business district at the board meeting on March 27.

Four trustees voted against approving the establishment of the district, which would have created a sales-tax increase of 25 percent, or 25 cents on a $100 purchase.

Trustee Andrew Przybylo was the only trustee to support the proposal. Trustee Joseph LoVerde was not at the meeting.

Each year Golf Mill Shopping Center provides $2.7 million in sales taxes to the village of Niles, which is 12 percent of total village sales-tax revenue.

If the business district had been approved the revenue would have supported a plan that includes a new 30,000-square-foot junior department store; a three-story, 8,400-square-foot building on Milwaukee Avenue; sewer and watermain improvements; and facade and sidewalk improvements. Mall representatives had stated several times in the past that the projects are crucial in order for the shopping center to stay competitive with other nearby malls, and remain the "Crown Jewel of Niles."

During a 20-year period $7 million was expected to have been generated by the rejected mall-sales-tax increase, and Golf Mill ownership would have dedicated about $8 million if the $15 million in improvements were approved.

"I was very impressed with what is being proposed regarding flooding issues, signage and aesthetics," Przybylo said. But Przybylo recommended using money generated from a quarter-cent, village-wide sales tax implemented in January instead of creating an additional sales-tax increase at Golf Mill.

"I have a real problem raising the sales tax again after we just raised it," he said.

Resident Pat Argyrakis urged the board not to partner with Golf Mill to raise the sales tax.

"We will be the highest taxing body in the state of Illinois," Argyrakis said.

Village trustees recently took a behind-the-scenes tour of Golf Mill with mall representatives. Trustee Chris Hamuisk said the shopping center has a flooding problem caused by a maintenance issue that mall management should have handled.

"Roofs weren't maintained," Hamuisk said. "This is their home and it wasn't maintained."

Trustee Rosemary Palicki echoed Hamuisk's concerns about the lack of maintenance at the mall.

"Golf Mill is a big part of Niles," said Resident Mike Shields, who supported the establishment of the business district, but also felt it was important for the mall to continue to commit funds to make improvements. "Golf Mill does have to succeed."

Shields noted that Golf Mill was "dated looking" and could benefit from the planned improvements.

So, what's next for Golf Mill now that the business district was not approved?

Manager Mike Williams said the mall is still committed to making various improvements and would like to explore the possibility that Przybylo suggested regarding using funds from the recently implemented village-wide sales-tax increase. Finance Director Scot Neukirch said that about $2.1 million a year is expected to be collected from that tax hike.

Williams said he wished the village would have decided to be a partner with Golf Mill.

Trustees work to whittle down general fund deficit

With a goal of balancing the proposed budget in the general fund, Niles trustees reviewed recommendations made by Mayor Robert Callero to reduce expenses during the third budget workshop March 29.

The projected general-fund budget for 2013 had a deficit of $626,104, but after some changes that amount was reduced to $523,000 by the end of the workshop on March 29. The budget also includes a transfer of $500,000 from the reserves in order to fund the pensions, leaving a $23,000 deficit.

Some major topics of the session included Trustee Louella Preston's idea to add $8,000 into the budget so trustees could attend out-of-state conferences and Trustee Jim Hynes push to increase the village's pension contributions in order to meet the actuarial-recommended amount.

Teeters decided to leave their pension contribution the same for now, but in the fall they may consider contributing an additional $1 million from the projected surplus in order to reach the recommended amount.

Finance Director Scot Neukirch said that the board should be applauded for increasing the pension contributions during the past few years. This year the budget includes $4.5 million for the police and fire-pension contributions.

Callero stood firmly on his position to not put money in the budget for trustees to attend out-of-state conferences.

"I will say shame on you for not giving a good example to the employees," Callero said to Preston.

Callero told the board at the past budget meeting that he feels attending a conference in Chicago is sufficient, especially since trustees can get video streaming or reading materials, as well.

Hynes said he did not feel it was up to the mayor to decide whether trustees could attend out-of-state conferences.

"When it comes to the budget items, I do have the final say," Callero said.

If trustees had decided to add $8,000 in the budget for an out-of-state conference, Callero said he would execute a line-item veto. Trustees would then have the opportunity to override the mayor's action, though officials ultimately decided not to add the amount into the budget.

"The mayorship is not a seven-headed monster," Callero said.

Trustees also decided to remove a $5,000 line item for perfect-attendance awards for nonunion employees; the awards provide a financial incentive for employees who miss no work. The budget still includes $5,000 for perfect-attendance awards for union employees.

"Why would we give them a financial reward for something they're expected to do?" Trustee Rosemary Palicki questioned.

Callero supported the perfect-attendance awards because he was concerned about losing productivity if people didn't have an extra incentive to come to work.

"I don't think it's an appropriate award," said Hynes, adding that too many sick people who would be at home may come to work, and that more people would get sick and hurt more productivity in the long run.

Callero also recommended removing a $38,000 item to fix a leak in the Leaning Tower YMCA fountain and instead plant flowers at that location for $10,000. But trustees wanted the leak fixed, and cited that the YMCA is an iconic structure in the village of Niles.

In order to possibly reduce the $600,000 in annual expenses to operate the Niles Free Bus to $400,000, a public hearing may be scheduled for June.

Peter Oprisko presented his "Rat Pack" show of songs and stories at the Niles Historical Society on March 25. JON LANGHAM-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Niles Historical Society

'Rat Pack' party takes revelers back to swingin' times

Ever wonder what happened to the "Rat Pack"?

They were the undisputed kings of "cool" and the Niles Historical Society recently invited friends and neighbors to relive that unforgettable time.

The society on March 25 welcomed Peter Oprisko for an afternoon of music, comedy, stories and more as he told of the Rat Pack's antics and camaraderie. There were also free refreshments, dessert and socializing.

The afternoon was designed for and open to everyone, young, old and in-between, whether they lived in Niles or not.

The Niles Historical Museum is at 8970 Milwaukee Ave.
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Blockshopper: 19
Calendar: 31
Diversions: 81
Family Friendly: 82
Film clips: 84
Fixer: 23
Food: 30
Opinion: 22
Photo feature: 12
Police blotter: 11
Property transfers: 18
Showtimes: 85
Sports: 41

THIS WEEK

PIONEER PROFILE

Handle with care

Maine South junior sends smiles to sick kids with greeting-card effort

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Seventeen-year-old Jen Rubino knows a hospital can be a frightening and lonely place for a child dealing with a serious illness or recovering from surgery.

Diagnosed at age 11 with a connective-tissue disorder that causes weakness in her arms and legs, the Main South High School junior has had 18 operations and her fair share of days in the hospital. It was during an especially difficult hospital stay in February 2011 that Rubino received a handmade card with a caring message.

"It had such an incredible impact on me and it really helped me maintain hope," Rubino, of Park Ridge, said. "That particular experience was just so amazing for me and I wanted to give back to other kids."

Almost immediately Rubino launched "Cards for Hospitalized Kids," an initiative allowing volunteers to create their own greeting cards for sick children.

"Initially it was just myself and some people from my school making cards with me," Rubino explained.

Thanks to social-media sites like Facebook and Twitter, word about Cards for Hospitalized Cards spread. Just a year later CFHK is a full-fledged organization with hundreds of volunteers from across the country creating cards that are distributed to hospitals in multiple states.

"We're constantly expanding to new hospitals," Rubino said. "So far we've given cards to about 65 hospitals."

This year Rubino has set a goal of providing at least 20,000 sick children with a greeting card to help brighten their hospital stay. Though cards sent out of state are distributed to the children by hospital personnel, Rubino tries to make personal visits to Chicago-area hospitals when she can. She also hears from the parents of children who have received a supportive, meaningful greeting. One mother shared with Rubino how a card from CFHK, given to her daughter while she was in intensive care, had a significant effect.

"After receiving a card from us she smiled after having been unresponsive," Rubino shared. "So it's little things like that which are having such a huge impact."

Rubino also shared a story of meeting an early recipient of one of CFHK's greeting cards.

"One of the very first kids who received a card from us was a heart transplant patient at Children's Memorial Hospital," Rubino said. "Recently she started doing a lot better and she got released from the hospital. She came to one of our most recent card-making events so it was really great to actually meet her and see how well she was doing."

CFHK has also received support from several Olympic gymnasts who made cards and signed autographed pictures for hospitalized children. The Olympians included Nastia Liukin, Aly Raisman, Alicia Sacramone, Rebecca Bross, Jonathon Horton, Shayla Worley, Danell Leyva and Dominique Moceanu.

Being the 17-year-old president of an organization with a nationwide reach, Rubino says, "Incredible."

"I have so much personal experience being in the hospital," she said. "I know how hard it is and I know how isolating it can be. For me it's been so amazing to know I'm helping other kids deal with the struggle I've had myself."

Anyone can make a greeting card for a hospitalized child. Guidelines, who made cards and signed autographed pictures for hospitalized children. The Olympians included Nastia Liukin, Aly Raisman, Alicia Sacramone, Rebecca Bross, Jonathon Horton, Shayla Worley, Danell Leyva and Dominique Moceanu.

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Anyone can make a greeting card for a hospitalized child. Guidelines, listed on the CFHK website, include suggested messages such as "Stay strong," "You rock" or "You shine brighter than the sun."

Cards should not include religious sentiments or sayings like "get well soon" because many of the recipients are suffering from chronic or fatal illnesses, the site explains. The organization also encourages volunteers to host card-making parties or events for members of community organizations and social groups to make cards together.

Cards can be sent to Cards for Hospitalized Kids, 6567 N. Olmsted, Chicago, IL 60681. For more information go to www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com.
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Examining the costs, benefits of public’s right to know

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

Public scrutiny over government spending is the norm in today's cash-strapped climate.

In the northwest suburbs of Chicago, taxpayer concerns about the management of school-district funds have manifested in the form of Freedom of Information Act requests.

Commonly referred to by its acronym, FOIA, the federal law is often viewed as a journalist's tool for obtaining previously unreleased information and documents from public entities.

But anyone may exercise the right to access public records, residents sometimes become their own watchdogs, especially in districts where property taxes comprise as much as 80 percent of school budgets.

Barb Macholz, community outreach coordinator for the Better Government Associations, said education is a long-time hot-button issue, as local and national debates over standardized testing unions and charter schools have been happening for years.

She organizes free training across the state to educate people on their legal rights and strategies for monitoring the government and local public schools.

The sessions are meant to help residents understand government structures, the Open Meetings Act and FOIA.

"These tools can really show you where your tax dollars are going," Macholz said. "There are things you can do as an individual because you have that power under the law."

In some sense public involvement is a positive sign in desperate times.

"You want citizens to be engaged at a point where they catch issues before they happen," Macholz said.

Personal crusade

Once he retired, Niles resident Ken Butterly took it upon himself to pay close attention to his local school districts.

He attended board meetings, created a blog and then wrote extensively about the

hearings at Maine Township High School District 207 between 2007 and 2011. In the 2010-11 school year, District 207 spent about $3,100 worth of staff time and $5,394 on legal fees to process 100 FOIA requests. One of these was a media request. The vast majority that year of 89 to be exact came from Butterly.

His requests for information and documents over the years spanned the spectrum of school-related matters, from common contracts, budgets and testing score reports to specific credit-card statements and communication records between administrators and the district's attorneys.

"If you don't ask about those things, administration and boards will go on their own and do their own thing," Butterly said, adding that he was primarily interested in how the district managed its money.

At one point Butterly's blog prompted Superintendent Scott Clay to post comments of his own in response to information Clay called erroneous and falsely interpreted.

"The problem with sending a (FOIA) document without background information is that people extrapolate what's not really happening," Clay said of the incident.

In 2011, District 207 received 27 requests. So far this year it processed eight.

One request was for a "laundry list" of information, Clay said, including district salaries, benefits, student enrollment and healthcare costs.

"Financial information is something we know the public is clearly interested in," Butterly said.

Like most other school districts, District 207 publishes some of its financial records online so that they are readily available to the public, including its annual financial reports and budgets.

A list of requests exceeding $25,000 is also posted, as required by FOIA law.

"In many ways as we can see how much FOIA requests don't come from individuals on personal crusades, various district staff say, but rather are sent by vendors for commercial purposes.

Dave Beery, director of communications for Maine Township High School District 207, said contract information is his most common FOIA request.

Though FOIA laws do not require the intent of a request to be stated, Beery suspects they come from competing businesses and unions.

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"In many ways as we can see how much FOIA requests don't come from individuals on personal crusades, various district staff say, but rather are sent by vendors for commercial purposes.
The Niles Police Department announced that a group of residents completed training in the Community Emergency Response Team Program, being overseen by the Niles Citizen Corps, according to a news release.

The training consisted of 32 hours of instruction and hands-on learning in first aid, triage, fire suppression, and light search and rescue.

The trainees, who are members of the village's Volunteers in Police Service Program, may be called upon to assist local law enforcement and emergency services in the event a disaster were to impact the village of Niles or surrounding communities.

These people will join the already-certified members of the village's CERT Program. First responders are almost always those members of the community who are first impacted by a disaster. By training members of the community, the village is working to make the community stronger and capable in caring for each other until Emergency Services arrive on scene.

Jim McNutt, business manager at the Niles Public Library, stated in a Feb. 22 letter that he was resigning his position in order to avoid being fired.

The letter came after an executive session held Feb. 20.

"I was given the alternative of resigning or being terminated," McNutt said in his letter. "Being new at this experience, resignation felt a better way to maintain self respect."

In the letter, he continued: "With the deepest of personal regret I do agree that my personal situation has precluded me from being the best possible person for the position of business manager of the Niles Public Library.

"As a promise to my family and self all efforts will be made to prevent others that trust me from experiencing similar situations."

Trustee Morgan Dubiel said he could not comment on what was stated in an executive session regarding McNutt's resignation.

"He resigned and we accepted it," Dubiel said.

Phone calls to staff regarding McNutt's resignation were not returned March 30.

McNutt was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol for a third time in November 2010, according to the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office. He was sentenced to 180 days in county jail, fines and DUI school. He also had probation for two years. A representative of the state's attorney's office said he has been under supervision and might be released from supervision on Nov. 9.

"The knowledge I have gained and experiences learned are to be shared, and will be done without reservation," McNutt said in his resignation letter. "Many I have met will always be considered as personal friends, my appreciation will remain sincere and any possible assistance will be without reservation."
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Homemade explosives left outside Maine Township home

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Cook County Sheriff's Police are investigating the circumstances behind a set of homemade explosive devices left outside a residence in unincorporated Maine Township.

Deputy Cmdr. Anthony Brzeznik said two liter-sized bottles filled with toilet-bowl cleaner and pieces of aluminum foil had been placed March 25 outside a residence on the 9500 block of North Terrace. The mixing of the cleaning agent with the aluminum foil resulted in a chemical reaction, causing the bottles to explode, Brzeznik said.

"When it's shaken up it explodes like a bomb," he explained.

No injuries or property damage were reported.

The 61-year-old resident of the home reportedly told police that this was the second time a homemade explosive device was placed outside his residence. The first incident occurred March 5, Brzeznik said.

The man told police he did not know who would want to target him in his way, police said.

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.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Michael Valentin, 21, of 7524 Keeney, was arrested March 22 at his apartment and charged with criminal damage to property. The suspect allegedly put gang-related graffiti in the men's public bathroom in the lobby of the Niles Police Department.

AUTO THEFT

A vehicle was stolen between March 23 and March 24 while parked on the 8900 block of Milwaukee Avenue said on March 22 that someone appeared to have defecated near the back door of his business.

Suspect Wisner, reported a 54-year-old Niles man who said he believes his 1999 Honda SUV was locked at the time it was stolen.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

The manager of a business on the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue said on March 22 that someone took her purse from her baby stroller while she was shopping March 25 at Golf Mill Shopping Center. The purse contained $50, credit cards and an Illinois drivers license.

The 34-year-old Park Ridge man reported between March 23 and March 24 that someone forced their way into his vehicle and stole the GPS from his dashboard while the vehicle was parked in a lot on the 8500 block of Golf Road.

THEFT

A 38-year-old woman reported that someone took her purse from her baby stroller while she was shopping March 25 at Golf Mill Shopping Center. The purse contained $50, credit cards and an Illinois drivers license.

An unknown male offender pumped $45 worth of gas into a silver truck March 25 on the 7600 block of Milwaukee Avenue and left without paying.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

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

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Criminal damage to property complaints were reported March 10 on the 9200 block of West Emerson Street and March 16 on the 8800 block of Ballard Road.

BURGLARY

A vehicle was stolen between March 10 on the 9200 block of West Emerson Street and March 16 on the 8800 block of Ballard Road.

THEFT

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The Prairie View Community Center in Morton Grove offers piano lessons Monday through Saturday. The program teaches students from age 4 to adults.

The Community Center also offers Guitar lessons on Mondays and Thursdays. Students range from 8 years old to teenagers.

The teaching staff comprises accomplished instructors and musicians with years of teaching and performing experience. Instruction covers beginner to advanced students in all genres of music. The Community Center is at 6834 Dempster St.

Tala Tabahi, 5, of Morton Grove, sits on a binder to bring her closer to the keys on the piano during a lesson.

Tom Henry, 9, of Morton Grove, gets a guitar lesson from teacher Dan Chernow, of Chicago, at the Prairie View Community Center in Morton Grove. Tom has been playing guitar since he got one as a birthday present in July.

Bruce Park, 12, of Morton Grove, walks into his guitar lesson as Ian Kim, 8, of Morton Grove, leaves his lesson at the Prairie View Community Center in Morton Grove.

Photos by Ryan Pagelow
Sun-Times Media

Abby Mehr, 8, of Niles, has been taking guitar lessons at the Prairie View Community Center in Morton Grove since fall.
Ian Kim, 8, of Morton Grove, works on a song during his guitar lesson.

Bruce Park, 12, of Morton Grove, works on his scales with Piano Teacher Kevin Cline, of Chicago. Park has been playing piano for two years and takes a guitar lesson after his piano lesson.

Abby Mehr, 8, of Niles, works on chords during her guitar lesson at Prairie View Community Center in Morton Grove. She started playing guitar in the fall.

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CRIME

Police: Single drunk driver causes 2 hit-and-run crashes in two towns on same night

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A Chicago woman was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after she allegedly caused two separate hit-and-run crashes reported within just minutes of each other in Park Ridge and Niles.

Jasmari Andrade, 26, of 6068 N. Albany, was taken into custody by Skokie Police on March 21 after a description of her vehicle was broadcast to area police departments.

According to Park Ridge police a white Audi, later identified as belonging to Andrade, was driving east at 5:20 p.m. on Oakton Street when it crashed into the rear of a Volvo, which was stopped in traffic near Delphia Avenue. The Volvo was pushed into a Dodge Caravan that was stopped directly in front and the Audi drove away at a high rate of speed, police said.

No injuries were reported in the accident, said Park Ridge Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen. Not long after the crash Niles Police also responded to a hit-and-run accident that occurred in front of the Niles Police Station at the intersection of Milwaukee and Touhy avenues. Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene said the driver of a Honda SUV provided a license-plate number and description of the vehicle that struck him before it drove away east on Touhy. Skokie police then stopped the suspect vehicle at 5520 Touhy Ave.

Niles police officers responded to the location and took the driver, identified as Andrade, into custody. She was charged with DUI, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to give aid or information after an accident and illegal transportation of alcohol, Tornabene said.

Park Ridge Police also charged Andrade with leaving the scene of an accident and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

MAINE TOWNSHIP

Emergency mgmt director earns excellence award

Dagmar Rutzen, deputy director of operations for Maine Township's Office of Emergency Management, was the recent recipient of the annual William Cox Memorial Award for excellence in emergency management and her commitment to the township.

The award was created by Robert Cohen, director of Maine Township's Office of Emergency Management, and presented to Rutzen by Maine Township Supervisor Carol Teschky on March 27. The award was named in memory of William Cox, who served as chief deputy of the Maine Emergency Services and Disaster Agency, which later evolved into the Office of Emergency Management.

Rutzen, of unincorporated Maine Township, has volunteered more than 6,000 hours of service during the past seven years. She is also involved with the Maine Township Neighborhood Watch and serves on the board of the North Maine Fire Protection District.
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Free game table or accessories with every basement project, a $1,000 value.*

Lincolnwood: 6825 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60712
Naperville: 2764 W. Aurora Ave., Naperville, IL 60540

*Offer valid on contracted projects now through April 30, 2012. One countertop or game table or accessories allowance per contract. Offer expires 4/30/12. Eligible projects have a minimum contract amount of $20,000, no contingencies and requires a full deposit. Cambria countertop offer is valued up to $1,000. The Great Escape coupon is valued up to $1,000, product must be in-stock, prices and selection may vary. Delivery, installation, set-up and sales tax are not included. All projects are subject to approval by The Airroom Companies management and may not be used in conjunction with any other offer.
You may be able to help with this research if you are:
- commonly occurring in people taking opioid pain medications like morphine.
- an investigational medication is safe and effective in treating constipation.

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DO YOU TAKE A PRESCRIPTION OPIOID MEDICATION AND SUFER FROM CONSTIPATION?

You could be eligible to participate in a clinical research study looking at whether an investigational medication is safe and effective in treating constipation commonly occurring in people taking opioid pain medications like morphine.

You may be able to help with this research if you are:
- ages 18 to 84
- taking at least one opioid pain medication daily
- experiencing constipation symptoms such as:
  - fewer than three bowel movements per week
  - hard/lumpy stools
  - straining
  - sensation of incomplete bowel movements

To find out more, contact:
Resurrection Pain Center
(773) 990-8934

NATIONAL DIVERSITY COUNCIL
Oakton's president is state's ‘Most powerful, Influential’ woman

The National Diversity Council has named Oakton Community College President Margaret Lee one of this year’s “Most Powerful and Influential Women in Illinois.”

Lee was one of 20 leaders honored March 15 at the third annual Illinois Women’s Conference in Chicago.

The award recognizes high-ranking women from public and private sectors who exhibit the tenacity it takes to excel in their field of expertise.

Lee was commended for demonstrating a “commitment to the highest ethical standards and professional excellence.”

“I am honored to be in such good company, with so many dedicated and accomplished women who are committed to enhancing diversity in the workplace,” Lee said in a release from the college.

“Women leaders — indeed all leaders — are obligated to champion diversity within their own organizations,” she said.

Under Lee’s leadership the college created in 2006 an Office of Access, Equity, and Diversity to attract and support a more-diverse faculty, staff and student body.

Since then Oakton has established a written anti-racism and anti-bias policy to better school practices and curricula.

A diversity council and an anti-racism team ensure the policy is carried out.

The college most recently instituted a “Safe Zone” program for training employees to serve as a source of support and affirmation for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning students and employees.

The council’s award marks the second time in two years Lee has been recognized by an organization committed to ending racial discrimination.

In 2010 the Evanston-North Shore Branch of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People honored Lee for community service and educational leadership.

Because of these achievements and more, the Oakton Educational Foundation is giving Lee the “Spirit of Oakton” award at its “Perchance to Dream” gala on April 21. Proceeds from benefit scholarships for students who would otherwise be unable to afford an Oakton education, said Janet Spector Bishop, the college’s senior manager.

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Register for summer classes
Summer registration is now open for eight-week courses that begin June 4 and seven-week courses that start June 11.

Summer semester class listings may be found online at www.oakton.edu or in the Summer 2012 Credit and Noncredit Schedule, available at the Des Plaines and Skokie campuses, 1600 E. Golf Road and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., respectively.

Register in person at either campus Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Students with a current application on file may register online at my.oakton.edu.

For more information about classes, call (847) 635-1741 (Des Plaines), or (847) 635-1400 (Skokie).

Information sessions
Health information technology seminars will be held at Oakton’s Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Faculty will be on hand to discuss course requirements and industry trends.

Sessions in April include:
- Pharmacy technician/aseptic pharmaceutical preparations: April 12, at 6 p.m. (Room 2513).
- Radiologic technology: April 18, at 5 p.m. (Room 1603).
- Physical therapist assistant: April 18, at 6:30 p.m. (Room 1610).
- Nursing: April 26, at 6 p.m. (Room 1610).

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

Examine Broadway tunes
The Greatest Broadway Songs You've Never Heard! (MUS C13-71) — Enjoy original Broadway cast recordings of beautiful show tunes from 1927 to the present. Bob Dahlin, filmmaker and composer, shares his lifetime compilation of obscure gems. Four-week course meets 10-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays starting April 17 at Vi at the Glen, 2500 Indigo Lane, Glenview. Course fee is $56.

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

For more information 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.
District 219 Notes

North presented physics phrenzy

The Niles North Science Department hosted the third annual Physics Phrenzy on March 20 in the East Cafeteria at Niles North High School. Over 50 Niles North physics students assisted at over 25 different stations where children of all ages observed, made predications, tested ideas, and felt physics first-hand.

Children invited to attend dance clinic

Aurora Dance Company will conduct its third annual Dance Clinic for children in grades Kindergarten through eighth grades on April 16 at Niles North High School, 9800 Lawler, Skokie. Participants will choose to learn a hip-hop or jazz dance routine and will be placed in the appropriate level by grade and experience. At the conclusion, children will perform on stage in the Niles North High School Auditorium, along with members of the Aurora Dance Company. The cost is $30 per child and includes clinic, snack, and T-shirt. Register by April 2. Contact Deanna Sortino, Niles North Aurora Dance Company Sponsor, at deason@district219.org or download a registration form at: https://sites.google.com/site/auroradance/

32nd annual Pasta and Pops Dinner

The Niles West Music Parents Association (NWMPA) presents the 32nd annual Pasta & Pops Dinner and Concert, featuring performances by the Niles West High School orchestras, choirs and bands on May 12. This year’s performance honors William S. Koch, Director of Bands, who is retiring after 29 years of teaching at Niles West High School.

Pasta & Pops is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the NWMPA and all proceeds help to support music education at Niles West by funding projects and scholarships not covered by the fine arts department budget. On May 12, the silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner buffet at 6 p.m. and musical performances at 6:35 p.m. Tickets are $16 and include a pasta dinner and the legendary sweets table with desserts donated by the student performers and their families. Call Lori Berman at (847) 677-7001 or by May 2 to request tickets. Individuals or businesses interested in providing an item or gift certificate for the silent auction, or to place an ad in the Pasta & Pops program book, e-mail pastanpops@gmail.com or call Susan Phillips at (312) 969-1899, by April 20.

Summer online registration begins

Though summer may seem far away, it is too soon to start making plans for summer school. Classes will be held at Niles West High School, 5701 W. Oakton St., Skokie. The summer academic session begins June 15, and runs through July 27. Wednesday, July 4, is a non-attendance day.

On-line registration for open Summer School classes will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. April 5; 1 to 8 p.m. June 8; and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 11, in the board room of the District 219 Administrative Offices. Since enrollment is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, some courses may close prior to the first in-person registration date.

Bus transportation will be available, with buses arriving at Niles West at 7:45 a.m. and departing Niles West at 12:25 p.m. Bus routes are available on the Summer School website and at textbook pick-up on June 14. For the students’ convenience, there will be a bus provided from Niles West to Niles North at 12:30 p.m. A bus pass is required.

For the Summer Academic and Athletic brochure and to register, visit summer.niles219.org. Questions should be directed to the Summer School office at (847) 626-3060.

North Star news is now online

The Niles North High School student newspaper, the North Star, has changed formats to become an online news website. A launch party was held Feb. 23 to officially unveil the new format, which will feature up-to-the-minute news stories and in-depth articles, as well as videos, galleries, and polls.

Go to www.northstarnews.org, 24-7, to find the latest news about Niles North. The advisers for North Star News are Charles Pratt and Ivan Silverberg.

Students earn FCCLA awards

Approximately 450 middle and high school family consumer science students recently gathered at the College of Lake County to participate in the Grayslake Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc. (FCCLA) Regional Competition. Niles North and Niles West High Schools were among the competing schools and earned 11 Most Outstanding awards, 16 First place awards, 27 Second place awards and 61 students qualified for state competition. The state contest will be held April 19-21 in Springfield.

Niles North results: Five students attained the top five scores in a STAR competition and qualified for state in STAR Culinary Arts: David Barak, Dianne Maglauke, Alexander Johnson, Jordan Kabins and Romeo Montiel. Students were awarded Most Outstanding, First place, Second place or Third place. For more information, visit niles219.org. Questions can be directed to the North Star news website at (847) 626-3060.

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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

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DES PLAINES

1007S Potter Road: Deutsche Bank Nati Trt Co Ttee to James A Reineke Mary A Reineke, $89,000, March 6
1115 Holiday Lane Apt 6: Bank Of America Nta to Walczak TracZ Peter TracZ, $335,000, March 6
1378 N Pratt St Apt 303: Lantern Trust to Muntaz Jahan, $158,000, March 2
1469 Van Buren Ave: Real Equities Inc to Jason Slatkin, $155,000, March 6
1783 White St: Wells Fargo Bank to Merta Sojka Stanislaw Sojka, $94,000, March 8
183 N East River Road Unit D6: Peter S Han to Manoj P Ninan, $195,000, March 2
210 Potter Road: John Penn to Mohammad W Khan Shakeel Khan, $144,000, March 6
245 Graceland Ave: Balow Trust to David C Zeboski, $33,000, March 2

2600 S Scott St: Us Bank Na Trustee to David Urizar Gonzalez Angel Urizar Valle, $168,000, March 2
550 Nsta St Apt 2: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Sofia Gliner Joseph A Gliner, $62,000, March 2
610 S 4th Ave: Steven L Garcia to Royann Garcia, $200,000, March 8
711 S River Road Apt 403: Phillip Oshana to Gregory A Feingold, $109,000, March 7
8994 Knight Ave Apt 103: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Rajfa Saric, $35,500, March 2
9204 Bumble Bee Drive Apt 1c: Fannie Mae to Zbigniew Nosak David Nosak, $32,000, March 7
9588 Terrace Place Unit 212L: Mathew Mamman to Gojko Danovic, $148,000, March 2
9601 Golf Road Apt 304: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Richard Werie Hong Je Werie, $100,000, March 8

GLENVILLE

1760 Mclean Court: Olive Trust to Sean Hefterman Shannon Hefterman, $254,000, March 8
1740 Melise Drive: Elizabeth A Page to Matthew Love Sarah Page, $425,000, March 6

HARWOOD HEIGHTS

624 W Sunnyside Ave: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Jorge O Sanchez, $156,000, March 7
6354 N Melvina Ave: Fannie Mae to Maria Claire Pasquier, $163,000, March 8

LINCOLWOOD

6730 N Kimball Ave: Henry Lipshitz Estate to Esad Hoxha Rebeka Hoxha, $350,000, March 2
6839 N Keating Ave: Douglas R Rabus to Raymond Schiestel Jr Jacyln Schiestel, $375,000, March 7
6946 N Keystone Ave: Wells Fargo Bank Trustee to Silaj Ehlait, $952,000, March 6

MORTON GROVE

5381 Carol Ave: Lmemex Buildings LLC to Manorous Kaszkarins Christina Kaszkarins, $120,000, March 6
8440 Calle Ave Unit 604: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Oliwa Jasiak Urban, $1,000,000, March 7

MOUNT PROSPECT

1400 N Yarmouth Place Unit 20: Trust to Ahmed Yvonne Joy Tanner, $1,000,000, March 7
1480 S Busse Road Unit 2r: Intercounty Sales Co to Wojtek Kazio, $215,000, March 7

NORWOOD PARK

5631 N Melvina Ave: Fannie Mae to Maria Claire Pasquier, $163,000, March 8
5848 N Melvina Ave: Lottie H Pelka Estate to Steven P Domian Katherine J Domian, $160,000, March 8
7115 W Arthur Ave: Timothy Hamilton to Michael J Weinberger, $350,000, March 7

O'HARE

8528 W Catherine Ave Unit 2n: Robert Smietan to Urszula Rosenthal, $195,000, March 7
8641 W Foster Ave Apt 20: Romana Zaluski to Mohamed Obeid Khalida Obeid, $65,000, March 8
8708 W Berwyn Ave Unit 2s: Nairs Elsaid to Nicholas W Salameh Fatin Y Kanoon, $310,000, March 8

NILES

7601 N Milwaukee Ave Apt 703: Mary C Diskin Estate to Michael J Weinberger, $350,000, March 7

PARK RIDGE

8101 W Devon Ave: Joseph J Bonk to Jorge E Vasco Deborah E Vasco, $242,000, March 2
8321 N Shermer Road: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Mazhar Laliwala Shaeen Laliwala, $125,000, March 2
8416 N Osceola Ave: Peter Colangelo to Mariusz Konopka Robert Gibes, $200,000, March 8
8636 N Merrill St: Chicago Title Land Co Ttee to John Karsa, $220,000, March 8

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

18 E Old Willow Road Apt 108: Tomasz Bylica to Alfredo Rodriguez Oria, $67,000, March 8
400 Hill Court: Anna Sulikowski to Daniel L Lunsford Tracy Lunsford, $411,000, March 8

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

8232 Keating Ave: Malkowski Trust to Maria Cristina Galicia Chris Galicia, $270,000, March 2
9484 Niles Center Road Unit D: Rachel Brill to Asif A Makda, $90,000, March 2
9708 Niles Woods Drive: Alian Bogan to Olivia S Perlow, $145,000, March 8
9360 Skokie Boulevard Unit 316: Leah Ticobay to Sameen Uddin Khan, $168,500, March 7
9445 Kenton Ave Apt 211: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Damit Neziric Zijada, $271,000, March 8
9657 Woods Drive Unit 1809: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Brian W Reif, $190,000, March 8
9715 Woods Drive Unit 811: Jonathan H Aaron to Timothy E Simpson, $360,000, March 8
Remodeled ranch

Single-story features gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances

9326 Osceola Ave., Morton Grove — $344,000

Constructed in 1956, this 1,120-square-foot ranch home sits on 0.21 acres and features a two-car garage.

Highlights of the kitchen include hardwood flooring, stainless steel appliances and a window situated over the sink.

Lighted by a chandelier, the dining room features hardwood flooring, decorative crown molding and trim.

Carpeted flooring lines the lower level, which comes with exposed lighting and an abundance of storage space.

The master bedroom has hardwood flooring, a ceiling fan and mirror on the closet door.

This property is located a mile southwest of the Golf Metra station.

Listing agent: Sabine Russo, Coldwell Banker Residential, 847-727-5679, sabine.russo@cbexchange.com

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>For sale</th>
<th>Median price</th>
<th>Foreclosure rate</th>
<th># of sales</th>
<th># of foreclosures</th>
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<td>2.04%</td>
<td>$223,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niles</td>
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<td>18.59%</td>
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<td>23.88%</td>
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<td>561</td>
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<td>Wilmette</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Glen</td>
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<td>$279,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<td>Norwood Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Des Plaines</td>
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<td>$160,000</td>
<td>32.19%</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Source: ChicagoBlockShopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.

SOUND OFF

Q: As a seller, what will make your home stand out from the others?

A: First and foremost is price. I've seen and heard many sellers say they need to get "X" amount for their home. If it were that easy, we'd all have a "For Sale" sign in our front yards.

The truth is, you need to price your home according to this market — today's market.

I point out the homes similar in your area and add or deduct for the amenities yours may have. Only the sold homes are important; the ones active on the market are your competition. Look at market time, specifically how long a property is on the market.

There are four steps I tell my sellers before I put a sign up: De-clutter, clean, paint and repair. And staging a home is the best investment you can make to sell your home faster, for top dollar. It's cheaper than the first $10,000 price reduction.

— Mary Lou Scinto Allen, Century 21 Affiliated, 847-677-1200, mballen@21affiliated.com
awards. Students with an asterisk (*) also qualified for the state competition.

Most Outstanding:

- Lenny Veytsel*, Pastry Arts Fondant Cakes
- Cryzlyn Domingo* and Sarah
- Hampton*, STAR Chapter
- Showcasing Display: Pearl
- Kohler*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Scott
- Elgazar*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Jordan
- Kabel*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Danielle Mels*, Food
- Production Salad Demonstration.

First place: Brandon
- Rivera*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Samanatha
- Youseph*, Fashion
- Apparel Display; Joavan
- Shaw*, Fashion Production
- Relish Tray; Adam Kaplin*, Food
- Production Salad Demonstration; Amanda
- Ibrahim* and Deasia McCray*, Children's
- Literature Presentation; Isabel
- Berkon*, Pastry Arts Fondant
- Cakes; Veronica Billedo*, Food
- Production Salad Demonstration; Jack
- Burke*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Jack
- Cantin*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Alexander
- Johnson*, Food Production
- Relish Tray; and Kessa Chau*, Food
- Production Salad Demonstration.

Second place: Ariel Tidhar*, STAR Fashion Design; David
- Barak*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Trent
- Markland*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Ethan
- Nager, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Jinal Patel*, Casual
- Wear Apparel Construction; Rachel
- Shaykin*, Fashion
- Apparel Display; Melissa
- Ewart*, Professional Career
- Image; Nicole Pena*, Pastry
- Arts Fondant Cakes; Madhavi
- Tairaa*, Pastry Arts Fondant
- Cakes; Martyna Tos* and Natasha
- Youssif*, Children's
- Literature Presentation; Galu
- Wending*, Maria and Maria
- Fernandez*, STAR Focus on
- Children; Jolgoria Strauss*,
- Brittany Ebeling* and Katherine
- Betz*, STAR Chapter Service Project
- Display; Juliett Glassner and
- Chen Lee, Children's
- Literature Presentation; Amy
- Khomou and Nahra
- Odiso, Children's
- Literature Presentation; Jeanette
- Aboneb, Pastry Arts Fondant
- Cakes; Romeo Montiel*, Food
- Production Salad Demonstration; and Karoline
- Ross*, Pastry Arts Fondant
- Cakes.

Third Place: Johanna
- Sward, Professional Career
- Image.

Also competing in the STAR Culinary Arts event were Kessa Chau and Brandon
- Rivera.

Niles West results: Vanja
- Selak, who competed in STAR Culinary Arts and placed in the top five, qualified
- for the state competition. Students with an asterisk (*) also qualified for the state competition.

Most Outstanding:

- Alexandrea Bits*, STAR Fashion Construction; Molly
- Moreno*, Pastry Arts
- Fondant Cake; Vanja Selak*, Pastry
- Arts Fondant Cake; Lili
- Chatman*, Preschool
- Lesson; and Chrysantho
- Agos*, Children's
- Literature Presentation.

First Place: Katie Graves*,
- Child Care Provider; Colleen
- Gibson* and Patricia
- Mocarska*, Children's
- Literature Presentation; Jenny
- Marin* and Kelly
- Sank*, Children's
- Literature Presentation; Aisha
- Usman*, Pastry Arts
- Decorated Cookie; and
- Sascha Chambers*, Food
- Production Relish Tray.

Second Place: Zena
- Salam*, Formal Wear
- Apparel Construction; Angela
- Guinata*, Formal Wear
- Apparel Construction; Zena
- Salam*, STAR Fashion Construction; Aisha
- Badia*, Child Care Provider; Moriah
- Gelfand*, Children's
- Literature Presentation; Chris
- Lee*, Jonah Barquez*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; Stephen
- Estrella*, Food Production
- Salad Demonstration; and
- Laura Krikorian*, Pastry
- Arts Frosted Cake.

Third Place: Alina Tariq*,
- Formal Wear Apparel
- Construction; Joanna
- Kastrijak*, Semi-formal
- Apparel Construction; and Brandi
- Fryer*, Child Care Provider.

Also competing in the STAR Culinary Arts event: Henry
- Placitsis and Emma
- Lazar and Miranda
- Kang were the 14th
- seed entering the elimination
- rounds. They made it to the
- quarterfinals and were defeated by a team from
- Montgomery Bell Academy. Jessica
- Amlanjaraj and Lia
- Isono were the 16th seed
- entering elimination rounds and ultimately reached the
double octafinal rounds.

There were 235 teams
- competing in the Varsity division. The Niles West teams of Theo
- Noparat and Jonass
- Placito and Emma Lazur and
- Nina Patel both achieved
- 4-2 records, although they
did not advance to the elimina-
tion rounds.

Niles West Debate Head
- Coach Eric Odo said, "To be
- on the verge of advancing in the
- Varsity division at this
- tournament, after just a year
- and a half of rebooting the
- program, is true progress.

Furthermore, it was great to experience success in the
- Junior Varsity division at an-
- other national tournament."

Assistant debate coaches are: Kevin Bancroft, Jeff
- Buntin, Matt Fahrenheit and
- Val McIntosh.

North hosted
- winter roundable

Niles North High School
- hosted a Winter Roundtable
- for Illinois Project Lead
- the Way (PLTW) teachers on
- Feb. 13. Instructors of the
- PLTW nationally-recognized
- pre-engineering curriculum
- met to discuss national
- and Illinois PLTW and
- updates, program successes
- and challenges, best prac-
- tices and suggestions, and
to visit the engineering and
- STEM labs. Participants in-
cluded: University of Illinois
- PLTW, University of Illinois
- at Chicago PLTW, Niles North
- and Niles West High Schools,
- Woodstock High School.
Maine South High School, Schaumburg High School, New Trier High School, North Grand High School, Austin Polytechnic Academy, Waukegan High School and Prospect High School.

West wins State Championship

Niles West Debate competed at the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association State Debate Tournament at Dundee Crown High School on March 9 through 10. This is the state competition for Novice and Junior Varsity debate in Illinois. West debaters Miranda Kang and Nathan Anderson won the state championship in the Novice policy debate division. Kang and Anderson faced 46 teams from across the state in the Novice division. They were 7-3 in preliminary rounds and the fifth seed entering elimination rounds. They defeated Glenbrook North for the championship and were 3-0 in elimination rounds. Gershon Chan and Tahir Meeks were 6-4 in the preliminary rounds but failed to advance to the elimination rounds. Out of 92 debaters, Nathan Anderson was named the fourth speaker. Jafat Ahmed, Nick Charles, Lizzie Prete, James McLealan, Alwin Alex, Michelle Sproat, Morgan Gistalter and Walter Lindwall also debated well and had respectable records at the tournament.

In the Junior Varsity division, 31 teams from across the state competed. Theo Noparstak and Jonass Placits went 4-1 in preliminary rounds and were the third seed entering elimination rounds. In the semifinals they lost on a close 2-1 decision to Niles North. Emma Lazar and Vinay Patel were 4-1 in the preliminary rounds and the fifth seed entering elimination rounds. They lost on a close 2-1 decision to King College Prep in the quarterfinals. Niles West was one of two schools to eliminate more than one team from the state in the Junior Varsity division. Out of 62 debaters, Theo Noparstak was fourth speaker, Emma Lazar was sixth speaker, Kris Trivedi was seventh speaker and Jonass Placits was ninth speaker. Arri Hoffman, Sana Khan, Lia Isono, Jessie Angalanganjargal, Breana Brill, Nashhi Alam, and Alyssa Gazman also competed at the tournament and did well.

Head Debate Coach Eric Oddo said, "We worked extremely hard to reach our goal of winning state. I appreciate all of the hard work from my assistant coaches: Kevin Bancroft, Jeff Buntlin, Matt Fahrenbacher and Val McIntosh. I also want to thank former New Trier debater Ted Kontopoulos and former Michigan State debater Eric Lanning for assisting us this weekend."

Niles West Debate went on to win many more than one individual speaker awards. Benesch won third overall speaker and Fulbel earned tenth overall speaker, both in a field of 92 debaters. Niles West was one of only two schools in the state to win more than one individual speaker award, attesting to the depth of talent on the all-freshman team.

Next up was the IHSA Varsity State Debate Tournament in Bloomington on March 16 and 17 and the Novice National Debate Tournament on March 23 through 25. The Head Debate Coach is Katie Gjerpen and assistant coaches are Andrew Baker, Apoorv Kumar, Sarah Smaga and Arjun Vellayappan. The team also was assisted by Michigan State University's Carly Wunderlich and Dallas Urban Debate Alliance's Nicole Serrano.

West WYSE team wins third at sectionals

The Niles West Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) team won third place at the Sectional meet held March 9 at Vernon Hills High School. The following WYSE members qualified for the State competition to be held April 5 at the University of Illinois, Chicago-Urbana: Celine Ledesma, first place Engineering Graphics; Andrew Kim, first place physics and second place mathematics; Patrick Liscio, first place mathematics; and Alex Makeyev, second place engineering graphics.

The following WYSE members also contributed: Felix Angelov, Rishy Chacko, Sheryl Cherian, Marc-Daniel Julien, Akshay Nair, Yaya Momin, Michael Nissim, Andrew Rappoport, Alberto Rios, Vikram Shah and Edward Lee. WYSE coaches are Martha Lietz and Matthew Fahrenbacher.
Guard yourself against accidental drug overdoses

Barbara woke up early because she heard some noises in her backyard.

Grabbing her robe, she dashed outside, only to find that the neighbor's dog had gotten loose and was barking at squirrels.

Since she was already outside, she decided check on her garden, where she found this big weed that she just had to pull.

One weed led to another, and before she knew it, Barbara was outside for more than an hour.

Then she took her regular meds for her allergies triggered by her time in the garden.

Once she came back inside, she started her morning routine. She took some over-the-counter meds prescribed by a patient's physician who treats any ailment.

That doesn't even take into account the over-the-counter meds and supplements many people also take.

Then, of course, there is the confusion caused by brand vs. generic drugs, prescriptions from multiple pharmacies, warehouse clubs or drug manufacturers, and meds that look exactly alike but are completely different.

So what are we to do?

Get organized, communicate and simplify. You can start by making a list of all your or your parents' medications and keeping that handy.

This gives you the opportunity to go through all your meds, including the over-the-counter ones, and discard any medications no longer used or needed.

Some pharmacies have special programs for discarding meds safely, so check with them. If possible, get all medications from one pharmacy.

Walgreens also has a software program that immediately alerts them if any medications may cause bad reactions to drug interactions.

Request a thorough review of all medications with your pharmacist or primary physician.

If you wish to be really educated about the drugs that you or a family member are taking, there is a special program called medication therapy management (MTM).

MTM is a partnership of the pharmacist, the patient or their caregiver and other health professionals who promote the safe and effective use of medications.

The program also helps patients achieve the targeted outcomes from their medication therapy.

Oscos pharmacy has a partnership with the MTM program, so you can contact the pharmacist there for more information.

— Terri Schmidt, a licensed clinical social worker, writes "To Your Good Health" for the Park Ridge Health Commission. Send comments to terrischmidt@sbcglobal.net.

1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS

Dystopian story would be novel if it weren't so true

The gist of my film would be depicted Americans forced to have lower expectations, and the toothy, garish host laughs as we cruddy contestants are herded onto the stage. The host threatens: "Chop, chop, you middle-aged cretins, or I'll force you all to Zumba!"

Fred, a pudgy accountant driving a 12-year-old Accord, is selected first.

"Choose, Fred," the host chortles.

"Fill your car's tank or ride a unicycle," Fred replies.

"Hello, Unemployment Office!" the crowd shouts as the "AP-PLAUSE" sign is flashed.

Next, a middle-aged woman steps up to play.

"Choose, Mildred. Take that second job at McDonald's or lose your home?"

Mildred balks. "A second job will mean an 18-hour work day. If I stand that long, my varicose veins will burst."

They shove Mildred offstage.

"In the new film, beautiful young people are forced to play the 'Hunger Games.' In my low-budget version, it would be a bunch of middle-aged people complaining about the humidity and needing knee replacements. Likely people everywhere would line up and volunteer to kill us."

"With gas prices like these? I'll take the unicycle," Fred replies.

Fred is then told he can't have his blood-pressure medicine. "Whoops. Looks like your company's about to make layoffs, too. You know what that means."

"I'M NOT T-L-E COLD AGAIN THEN THEN COLD AGAIN THEN."

Managing Editor: Matt Schmitz
708-524-4433 | mschmitz@pioneerlocal.com

Van Mom Strikes Again

"The Hunger Games" is a dystopian type of movie and novel.

"Dystopia" is a place where there isn't any hope.

Which kind of describes my experience at the gas station earlier. Feeling hopeless, I filled up the tank and passed the $70 mark.

The gas pump hissed like a cobra.

When I swiped my credit card to pay, it made a blood-curdling scream.

In the new film, beautiful young people are forced to play the "Hunger Games."

In my low-budget version, it would be a bunch of middle-aged people complaining about the humidity and needing knee replacements. Likely people everywhere would line up and volunteer to kill us."
The company was offering vouchers for a limo ride to either Chicago airport for $29. The limo company that was supposed to provide this service left me stranded twice — going to Midway and on my return. On the trip to the airport, I was scheduled for a 4 a.m. pickup for a 6 a.m. flight. At 4:10, the driver had not arrived. When I called him, he reported that he was "just getting on Lake Shore Drive." Given that I live in Lincoln Park, that meant he was at least 10 minutes away. I decided that if I waited for him, I would miss my flight. I caught a taxi to the airport, ended up running to the gate and was the last person to board the flight.

I naively gave the limo company a chance to redeem itself when I returned to Midway. I called the driver after retrieving my bags and he said he would be at the middle island outside the terminal in 10 minutes. Roughly 25 minutes later, I was still waiting. I called again, and the driver impolitely told me to "stop talking." Once again, I had to take a cab. I have cellphone records to verify all of these times.

Dealfind's website advertises a satisfaction guarantee: "If you feel disappointed with anything you bought from Dealfind, let us know within 30 days and we'll return your purchase — it's that easy."

It's not actually easy. I contacted customer support and heard back from a "customer satisfaction expert." He said it was customary practice to contact the vendor and give them 24 hours to explain the situation. That was a week ago.

This seems like a straightforward situation. I purchased a service that was not delivered satisfactorily. Dealfind claims to guarantee my satisfaction.

Charlie Wheelan

Dear Charlie: First, bravo to you for speaking up. No matter how low the price, a deal certainly isn't a deal if you wind up missing your plane.

It was apparent you had a legitimate beef. Why would anyone pay $29 each way up front for a limo and then pay another 70 bucks in taxi fares?

Happy, the people at Dealfind agreed. They offered you a choice of "Dealfind Dollars" equal to 110 percent of your purchase or a refund to your credit card. You chose the credit card refund.

The Fixer's Greatest Hits

The Fixer will talk about how to avoid common rip-offs and save money, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. April 21 at the Schaumburg Township District Library's central location, 130 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg. The program, funded through a financial education grant, is part of the library's celebration of Money Smart Week. To register, go to stdl.org and click on "events" or call the library at (847) 985-4000 for more information.

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.
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True tales of girl troubles

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

DC Pierson, a stand-up comic and novelist based in Los Angeles, will cheerfully admit that he's good at comedy, but bad at girls.

In fact, that's sort of the theme, and almost the title, of his one-man show "DC Pierson Is Bad at Girls," which opens the brand new Gorilla Tango performance space (the performance space formerly known as The Skokie Theatre) with one show only April 7.

(Keep your eye on Gorilla Tango, by the way, a producing company with considerable success in two previous incarnations, including a theater in Bucktown, run by longtime North Shore resident Dan Abate.

Gorilla Tango has no creative agenda; rather, it books the largest number and widest variety of shows possible, always with the hope of finding entertainments that click with local audiences.)

Fun with heart

"It's kind of a stand-uppy show in the sense that it's full of jokes and stuff, but there's some heart to it as well," said the 27-year-old comic, whose credits include per-

ching it as well," said the 27-year-old (though he is quite happy to point out that he currently is involved in a romantic relationship that seems to be benefiting from his hard-won experience).

In addition to his painful puppy-

love episode, "Bad at Girls" includes the story of Pierson's most significant college relationship, and his sub-

sequent post-grad romance with a professional stripper.

For the record, Pierson prides himself on being entirely honest about these stories instead of pumping them up for comic effect.

"I've always found it most effective to take things that have happened to me, that seem to be show-worthy, and present them in a way that's real and true," he said. "Everything you'll see in this show is true; I can vouch for that."

Also for the record, Pierson places the onus on his early failed relationships squarely on his own shoulders.

"This is not an evening of me talking about how cool I am and how these girls were lame," he said, laughing. "It's kind of the other way around. This is me kind of taking responsibility for how poorly I did with women for so long."

DC Pierson | PHOTO BY ZAC WOLF

'Bad at Girls'

Gorilla Tango Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie
7:30 p.m. April 7
Tickets are $20
(773) 598-4549 or visit gorillatango.com
Monarch butterflies take wing in Harwood Heights

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Five dozen monarch butterflies will spread their brilliantly colored wings and take flight from outside the Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo, Harwood Heights, between 2 and 3:30 p.m. April 22. The event celebrates Earth Day.

Entomologist Tom Dobrinska of Anderson Pest Solutions, a Park Ridge resident, will be on hand to discuss the importance of butterflies.

"I'll be there with our butterfly collection going briefly over the biology of butterflies and moths—why they're important to our ecology in general," Dobrinska said. "When they're hanging on flowers, feeding on the nectar, a lot of them carry pollen. They're good for the development of those flowers."

Dobrinska will distribute brochures about attracting butterflies to home gardens.

"Certain native flowering plants are more attractive than others," he explained. "Different colors are important and making sure that you have flat rocks there. That gives them a place to rest and bask in the sun."

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

Egg-citement at Old Orchard

Face painting, balloon twisting and searching for prize-filled eggs are the highlights of the Easter Egg Hunt near the Serpent play area at Westfield Old Orchard in Skokie at 11:30 a.m. Saturday. Treats will be served.

The egg hunt is open to the first 150 children, ages 2-5, who register starting at 10:30 a.m. that day at the Westfield Concierge, 4999 Old Orchard Center.

For details, call (847) 678-6800 or visit westfield.com/oldorchard.

Party with preschoolers

Dance to tunes played by DJ Miss Cate at the Bibliobop Dance Party from 10 to 11 a.m. April 18 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. No registration is needed to enjoy the library's large music collection.

For details, call (847) 665-1234 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.

Animal acts

The author-Illustrator of Cinder-Eyed Cats, Bone Dog and My Friend Rabbit will visit the Skokie Public library, 5215 Oakton St., on Wednesday. Kids in preschool to kindergarten can meet Eric Rohmann from 4 to 4:30 p.m., those in kindergarten to fifth grade from 7 to 8 p.m. A parent must accompany kids. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or visit skokie.library.info.

Book 'em

Bring your child to Kids World at the Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo, Harwood Heights, Sunday through April 14, to be photographed with a favorite book. The photo will be turned into a READ poster and hung in the library in celebration of National Library Week. Posters can be picked up and taken home in May.

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

Roped into ‘Pope’

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

WE HAVE A POPE

Well, they do and they don't.
Mostly, they don't.
A gentle comedy that also wants to be a serious drama, and eventually hunches at the last moment into semi-tragedy, “We Have a Pope” doesn’t quite know where it’s going — and as a result, never quite gets there.

Because it was written and directed by Nanni Moretti, a leftist Italian filmmaker with a reputation for playing hardball when the mood strikes him (as in his 2006 satire of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi “The Caiman”), many critics expected Moretti to get tough with the church in “We Have a Pope.” And they generally condemned the film when it didn’t. The real problem, though, isn’t the film’s more-or-less respectful, generally bemused tone, but its failure to pay off along the dramatic lines it appears to be developing.

While its satire is rooted in a mildly critical study of institutional impotence, it attempts to develop drama from a contrasting crisis of profound personal doubt. Unfortunately, that crisis of conscience eventually turns out to be similarly limp.

“We Have a Pope” opens with a massive crowd of anxious Catholics gathered outside the Vatican as 108 cardinals from around the world assemble in conclave to elect a new Supreme Pontiff. The tone is grave, hushed, somber, until we have the chance to listen in to the earnest prayers of the front runners: “Not me, Lord; not me!”

Unable to make a decisive selection from the most qualified candidates, the cardinals finally settle for a tie-breaker by electing Cardinal Melville (the venerable French star Michel Piccoli), a quiet, nondescript nonentity least of all, himself. At first shocked into acceptance, Melville goes with the papal flow, right up to the point where he is about to be presented to the world from the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica, when he suddenly emits an anguished scream, declares that he can’t do it, and runs away as fast as he can.

At that point, Moretti (who won the Palme d’Or at Cannes for his 2001 drama “The Son’s Room” and competed for the same prize with “We Have a Pope”) begins to develop his story on increasingly divergent tracks.

As a psychiatrist called in to consult the Pope (who has been officially elected, but not announced), Moretti presides over whimsical developments as he and the cardinals, who are still officially in conclave and entirely out of touch with the outside world, twiddle their thumbs and wait for the former cardinal to resolve his doubts. That process includes a fair number of charming moments as days slowly go by: a psychoanalytic session with the pontiff as the entire College of Cardinals looks on, an all-cardinal volleyball tournament, an exasperated critique of the church leaders’ psych meds. But comedy is set aside, for the most part, when Moretti turns his attention to Melville, a devout man who feels utterly unprepared and ill-suited for the role he believes God has chosen for him to play. While a billion people wait for him to accept his fate, the almost childish, innocent, utterly-out-of-his-depth Pope manages to slip away from his minders and wander the streets of Rome, becoming involved with a troupe of actors rehearsing a production of “The Seagulls.”

The tone is grave, hushed, somber, until we have the chance to listen in to the earnest prayers of the front runners: “Not me, Lord; not me!”

Unfortunately, that crisis of conscience eventually turns out to be similarly limp.

“We Have a Pope” opens with a massive crowd of anxious Catholics gathered outside the Vatican as 108 cardinals from around the world assemble in conclave to elect a new Supreme Pontiff.

THE END
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EASTER RESERVATIONS

WE HAVE A POPE

Rated: No MPAA rating
Stars: Michel Piccoli, Nanni Moretti

When the College of Cardinals is unable to choose among the front-running candidates to become the new Pope, they elect a highly unlikely pontiff (Piccoli), who doesn't want the job. Moretti ("The Son's Room") wrote and directed the comedy. Reviewed in this section. In Italian with subtitles.

STILL PLAYING

CASADE MI PADRE

Rated: R for bloody violence, language, some sexual content and drug use
Stars: Will Ferrell, Gael Garcia Bernal, Diego Luna, Genesis Rodriguez

The funniest movie of the year may also turn out to be the strangest. In addition to the most intentionally awful. Ferrell stars as Armando (and speaks Spanish throughout) in this dead-on-target parody of a truly bad 1970s-era Mexican action/melodrama. Hilarious.

DETACHMENT

Rated: No MPAA rating

Eugene Levy and Jason Biggs reprise their "American Pie" roles in "American Reunion."

OPENING FRIDAY

AMERICAN REUNION

Rated: R for crude and sexual content throughout, nudity, language, brief drug use and teen drinking
Stars: Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott

Years after the comically carnal events of "American Pie," the principal characters gather for a high school reunion. Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg (the "Harold & Kumar" series) directed the comedy.

TITANIC

Rated: PG-13 for disaster-related peril and violence, nudity, sensuality and brief language
Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet

Director James Cameron's Oscar-winning, record-setting box-office smash rises from the depths for another fateful voyage: this time in 3-D.

WILLIAM SHATNER

Rated: No MPAA rating

Starring as Armando (and speaking Spanish throughout) in this dead-on-target parody of a truly bad 1970s-era Mexican action/melodrama. Hilarious.

UNRATED

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.

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 Dr. Seuss adaptation.

MIRROR MIRROR

Rated: PG-13 for intense sexual content, pervasive language, drug material, teen drinking and some violence
Stars: Jeremy Irons, Channing Tatum

This parody of the late-'80s TV show that launched Johnnny Depp is considerably better than you might expect - despite being rude, politically incorrect and insanely violent. The directors of "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" make the most of the surprising chemistry between Hill and Tatum.

WRATH OF THE TITANS

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of fantasy violence and action
Stars: Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson, Rosamund Pike

A decade after his defeat of the monstrous Kraken, the demigod Perseus (Worthington) ventures into the underworld to rescue his father Zeus (Neeson). Jonathan Liebesman ("Battle Los Angeles") directed the sequel to 2010's "Clash of the Titans."
SHOWTIMES

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

ARLINGTON THEATERS
53 S. Evergreen St.
Arlington Heights
(847) 547-0221

American Reunion (R) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45-5:30-8:30; Mon, Wed 12:30-2:45-5:30-8:30; Tue Thu 12:30-2:45-5:30-8:30
The Hunger Games (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-6:45-9:45; Mon, Wed 12:30-3:45-6:45; Tue Thu 12:30-3:45-6:45
21 Jump Street (R) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:10-4:10-7:10; Mon, Wed 12:10-2:10-4:10-7:10; Tue Thu 12:10-2:10-4:10-7:10
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:10-4:10-7:10; Mon, Wed 12:10-2:10-4:10-7:10; Tue Thu 12:10-2:10-4:10-7:10

13) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45; Mon, Wed 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45; Tue Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA:
Manon Sat 11 a.m.
American Reunion (R) Fri Sun 11:15-2:15/3:45-7:30-9:15-10:15; Mon Thu 11:15-2:15/3:45-7:30-9:15-10:15
Titanic In 3-D (PG-13) Fri Sun 10:45/3:15-7:15; Mon Thu 10:45-3:15-7:15; Mon Thu 10:45-3:15-7:15
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri Sun 10-11-12-1:10-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10
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Titanic In 3-D (PG-13) Fri Sun 10:45-3:15-7:15; Mon Thu 10:45-3:15-7:15; Mon Thu 10:45-3:15-7:15
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri Sun 10-11-12-1:10-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10

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The Hunger Games (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:45-7:45-9:45; Fri-Sun 1:45-7:45-9:45; Mon Thu 4:45-7:45
The Artist (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Mon Thu 4:30-7:15
Separation (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Mon Thu 4:30-7:15
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri, Sat 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Mon Thu 4:30-7:15

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Titanic In 3-D (PG-13) Fri Sun 10:45-3:15-7:15; Mon Thu 10:45-3:15-7:15; Mon Thu 10:45-3:15-7:15
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri Sun 10-11-12-1:10-2:10-3:10-4:10-5:10-6:10-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:10

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The Artist (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Mon Thu 4:30-7:15
Separation (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Mon Thu 4:30-7:15
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri, Sat 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45; Mon Thu 4:30-7:15

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THE DEEP BLUE SEA (R) Fri Sun 11:15-2:15/3:45-7:30-9:15-10:15; Mon Thu 11:15-2:15/3:45-7:30-9:15-10:15
Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) Fri Sun 11:15-2:15/3:45-7:30-9:15-10:15; Mon Thu 11:15-2:15/3:45-7:30-9:15-10:15

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The CSO Jazz series is sponsored by:
BMO Harris Bank
NEW ON VIDEO

‘Chinatown’ a cut above

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

CHINATOWN

Rated: R
Stars: Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, John Huston

A major factor in the legends of both star Nicholson and director Roman Polanski (and Hollywood player/screenwriter Robert Towne), “Chinatown” continues to hold up as an instant-classic re-envisioning of 1930s and ’40s hard-boiled detective movies. Everything about this film is first-rate, particularly the supporting cast of Huston and Dunaway as Los Angeles power brokers too powerful, corrupt and depraved, ultimately, for private eye J.J. “Jake” Gittes to handle. Extras for this Blu-ray debut include commentary by Towne and filmmaker David Fincher (“Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”), and an appreciation of “Chinatown” by Hollywood elite.

WAR HORSE

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of war violence
Stars: Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Peter Mullan

Steven Spielberg’s epic World War I drama about the soul connection between a farmboy and a thoroughbred stallion turned plowhorse turned wartime beast of burden, turns out to be a bit of an odd duck. That is to say it’s not beautifully crafted, grand in scope and deeply moving at its best — yet shifting the story from the horse’s point of view diffuses the emotional impact. Extras include several mini-documentaries.

RECENT RELEASES

A DANGEROUS METHOD

Rated: R for sexual content and brief language
Stars: Viggo Mortensen, Michael Fassbender, Keira Knightley

Sure, it’s all about the complex relationship and eventual feud between Sigmund Freud and his onetime heir apparent Carl Gustav Jung (hot stuff for psychoanalysis fans worldwide), but the real selling point is kinky sex. Knightley overacts outrageously as the severely disturbed patient/student/future analyst who comes between the two psychoanalytic giants with her need to be spanked by daddy.

EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE

Rated: PG-13 for emotional thematic material, some disturbing images, and language
Stars: Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, Thomas Horn, Viola Davis

Your reaction to this fine-pedigreed yet frustratingly hit-and-miss 9/11 drama is likely to be determined by how you feel about the frequently obnoxious young protagonist (Horn), who sets out to make sense of the tragedy by tracking down a final message from his father (Hanks). One minute, the lad’s mission seems a noble, Quixote-like quest; the next, an uninvolving contrivance. Even so, a few simple moments, here and there, ring true and make the whole thing seem somewhat worthwhile.

ALSO NEW

CHASING MADOFF

The story of how a Boston securities analyst spent 10 years uncovering Bernie Madoff’s billion-dollar Ponzi empire is the subject of this documentary.

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

A new girl in town (Sarah Jessica Parker) schemes with a new friend to win a spot on a TV dance show. Alan Metter (“Back to School”) directed.

EXTREME FLARKING EMOJI

Rated: PG-13 for sexual content

Masterpiece of punctuation

WE BOUGHT A ZOO

A father (Matt Damon) moves his young family to the countryside to take over the operation of a struggling zoo. Cameron Crowe (“Jerry Maguire”) directed the family comedy. Rated PG for language and some thematic elements.

NEXT WEEK

It’s all about tough love in Kevin Costner’s 1992 hit “The Bodyguard” and crazy love in Johnny Depp’s 1994 romance “Don Juan DeMarco” — both making their Blu-ray debuts.
go.

What to do.
This week and beyond.

YOU WANT IN? HERE'S HOW.
» Submit go. events one week prior to the date of publication.
» Entries must be typed. We’re sorry, but we can’t take it over the telephone. We prefer e-mail submissions, please.
» go. listings are free. Include brief description of the event, time, date, address, price and phone number.
» By mail: go. c/o Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glencoe IL 60022. E-mail: goc@pioneerlocal.com.
FAX: (847) 486-7451.

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 members of the La Vie En Rose club prepare to repair both country and selves. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $20-$30. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.thegifttheatre.org.

"After the Revolution," presented by Next Theatre through May 13 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. (performances May 31 and June 1 are at 7:30 p.m.), Saturdays at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. (no 6 p.m. performance July 1 or 29). Tickets: $45-$55. Call (847) 342-6000 or visit www.writerstheatre.org.

"The Cherry Orchard," by Anton Chekhov, will be presented by Piccolo Theatre through May 5 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Curtain at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $25; $22 seniors; $15 students. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccoloteatre.com.

"Encores: After the Theatre and Other Stories," April 21-May 20 at Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $25; $15 for previews; $730 p.m. April 21, 22, 24 and 25. Call (847) 866-8049 or visit www.piventhreatchicago.org.

"Figments," a farce that celebrates writer's block and the power of the imagination, will be presented by the Saint Sebastian Players April 27-May 20 at St. Bonaventure, 1625 W. Diversey, Chicago. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $15; $10 for students; $7 for children younger than 12 and senior citizens. Call (773) 604-7922 or visit www.saintsebastian-players.org.

"Fuente Ovejuna" will be presented as a staged reading by Muse of Fire Theatre Company at 7:30 p.m. April 30 at the McGaw YMCA Children's Center, 1420 Maple Ave., Evanston. Due to some adult subject matter, the reading is not recommended for youth in grade school. Free admission. Call (847) 707-8532.

"The Light in the Piazza" will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through May 20 at the No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood, Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays (no shows May 3 and 10); 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 7 p.m. Sundays. $34-$39, with discounts available for groups, students and seniors. Optional dinner available, with three courses for $20 excluding beverages, taxes and tip. Call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.theo-u.org.

"A Little Night Music," May 1-July 8 at Writers' Theatre, 125 Tudor Court, Glencoe. Call (847) 242-6000 or visit www.writerstheatre.org.

"Nunsense — The Mega Musical!" will be presented by The Rising Stars Theatre Company at 7:30 p.m. April 20, 21 and 28 and 2 p.m. April 22 and 29 at the Stahl Family Theatre, 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. $17; $15 for children 14 and under and senior citizens. Order tickets online at www.risingstarschicago.com or call (773) 736-2490.

"The Pirates of Penzance," through June 10 at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. The performance schedule is 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays. $41-$49, plus tax and handling fees. Discounts available for students and senior citizens. Dinner and theatre tickets, $55, are available Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Dinner is at Kings Wharf Restaurant or the Fairfield Inn (based on dining availability). Call (847) 634-0200 or visit www.marriotttheatre.com.

"The Rest Unknown: how to live and how to die," at 8 p.m. April 5-6 at 5344 W. Lawrence, Chicago. Genesis Ensemble, a Chicago theater and performance company, has taken over three empty storefronts in Jefferson Park to lead an interactive tour of art and performance inspired by Mastra Kalman's book, The Principles of Uncertainty. Space is limited to 12 people per tour. Tickets should be booked in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/224711. For information, visit www.genesisensemble.org.

"Ten Chimneys," through April 15 at Northlight Theatre, located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. For decades, Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne entertained the most influential artists of their time — from Noel Coward to Sydney Greenstreet — at Ten Chimneys, their legendary Wisconsin retreat. In this new play, the arrival of a young Uta Hagen for an onstage rehearsal sparks an onstage romantic triangle. Performances are Wednes-
Photographs that enlighten city spaces

BY ELIZABETH OWENS-SCHIELE
Contributor

When Oscar Olivares' friend got caught stealing and was referred to Alternatives, Inc., Olivares tagged along. The alternative to the "Audi home," Olivares said, exposed him and his friend to ConnectForce in Uptown, which provides hands-on opportunities for youth to develop their artistic ability.

At age 11, Olivares was introduced to creative outlets such as canvas and acrylics, ceramics and eventually photography. Seven years later, he sells his work and donates some of the proceeds to support Alternatives, Inc. and its ConnectForce art programs, and volunteers to tutor kids ages 8-18.

Now a student at Harold Washington College, Olivares plans to transfer to a four-year institution to major in physics or microbiology but for now, he's enjoying photographing his urban environment.

He is one of 11 photographers displaying 48 of their images documenting Chicago around its elevated train lines at "Off The Line," an exhibit at Shot Images, 7430 N. Lehigh Ave., Niles. Other photographers include Armando Castillo, Matt Hernandez, Michael Bruce, Jazz Spurgoon, Matt Overpack, Tom Callahan, Arvydas Akiiljosius, Billy Danzo, Femi Adebiyi and Kevin Pak.

Seeing Chicago

"The photographs, they're as good as it gets. In Chicago, you have all these kids who have taken their snapshots of what Chicago is and we make the city look beautiful," said Olivares, 18, of Rogers Park. "The show, off the train lines, is what people see every day. We try to make our photographs reveal the beauty of Chicago. A lot of the shots focused around the tracks, which are not the most beautiful aesthetics, but we try to make it look pretty in our own way. We try to express the grit, and enlighten the spaces we took pictures of."

Olivares, who was once arrested for graffiti and defacing property attended Alternatives for community service hours and like many others, came out with a clean record and an impressive art portfolio.

"Kids from all kinds of environments, privileged and otherwise, they're troubled teens caught for stealing and we introduce these elements
of art," Olivares said. "They have the option to focus on an aesthetic rather than a drug or going out to party. We try to be protective and teach those who don't know about art.

His appreciation for art grew from ConnectForce program manager and artist instructor Justin Grey who inspired Olivares to experiment with a variety of mediums and introduced him to photographer and volunteer Tom Callahan who helped him uncover the magic of photography.

"We inspire each other and create things together and share," said Callahan, 22, who graduated last year from DePaul University with a degree in international studies. But it was the photography classes he took in college that led to his volunteer work at ConnectForce. "It is an intimate thing to see what comes out of people's photographs, and allows people to get deeper into someone else's story, hear their voice through photographs."

He helped build a darkroom at ConnectForce and taught teens how to use a camera while encouraging them to shoot their surroundings. Of the artists participating in the show, he said some had photography backgrounds while others had just picked up their first camera.

Creative freedom

"The goal of learning is to have freedom to get messy and take photos of what catches your eye," said Callahan, who didn't put any restrictions on the photographers. "They're sharing a shot or shots that really tell the viewer a little more about their own lives."

Simon Perutz has been inspired by those voices as well. After 30 years in the family business, Nimlok trade show supplier, Perutz decided to convert 6,000-square-feet of his 150,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Niles into a gallery displaying the work of emerging photographers.

With the high-end digital printing facilities in his business, he's been able to help reproduce prints of all sizes. The "Off The Line" exhibit is his third exhibit since opening his gallery last year, and is the result of a small donation he made to Connect Force last June after witnessing the work first hand and a meeting with Callahan.

"I was simply stunned. I walked in and it's a youth center and they don't have a lot of resources. There was a table with photographs and small wall with work from the kids. My wife, Kim, and I looked at each other and said, "this stuff is really good,'" said Perutz, a native of London, England, and resident of Evanston.

Six months after their meeting, Callahan presented him with what Perutz described as an "amazing" body of work now on display at his Niles gallery through May 15.

The prints at the show are collages of people, in both black and white and color, and range in size from 24 by 30, 30 by 40, to 12 by 8-feet long — all urban scenes of people and the environs around the elevated trains in Chicago, he said. The prints are for sale and range in price from $100 to $750.

"If somebody wants to help support young, emerging photographers, and they love photography," Perutz said, "this is an awesome place to see a wonderful body of work connected with Chicago. The diversity of work is really good. Come take a look."
GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7B

days at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (no show April 11); Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m. (no show April 8) and 7 p.m. (April 15 only). Tickets: $25-$60. Young Adult tickets (25 and under) are $10. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

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 see www.chicagoacappella.org. April 14, 8 p.m.: "All About the Women," starring actress Barbara Robertson.

Chicago Choral Artists presents a concert for Earth Day, with music by Sibelius, Brahms and Whitacre and a world premiere of Robert Kyr's "On the Nature of Creation," at 4 p.m. April 29 at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson, Chicago. $20; $15 seniors; $10 students. Conducto's Circle $40. Visit www.chicagochoartists.org or call (708) 848-1762.

The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the Northwestern University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 866-6888. www.chicagophilharmonic.org. Tickets are $20-$75. April 22: "Speck-tacular Beethoven!" Scott Speck leads the CPO in Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 and the "Fidelio" Overture. CPO principal tuba Rex Martin performs Vaughan-Williams' Tuba Concerto, and guest soloist Robert Hanford performs Camille St. Saëns' Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso.

The European Union Youth Orchestra, conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy, will perform at 7:30 p.m. April 24 at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The program includes Beethoven's Choral Fantasy; Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major (with piano soloist Yefim Bronfman); and "An Alpine Symphony" by Strauss. Tickets: $26; $12 for students. Call (847) 467-4000 or visit www.pickstaiger.org.

Evanston Symphony Orchestra performs at 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 864-8804. www.evanstonsymphony.org. Tickets in advance are $27; $22 for senior citizens. Tickets at the door are $30; $25 for seniors. Tickets are $5 for students, subject to availability, at the box office with ID. Admission is free for children 12 and younger. May 13: "Dufour Plays Mozart," with guest soloist Mathieu Dufour, principal flute of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The program includes Bach: Toccata & Fugue in D Minor;
FINE PERFORMANCES PROP UP ‘PIPPIN’

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

‘PIPPIN’
The Music Theatre Company, Karger Center, 1850 Green Bay Road, Highland Park
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sundays, through May 6
Tickets: $40
(847) 579-4900 or visit www.themusictheatrecompany.org

Jagged angular movements of the talented dancers inform the costumes and the Elements of his “Chicago” age to Fosse is unmistakable. Jessica Redish, and her hom-founding artistic director regraphed by the theater’s production is directed and cho-

Charlemagne. The persona of the Leading Player, who narrates the action, bears an eerie resemblance to Joel Grey’s snake-like, worldly Grey’s snake-like, worldly

Andrew Keltz and Joey Stone in “Pippin.” | PHOTO BY JONATHANSPOR-TRAILS.COM

though nothing in the previ-

though nothing in the previ-

and he wanders around feeling, in his own words, “empty and vacant.”

Though the musical’s title is “Pippin,” the Leading Player is actually the star. Ben Vereen won a Tony for his portrayal on Broadway and Music Theatre Company’s Joey Stone is a stand-

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The casting of Andrew Keltz in the title role is inspired. He is short, slight and fresh-faced, the perfect, puzzled kid. His father, Char-

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seems as if Pippin has found a place, and even better, something to do. But domes-

Of course, he returns to Catherine, but without much conviction. At the end they are standing on stage in their underwear with her child. We have no assurance that Pippin will not run away again.

Note: The League of Chicago Theatres recently named The Music Theatre Company in Highland Park as one of the finalists for its 2012 Broadway in Chicago Emerging Theater Award. The winner will be announced May 14 at the League’s gala.

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First Fridays
OPEN LATE

A Night of Art and Artists
Friday, April 6th
6:00 - 8:00 p.m

Local Professional and Student art will be highlighted in participating First Friday locations. Enjoy the beautiful art work as you shop, dine and celebrate!

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE Performing Arts Camp

Summer programs for grades 3 - 10
Session 1: June 18 - July 13
Session 2: July 17 - August 10

Find out more at: northlight.org/camp
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“A valentine to a vanished era...SIMPLY DELICIOUS!”
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-Stage and Cinema

by Jeffrey Hatcher

Directed by BJ Jones

A Revealing New Play about the Private Lives of Broadway Legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne

Playing to APRIL 15

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE FOR TICKETS: 847.673.6300 or northlight.org

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Tickets are available at the village Drive, Mount Prospect. Village 12, 200 Randhurst Center, Niles; and Randhurst excluding Niles 12, 301 Golf Mill of live performance transmission. $20; $10 for students. Blues and tango on classical music. $20; $10 for students. Jazz, rhapsody and cello. Pre-concert lecture begins one hour before the performance. $35; $5 for students. Visit www.newberryconsort.org. The program includes works by Vanhal, Haydn, Dittersdorf and Mozart. New North Shore Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of its principal conductor, Anatol Lysenko, will perform at 3:30 p.m. April 22 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave. The program includes Brahms' First Symphony and Mozart's Impressionist Overture and Sinfonia Concertante for solo violin and solo viola, featuring Mathias Lassereff-Mironoff, viola. $15; free for youth under 18 years. For information, call Ann Wagener, (847) 251-0558 or visit www.chamberartsensemble.org.

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Music out of the box

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

You might be accustomed to seeing Evanston photographer David Sutton with a camera in one hand. These days, though, he's just as likely to have a homemade cigar box guitar in the other.

Sutton, whose fame as a photographer of people and their pets is such that Forbes magazine has called him America's best, has written a book about his newest passion entitled Cigar Box Guitars: The Ultimate DIY Guide for Makers and Players of the Handmade Music Revolution (Fox Chapel Publishing, 2012).

And, as you might expect, it's full of Sutton photos illustrating how to make your own musical instrument - and your own music.

A longtime amateur woodworker who has also played guitar since he was a boy, Sutton said he started thinking about making one around five years ago, when his five-year-old daughter Alisha expressed an interest in his guitars.

"I wanted to give her one, so she could try it out, but she was so little. I'd hover, thinking, 'She's going to bang it up' - mainly because they were so big and unwieldy," he said. "Then, out of nowhere, I had this thought: 'Cigar box guitars.' I don't know where it came from. Maybe my dad mentioned it when I was a kid."

Basic pattern

Regardless, Sutton looked online and found a site or two with minimalistic plans for making a real, honest-to-goodness, 19th-century, two with minimalistic plans for making a real, honest-to-goodness, 19th-century! Cigar box guitars in the first place.

"He made one for his daughter and one for himself and was a little surprised about how much of a kick he got out of playing this thing he'd made with his own hands. Although he'd played guitar most of his life, he said he felt different about the music he made on his homemade instrument. Though he had previously never felt comfortable performing for others, he felt confident and confident playing his cigar box special - along with a special thrill about the sound it made."

"After you've made your own guitar, making your own music makes simple sense," he said. "It's a great de-mystifying process, making your own instrument. Building one, somehow, makes playing music on it seem more accessible."

Sutton isn't the only one who's made this discovery - far from it. When he first looked online for cigar box guitar plans, he could find only a couple of modest, posts from aficionados. Now, five years later, a full-fledged homemade-music community has grown up on the Internet, with cigar box guitars in the forefront.

DIY sites

Look up Cigar Box Guitars on YouTube and you will find countless entries by people either explaining how to build or play CBGs (particularly videos demonstrating old-school, gut-bucket, down-home slide-guitar blues), sometimes with tens of thousands of views apiece. In addition, websites such as cigarboxnation.com and handmadepercussion.com have racked up thousands of subscribers.

What's behind the sudden rise in awareness about the joys of homemade music? "Well, we're not as rich as we thought we were," Sutton said, with a laugh. "Perhaps because of the economy and perhaps just as a reaction to the idea that only professionals can be artists and entertainers, the idea that you have to buy your fun is petering out. People are realizing you don't have to have the biggest, finest, most expensive stuff to have fun, or make music. If you've got a cigar box and some old strings and a few used tuners, and a real desire to play, that's all you need."
BOOK CHAT

The Paris Wife

The Pioneer Page Turners Book Club invites anyone who's read or is reading The Paris Wife by Paula McLain to join the live online discussion at 7 p.m. April 5. The book is a fictionalized account of Elizabeth "Haddie" Richardson, Ernest Hemingway's first wife, and their time in Paris.

The book is being featured in The Big Read, a cooperative project of the Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Indian Prairie, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lisle, Thomas Ford, Westmont, and Woodridge public libraries that seeks to connect communities through literature. The Big Read encourages patrons at all libraries to read the same book with the goal of promoting reading, sparking discussions surrounding the event, and building the same book with the goal of promoting reading, sparking discussions surrounding the event, and building a community. A highlight of the many programs and discussions surrounding the event is a visit with Paula McLain at 7 p.m. May 3 at Ashton Place, 3417 S. Wicksbrook. For a schedule of events, visit pickstaiger.org.

To take part in the April 5 online chat, visit the blog at http://blogs.pioneerlocal.org.

The April book selection will be State of Wonder by Ann Patchett.

GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14B

491-5414; tickets: (847) 467-4000. pickstaiger.org. April 12, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Presents "How to Build a Jazz Community. A highlight of the many programs and discussions surrounding the event is a visit with Paula McLain at 7 p.m. May 3 at Ashton Place, 3417 S. Wicksbrook. For a schedule of events, visit pickstaiger.org.

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Search for good whiskey ends at FEW

By J.T. Morand
jmorand@pioneerlocal.com

Sometime around the winter holidays, as I was shuffling to the kitchen and feeling bloated from all that I'd consumed, I thought, “I need an alternative to beer.”

I resolved to learn to like whiskey. Many of my friends like it and have no problem downing the firewater. They say things like, “This has a nice, smoky finish” and “Mmm, I detect a hint of bacon.” They know facts, such as what makes whiskey bourbon.

It all tastes the same to me. Awful. My way of describing the strong stuff is usually, “Ugh! Here comes the acid reflux.” I can’t taste the nuances and how it leaves the palate.

I’m just not drinking the good stuff, my friends tell me. Which begs the question, “Then why aren’t you buying the good stuff?”

Shortly after deciding to refine my taste buds, serendipitously my editor handed me an invitation from FEW Spirits, a distillery that opened in Evanston last summer, to tour the place and sample their products.

Perfect. But I needed to bring someone who knows whiskey, someone who can describe it better than I can. “Dude, harsh!” isn’t very helpful to the reader. So, I invited my friend Chris Cote, who not only knows his whiskey, but knows how to pair it with food.

Discreetly located

FEW is tucked away in a white brick building, almost hidden in a little alley off Chicago Avenue, just north of Main Street in Evanston.

It’s as if the location was chosen just in case Temperance Movement leader Frances E. Willard, an Evanston resident in the early 20th century, is resurrected or Prohibition makes a comeback. I’ll admit, I looked behind me before entering the building.

Booze-making runs in FEW founder and master distiller Paul Hletko’s family. His grandparents owned Pilsner Urquell in Czechoslovakia before World War II. But, he wanted to go a different way, he said as he showed us the mash tank, the fermenters, the still and the hundreds of wooden barrels stamped with the FEW Spirits logo and contents written on top. All the ingredients come from the region, including Indiana, Wisconsin and Hletko’s own Evanston backyard.

“If I made beer, I’d always be looking over my shoulder,” he said on the tour that lasted all of 10 minutes.

“So it’s not rocket science,” he said at the end.

Are you kidding? I thought. Making booze is like magic to me.

Next came the moment of truth. The sampling.

With summer right around the corner, I wanted to start shedding a few pounds, which would be easier to do as a whiskey-sipper rather than a beer-guzzler. But, I was a little nervous.

However, with more than 120 accounts in Chicago, and steadily picking up more in other parts of the U.S. and Canada, including Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, British Columbia and soon Tennessee, FEW must be doing something right.

We started with the 80 proof white whiskey. I had more trepidation about this than about any other spirit because white whiskey is also known as moonshine. It’s the least aged of the spirits, hence its clearness.

I sipped it... and loved it! Genuinely.

I drank the remainder of what was in my glass while Hletko mentioned it won a 2011 Gold Medal from the International Review of Spirits and a 2011 Double Gold at the New York World of Wine & Spirits Competition. This was my favorite of all the boozes we tried that afternoon. I officially like whiskey, albeit a type not often found at the bars.

Chris liked it, too.

“It starts out fresh and almost crispy, leads into fruity and spicy, incredibly smooth and barely any burn for the proof,” he said. “Ends with a very soft leave. One of the better white whiskeys out there.”

The bourbon and the rye, both 93 proof, were a bit over powering for me, but Chris liked the bourbon.

“Hints of fruit and malt with a slight vanilla hint,” he said. “Tapers off at the end, which I remember being intriguing, teasing me into sips two through six.”

Great gin

We also tried three varieties of gin — the American, barrel-aged and naval strength — which were all fantastic.

Chris, never a fan of gin, was impressed.

“Pretty amazing,” he said of the 80 proof American. “I can safely say this made me curious to venture further into the world of gin.”

Hletko called the barrel-aged gin, which was brown and full-flavored and packed with juniper, “a whiskey drinker’s gin.”

“I’ll safely call this the single greatest gin I have ever tasted,” Chris said.

Snifters of whiskey and gin made for an enlightening early March Saturday afternoon at FEW Spirits in Evanston. [JERRY DALIEGE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA]

Paul Hletko, FEW’s master distiller (second from right), explains the name FEW refers to the number of spirits the distillery makes, not Frances E. Willard, the godmother of Prohibition. [JERRY DALIEGE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA]

Chris Cote and J.T. Morand sample whiskey at FEW Spirits distillery in Evanston. The craft distillery also makes gin and specialty spirits. [JERRY DALIEGE-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA]

Unfortunately, only 150 bottles were made, and 100 had already been sold as of March 3.

The naval strength gin is 114 proof and burns. But, Hletko said, while adding a little bit of tonic to the glass, “It just shines with tonic.” And, he wasn’t kidding. It was probably the best gin and tonic I had ever tasted.

So I found what I was looking for in the whiskey. Of course it would take a label that requires a champagne budget to afford. FEW’s spirits start upwards of $40. But, I’m hooked.

“White whiskey,” said Brook Saucier, FEW’s brand manager, “is the perfect gateway for beer drinkers.”
GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 168

viffin master class. Admission is free. April 6, 4:30 p.m.: Accordion demonstra-

tion. An Acoustic Evening at Recital Hall. Admission is free. April 6, 7:30 p.m.: "The Big Squeeze," a celebration of the accordion featuring classical, Celtic, jazz, tango, South American and Zydeco music. $10 for students. April 7, 7:30 p.m.: Arturo Sand-
DANCE
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. April 14, 8 p.m.: "Pushed to the Edge" presents Bharata Natyam, a dance theater from India, as practiced by Natya Dance Theatre, and contemporary Western dance, as practiced by Mordine and Company Dance Theater. $30-$38. May 12, 8 p.m.: DanceWorks Chicago and Muntu Dance Theatre, the largest African dance company in the United States. $30-$38.

Chicago Dance Chapter of USA Dance, the national organization representing amateur ballroom dancers. Lessons begin at 7:30 p.m.; dancing from 8:15-11 p.m. Admission: $8 members; $10 nonmembers; $6 for students with ID. Dance music for all swing, Latin and ballroom dances. Partners not required - singles welcome. Beginning dancers encouraged. For information, call (847) 577-9014 or visit www.usadancechicago.org. April 14: "Swing Into Spring" at 8 p.m. April 27 and May 11, 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (847) 823-7596 or kroemer815@gmail.com.

Theatre, and contemporary Western dance, as practiced by Natya Dance Theatre.

FILM

ORGANIZATIONS
International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 43 will meet at 7:30 p.m. April 20 in the South Conference Room at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston. For information, call (847) 692-6616 or e-mail karlp57@aol.com; or visit www.ring43.org.

SINGLES
ComboSingles, open to singles 21-plus. For information about the group and upcoming events, call (847) 757-1299 or (847) 331-1066, or visit www.combosingles.org. Bowling league at 6:30 p.m. April 22 and May 20 at the Chase Bank parking lot. For information, visit www.downtownmountprospect.com.

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GO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 198
Brunswick Zone, 824 E. Rand Road, Mount Prospect. $15 for members, $25 for nonmembers, $35 for nonmembers, for bowling and shoes.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES
The Actors Gymnasium
April 9: A new session of circus and performing arts begins. Course offerings for children and adults of all ages and skill levels include Aerial Arts, Circus Arts, Contortion, Acro Dance, Gymnastics and more. Also, a new course titled Single Weapon Class in Rapier Dagger will be available for adults.
Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. April 14, 2 p.m.: "Travel and Nature Photography." Award-winning photographer Paul Peterson will discuss latest techniques in travel and nature photography.
April 19, 7:30 p.m.: Niles Songwriters' Group meets. Songwriters are invited to bring original songs to play live and get feedback from others in the group. Inside Writing and Publishing Series - April 10, 7 p.m.: "Bringing a Book to Market." Todd Stocke of Sourcebooks, Inc, will speak on digital publishing and what an editor does to prepare a manuscript for publication. May 8, 7 p.m.: "The Business Side of Writing." Author Linda Mickey will speak on what a writer needs to know about the business of writing. Seminars are free of charge. Registration required.
Skokie Art Guild offers figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA
Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601.
June 20-24: Cirque du Soleil presents "Dralion," featuring acrobats, gymnasts, musicians, singers and comedic characters. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: $35-$80; $31.50-$67.50 for senior citizens, students and military; $28-$65 for children 12 and under. Visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/dralion.

The Chicago Photographic Collectors Society will present its 42nd annual International Camera & Image Show and Sale, featuring more than 55 dealers, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 6 at the Holiday Inn Chicago-North Shore, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie. Admission is $6; $4 for students and children. Visit www.chicagophotographic.org.

Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 47th annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil, Mineral and Lapidary Arts Show, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. April 14 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 15 at the Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St., Des Plaines. Featuring a kids' room, live demonstrations, educational exhibits, raffles, and gem and jewelry dealers. Admission: $3; $2 for seniors; $1 for students. Free admission for children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

MUSEUMS
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4880. www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum 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. April 15, 2-3:30 p.m.: Linda Pressman discusses and signs her book, Looking Up: A Memoir of Sisters, Survivors and Skokie. April 19, 6:30-8 p.m.: In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Abraham Foxman, Holocaust survivor and national director of the Anti-Defamation League, will discuss "A 21st Century Challenge: Protecting the Memory and Meaning of the Holocaust." Free with museum admission; reservations required. April 22, 3 p.m.: Holocaust Remembrance concert, "Celebrating the Cantorial.
Arts of Europe," performed
by cantors from Chicago-
area congregations. Free; reser-
vations required. April 29, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.;
Family program, "Always Be
Caring." Children 3 to 6 years
old and their families are in-
vited to reenact their favorite
storybooks, complete with
music, puppets, costumes and
props. Free with museum
admission; reservations
required. May 10, 6:30-8
p.m.: "In Conversation With:
Jewish GIs of World War
II." Howard Reich, son of
Holocaust survivors, moder-
ates a panel of American and
foreign-born Jewish GIs. The
veterans will reflect on their
wartime experiences, and the
impact their religious affilia-
tion had on their time in the
service. Free with museum
admission; reservations
recommended.
Block Museum of Art at
Northwestern University, 40
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museum.northwestern.edu.
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and Sundays; 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
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Fridays. Admission is free;
unless noted, admission to
all programs is also free.
Through April 8: "Prints and
the Pursuit of Knowledge
In Early Modern Europe," an
exhibition of rare prints,
drawings, books, maps
and scientific instruments.
May 11-Aug. 26: "Art on
Paper: Prints, Drawings and
Photographs from the Block
Museum." The exhibit cel-
ebrates the depth and diver-
sity of the Block's permanent
collection and its role within
Northwestern's intellectual
and cultural life, with works
by artists such as Giovanni
Benedetto Castiglione, Mary
Cassatt and Ed Paschke.
Evanston History Center,
Charles Gates Dawes House,
225 Greenwood St., Evan-
ston. (847) 475-3410. www.
evanstonhistorycenter.org.
Hours are 1-4 p.m. Thursdays
and Sundays. Admission (includ-
es optional house tour): $10;
free for members. April 13-
Jan. 28, 2013: "Bedrooms,
Bathrooms and Boudoirs," a
look at the evolution of
the home's most personal of
spaces and customs from the
mid-19th century to the mid-
20th century. Documenting
sleeping and hygiene habits,
the exhibit also explores how
the introduction of modern
comfort and conveniences,
such as the spring mat-
tress and indoor plumbing,
changed these spaces. Wine
and appetizer opening recep-
tion, 6-8 p.m. April 13, $15;
$10 for members.
Mitchell Museum of the
American Indian, 3001 Cen-
tral St., Evanston. (847) 475-
1030. www.mitchellmuseum.
org. Admission is $5; $3 for
senior citizens, students and
children. Free admission for
Mitchell Museum members
and tribal members; and
on the first Friday of every
month. Admission includes
all exhibits and events,
unless stated otherwise.
Through May 27: "Treasures
of the Collection," a diverse
array of Native art from the
museum's 10,000-piece
artifact collection. The items
date from the mid-1800s to
the late 20th century, and
include basketry, Southwest
art, beadwork, Inuit art
and more. Through Aug. 5:
"Carving a Tradition: Inuit
Carvings."
Made for the shade
New plants for shaded garden areas

BY KIMBERLY ELSHAM
For Sun-Times Media

Many home gardens have shady areas, and choosing a nice variety of plants for areas that don't get much sun can be tricky. We caught up with Richard Eyre, owner and builder at Rich's Foxglove Pines Nursery in Woodstock, at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show to walk us through his selections. Here are eight plants he suggested to spruce up the shady side of your home garden that are outside the usual shade-tolerant suspects of hostas and impatiens.

1. Tiarella: Eyre said this shade-loving, flowering plant - also known as Foamflower - is a hot new plant for horticulturists. Originating from rich, moist North American woodlands, it prefers the same rich, moist soils for garden homes, but it can tolerate other kinds. Tiarella is great for ground cover or edges, and its blooms appear in short spikes of small star-shaped flowers.

2. Hemlocks: "Hemlocks and yews are the most shade-tolerant," Eyre said. "There's maybe more than 100 dwarf and abstract varieties, going from miniature to golden forms, ones that creep flat along the ground, ones that are columnar." He suggested Tsuga canadensis "Pendula," a weeping hemlock with long branches that fold near the top of the plant and grow downward. This shape would give a unique curved branch outline to a shady garden.

3. Yews: English yews are a traditional, hearty option for low-sunlight areas, and Eyre recommended one with a different shape: taxus baccata "columnar." He suggested Tsuga canadensis "Pendula," a weeping hemlock with long branches that fold near the top of the plant and grow downward. This shape would give a unique curved branch outline to a shady garden.

4. Bluebells: "Bluebells and Lily-of-the-Valley are two really old-fashioned plants that still have great value," Eyre said. Bluebells in particular are native to North America and have great way to add color and a soft texture to dimmer areas of your garden. His namesake small bell-shaped flowers emerge in mid-to-late spring, and the plant tends to go dormant in the summer.

5. Lily-of-the-Valley: For some fragrance in your shady garden, Eyre said Lily-of-the-Valley is the best bet. While the plant has been a standby in gardens for decades, he said newer clones of the species have superior qualities than older ones.

6. Japanese Maples: "There's a broad spectrum of these that are true shade-tolerant plants" that thrive best when planted under the canopy of other plants, Eyre said. Japanese maples come in many shades, including the eye-catching blood-red color of the "Bloodgood" variety. This popular tree will grow to a maximum height of about 8 feet and prefers only morning sunlight.

7. Bergenia: This is a good perennial for shade, Eyre said. Its heart-shaped leathery leaves are bright green in spring and turn reddish-bronze in the fall. Red flowers appear in clusters or on thick stems from early to late spring. This plant makes wonderful evergreen ground cover, and the bonus of being rabbit and deer resistant. Its many varieties allow for several options depending on soil type and planting season.

8. Climbing hydrangeas: Another flowering option according to Eyre is the "Peeblesia" variety of climbing hydrangea. "It has a great shade tolerance and grows upright," he said. This rabbit-tolerant vine needs a strong structure to climb, such as a brick or stone wall, arbor structures or fences. Once established, the vine can reach 30-50 feet in length and features clusters of fragrant, white flowers that bloom in late spring to early summer.

Paving way to long-lasting hardscapes

BY KIMBERLY ELSHAM
For Sun-Times Media

As we move from winter to spring, what kind of maintenance needs to be done on your brick patio or driveway? Greg Sloan, owner of Sloan's Brick Paving & Landscaping in Libertyville, lays out his advice.

The biggest deterrent to brick pavement is freeze and thaw, Sloan said. While Illinois had one of its warmest winters on record, there is still the potential for damage should we see an early spring freeze again. To combat this, Sloan suggested some basic housekeeping for brick areas.

First, pressure wash to remove dirt and debris, but limit the powerful spray to the surface of the bricks.

"You don't want to it to the extent where you're digging between," he said, which can disrupt the layout of the bricks, causing them to shift or tilt.

What about sealant? Homeowners: remember that commercial sealants for brick are really only to enhance color, not to protect the brick's surface per se, so he said. Sealants are usually applied with a roller after pressure washing.

Next, sweep sand between joints. Sloan recommended using a plate compactor - which can be rented - to tamp the bricks. Vibration from the compactor will bring sand to the joints, which are the areas between the bricks. However, sweeping sand between the bricks with a standard push broom will suffice.

"The easiest thing is sweeping the sand in the fall, before winter," Sloan said, but following the springtime pressure washing with this step again is a good insurance from erosion.

Worried about a bagger's spring with the mild winter? Ants, which usually love burrowing in the sand between bricks, and other bugs shouldn't be any more numerous than most years, according to regional entomologists. Sloan said the presence of ants should not cause any real damage to your patio or driveway. In regards to a hardscape, it's more or less irrelevant compared to ants coming into your house," he said.

However, other critters can pose a problem.

"Chipmunks are always an issue, digging under people's patios," Sloan said. While his company can't remove the animals, he said it's important to be aware that they can show up and be prepared to deter them.

There's lots of your streets. People say mothballs work," he said. Should any animal begin to cause damage to your paved area, contact an animal control professional.

Finally, should your paved area be cracked or sinking to the point that a repair is required, consider the root of the problem - the base of the brickwork. Sloan said some homeowners could be surprised to see a repair that results in a complete redo of the entire project, from the bottom up.

"It's more about your base, the part of the job you don't see," he said. "Everyone knows what a nice brick looks like, but if the base isn't done properly, the brick work isn't going to last."

Sloan added that all brickwork has benefits to concrete or asphalt patios. Repairs to concrete or asphalt involved sealing cracks, which can take away from the original beauty of the project.

With the properly drained and prepared base, repairs for brickwork involved simply relaxing bricks. In these cases, your brick patio or driveway can be returned to its original beauty of the project.

There is no perfect, absolute solution to our environment that we're trying to make so perfect," he said. "With concrete or asphalt, there's really no reworking it, where brick is one material you can take and relay the same way."
Brighten up your home with hot new colors

BY KIMBERLY ELSHAM
For Sun-Times Media

Wake your home's décor from its long winter's nap with bright colors borrowed from fashion trends.

"Interior finishes and design are coming again from fashion," said Tracy Grosspietsch, owner and director of design at Abberlin Kitchens, Renovations and Baths in Lake Zurich. "It's a rainbow of color, an explosion of color."

"In the past years fashion has been really grey, brown, black, kind of stoic looking because we were going through turbulent times," she said, but now fashion — and consequently interiors — are looking on the bright side.

"Tangerine is a hot color, and yellow and blues are on the comeback," said Jan Jensen, interior designer at Honquest Fine Furnishings in Barrington. "It's almost like a throwback to the 1960s."

She recommended adding these bright tones into accent pieces such as pillows, rugs and lamps.

"If the walls are more neutral you can pop these colors with art," she said.

"To tone it down, you can get into smoky colors or ocean blue if you don't want to go with the bright neon," Jensen said.

Background colors, such as those for walls or upholstery, can be anywhere from stark, bright whites to creamier tones such as beiges.

"You might be seeing more grays, taus and taupes in a deeper tone," she said.

On the other hand, Grosspietsch said she has seen the same bright tangerines and yellows balance well with crisp whites in base colors.

In addition to solid colors, large, graphic prints are big for spring. Grosspietsch referenced chevron patterns, such as those brought to the masses by designers like Missoni, look for similar zigzag patterns such as flame stitch or herringbone.

"In fabrics, you will see more florals and pops of color there, too," Jensen said, adding that neon shades are showing up in large prints for all kinds of upholstery and coverings.

Fabric and color trends carry over to area rugs, too, which Jensen said are an easy way to makeover a room.

"If you're not putting it in your upholstery, you can put it in your rugs," she said.

"Not so much traditional Persian or Oriental-style rugs," Grosspietsch said, referring to the traditional red, blue and gold tones found in those patterns, "but twists on that, more of an open pattern or blue-jean tones. People are also doing more abstract rugs."

Such bold moves in patterns and color require balance in a room, which can be found in cleaner lines in larger pieces such as sofas.

"Right now we're seeing things that are more what I would call transitional," said Chris Fortezzo, manager at Toms-Price Home Furnishings in Lincolnshire. "Cleaner, less fluff, goop, fringe... just a cleaner, more casual aesthetic."

"I think we find that people are looking for more transitional furniture so they can go either way" from modern to classic, Jensen said.

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Edward T. Cone - Psalm 91 (1948)
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HOROSCOPES

For the week of April 11 - April 17

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The Lamb loves to be surrounded by flock of admirers. But be careful that someone doesn't take this or her admiration too far. Use your persuasive skills to let him or her down easily.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time to begin setting far-reaching goals and connecting with new contacts. Aspects also favor strengthening old relationships — personal and/or professional.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A personal disappointment should be viewed as a valuable learning experience. Go over what went wrong and see where a change in tactics might have led to a more positive outcome.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't leave projects unfinished or personal obligations unresolved, or you might find yourself tripping over all those loose ends later on. A relative has important news.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Expect a challenge to the usual way you do things. Although you might prefer the tried-and-true, once you take a good look at this new idea, you might feel more receptive to it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Much work has yet to be done to polish a still-rough idea into something with significant potential. Expect to encounter some initial rejection, but stay with it nonetheless.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) There still might be some communication problems in the workplace, but they should be resolved soon. Meanwhile, that "tip" from a friend should be checked out.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A new relationship appears to need more from you than you might be willing to give right now. Best advice: Resist making promises you might not be able to keep.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That restless feeling encourages you to gallop off into a new venture. But remember to keep hold of the reins so you can switch paths when necessary.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A demanding work schedule keeps the high-spirited Goat from kicking up his or her heels. But playtime beckons by the week's end. Have fun. You earned it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You're beginning to come out from under those heavy responsibilities you took on. Use this freed-up time to enjoy some much-deserved fun with people close to you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Before you get swept away by a tidal wave of conflicting priorities, take time to come up for air, and reassess the situation. You might be surprised by what you'll find.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your leadership qualities are enhanced by a practical sense of purpose that keeps you focused on your goals.

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In Memoriam

General Information Concerning The Death Notice Page

- A paid death notice may be ordered to appear in the Pioneer Press when funeral arrangements are made, and must be submitted in writing. Information about charges for death notices may be obtained from funeral directors or by calling (847) 998-3400. A 24-hour fax service is offered at (847) 486-6836 or death notices may be e-mailed to deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com.
- An in memoriam or card of thanks may be placed using the same information above.
- The deadline for placing a death notice, in memoriam or card of thanks, is Monday at 5:00 pm. Photos must be submitted by Monday at 2:00 pm.
- The death notice department is staffed from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday.
- A death notice, in memoriam or a card of thanks may be submitted in person from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday at the Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026.
- Family and friends may visit our website and sign a guest book at Pioneerlocal.com.

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In Memoriam

Price, Janet A.
81, of Norridge, a devoted mother and grandmother who actively shared her Christian faith, died Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the Fairmont HealthCare and Rehabilitation Centre in Chicago. She was born February 8, 1931, in Chicago, the fourth of nine children, to Martin and Anna (Pajal) Noworolnik, both immigrants from Poland. On Jan. 27, 1951, she married Thomas J. Price at St. Mel's Catholic Church in Chicago. He died September 18, 1990, and she lived in faith of their eventual reunion.

She is survived by one daughter, Kerry A. Price of Schaumburg; two sons, Thomas M.G. (Ann) Price of South Bend, Ind., and Daniel G. (fiancée Michelle Barger) Price of Chicago; four grandchildren, Katherine and Emily Price of South Bend, and Trent and Olivia Ramirez of Schaumburg; three brothers, Walter Nowell and Raymond Noworolnik, of Chicago, and Ted (Jeanette) Noworolnik of Climax Springs, Mo.; two sisters, Dolores Noworolnik and Bernice (the late Joseph) Olinger, of Chicago; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Three brothers, Chester, Stanley (Jeanne) and Mitchell Noworolnik, and one grandson, Christopher Price, preceded her in death.

Mrs. Price was a 1948 graduate of Tuley High School and a longtime member of a women's Bible-study group. She worked at the former Thompson's Finer Foods in Park Ridge.

Private interment will be at Acacia Park Cemetery followed by a public memorial gathering 4 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 5 at Schaumburg Park District Community Recreation Center, 505 N. Springinsguth, Schaumburg, IL 60193. A memorial service will be at 7 p.m. The Rev. John E. Schumacher, Rainbow Hospice chaplain, will officiate. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Rainbow Hospice, 1150 Bishop Court, Mount Prospect, IL 60056, or www.RainbowHospice.org.


Cremation Society of Illinois

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

In Memoriam

RYAN-PARKE
do not hallucinate.

funeral home

“Our Family Serving Yours Since 1936”
Retirement...Life Insurance...Wills...But What About Funeral Pre-Planning?
Pre-planning is a step that many people overlook when planning for the future. Knowing that these decisions are complete ensures that your family won’t have this difficult task at an emotional time.

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(773) 792-1811

Clement J. Ryan
Michael C. Ryan
Many people are facing the prospect of finding a new job. And some are even contemplating a complete career change. If it has been years since you’ve updated your resume, you may be wondering where to start. Follow these six steps to turn your dusty retro resume into a high-powered personal marketing tool for winning interviews in today’s competitive job market.

Find Your Resume’s Focus
Before you start refreshing your old resume, you need to clarify your job target. Without a clear vision of your career direction, your resume won’t do a good job selling you to potential employers. If you have more than one career interest, you’ll be much better off developing different versions of your resume rather than trying to construct a one-size-fits-all document. Having trouble finding your focus? You might want to start with some self-assessment tests or by speaking to a career counselor.

Research Your Target Job
Thoroughly research your job target before writing the first draft of your resume, especially if it’s been a while since you’ve been in the job market. Talk to people in your target industry, and scour job postings on Monster to get a good idea of the qualifications employers are looking for. If you are changing careers, your research may prompt you to enroll in continuing education classes to gain new skills. Look for keywords that continually crop up in different ads. If you see terms used frequently, they should probably be in your resume whenever applicable. Pay attention to skills that aren’t mentioned in these ads as well, and remove items from your old resume that will make you seem outdated.

Develop Your Career Profile/Objective
Now you’re ready to begin writing. If you’re a career changer, you’ll need a clearly stated objective to open your resume. Don’t expect busy hiring managers to figure out what you want to do. Use this section to explain key skills you can leverage from your prior career into your new job target. Emphasize how you can help the organization, rather than what you want in a job. Here’s a before-and-after example:

- Before: Responsible for troubleshooting and maintaining workstations and systems. 
- After: Improved systems uptime from 91% to 99.9% for 350 corporate and remote users through expert, cross-platform (Windows NT/UNIX) troubleshooting/maintenance.

Your resume must have an accomplishments-driven focus to compete in today’s job market and maximize calls for interviews. Avoid simply rehashing boring job descriptions. Instead, detail the results and outcomes of your efforts.

Zero In on Your Achievements
Your resume must meet an accomplishments-driven focus to compete in today’s job market and maximize calls for interviews. Avoid simply rehashing boring job descriptions. Instead, detail the results and outcomes of your efforts.

- Before: Responsible for troubleshooting and maintaining workstations and systems.
- After: Improved systems uptime from 91% to 99.9% for 350 corporate and remote users through expert, cross-platform (Windows NT/UNIX) troubleshooting/maintenance.

For each of the positions you’ve held, use action verbs and phrases to describe how you contributed to your employers, such as cut costs, generated revenue, improved service, enhanced processes, solved problems and saved time. Use numbers, percentages, dollar amounts, comparisons or other key details to back up your claims. Be sure not to reveal facts that disclose proprietary or confidential company information.

Design Your Resume
Does your retro resume resemble a typing job circa 1970? To stand out from the crowd, use your word-processing program’s advanced formatting features, such as bold, italics, line draws, industry icons, attractive fonts, etc., without going overboard – to give your resume a distinctive look. If you are not confident in your design capabilities, seek assistance from a resume writer or talented friend.

Proofread and Test-Drive
Your resume must be perfect. Carefully proofread your resume to ensure proper grammar, punctuation and usage. If you are changing careers, ask for feedback from hiring managers in your targeted field for valuable input on how your resume stands up to the competition.
JOBS

Employment Wanted

Featured Jobs

Health Care

Help Wanted Full

Help Wanted Part

Customer Service

Temporary Services

Transportation

Health Care

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Local companies are seeking people with all levels of experience for Nurse Practitioners. These are part-time opportunities.

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Create YOUR PROFILE

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Our automated system creates one for you-FREE! With an intuitive phone call or use our convenient online form, Monster Match can help you find the right job.

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Supported in Sun Times Media.

Don't Wait. Do It Today!

Help Wanted Full-Time

Appraiser Coordinator

Highly-regarded medical foundation needs an Appraiser Coordinator. AP, APF, and GMM are valued skills. Must be familiar with appraisal. Must be experienced in the area. Excellent oral and written communication skills are required. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Architectural Technicians

High level of experience in architectural design and drafting is required. Must be proficient in AutoCAD and Revit. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be able to work independently and as part of a team. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Account Executives

Experiencing the excitement of the media industry? We need great talent! We are looking for Account Executives to join our team. Applicants must have experience in sales and marketing, excellent communication skills, and the ability to work independently and as part of a team. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Advertising Account Executives

High level of experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have excellent communication skills, be detail-oriented, and have the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Must be able to manage multiple projects simultaneously. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Sales Representatives

High level of experience in sales and marketing is required. Must have excellent communication skills, be detail-oriented, and have the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Must be able to manage multiple projects simultaneously. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Assistant Account Executives

Experiencing the excitement of the media industry? We need great talent! We are looking for Assistant Account Executives to join our team. Applicants must have experience in sales and marketing, excellent communication skills, and the ability to work independently and as part of a team. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Leasing Consultant

High level of experience in real estate leasing is required. Must have excellent communication skills, be detail-oriented, and have the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Must be able to manage multiple projects simultaneously. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Customer Service Representatives

High level of experience in customer service is required. Must have excellent communication skills, be detail-oriented, and have the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Must be able to manage multiple projects simultaneously. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Behind-the-Scenes Staff

High level of experience in the media industry is required. Must have excellent communication skills, be detail-oriented, and have the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Must be able to manage multiple projects simultaneously. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.

Help Wanted Full-Time

Editorial Staff

High level of experience in editing and writing is required. Must have excellent communication skills, be detail-oriented, and have the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Must be able to manage multiple projects simultaneously. This is a full-time position. Contact Nicole at 630-396-2679.
Answers to Super Crossword

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Sales

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 work ethic 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 opportunity 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)
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- ENTRY LEVEL POSITION
  - SALES COORDINATOR: $30-$38K/yr (base)

**SALES/MARKETING**

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

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR INTERVIEW

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NOW HIRING DRIVER OWNER OPERATORS Must have a good MVR, CDL tank endorsement no hazmat. Earn 70% of NEW line haul & 100% of fuel surcharge. NEW SIGN ON BONUS PROGRAM.

Call 708-258-3022 or check out the job opportunities at upontirstrans.com.

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LOCAL DRIVERS HOME DAILY

Earn up to $65,000/Year (based on experience)

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SAY IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS, CALL 847-998-3400 TO PLACE YOUR AD

SUBSCRIBE TODAY CALL 1.800.680.2068 OR VISIT PIONEERLOCAL.COM

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FIND MORE LOCAL JOBS AT PIONEERLOCAL.COM/MONSTER
Case No. 06 CH 19850
Sheriff's No. 120070
60706 Property Inden No. 12-13-1701
Dated, Chicago. March 14 AD.

Cook County - Suburban
HIGHLAND PARK- Ist floor. 500 sqtl w/BA and heat $800/mo.

The Judicial Sales Corporation, will advertise for sale, at public venue, the following described property:
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

423-021-0000. The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was $428,949.23.

Auction will be held at the hour of 11 am. in their office at 3420

Richard J. Dale

FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF
NOTE: Pursuant Is the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are

Residential
705 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU
OWNERS-TENANTS, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
receive s Certificate of Sale which

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
FOR THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION,

residential real estate and is subject to general real estate taxes,

HIGHLAND PARK- 1st floor, 500 sqft w/ BA and heat $800/mo.

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IN
CLAIMANTS

OWNERS AND NON-RECORD

LUIS C. CAMERON, JPMORGAN

Plaintiff,

vs.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NO.

15W030

TO REMAIN

OWNERS AND NON-RECORD

It is hereby given

FOR INFORMATION CALL KARA FINDLAY AT (312) 360-9455.

At the close of the auction and all in

$122,268.95 at the foreclosure sale, oiher lises, special assessments, or special

taxes levied against said real estate and is of

the residential real estate whose rights in and to

the property will NOT be open for in-

peiation. The purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure

sale is a debt collector attempting to collect

a debt on which the real estate is secured.

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AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITY, THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY
OWNED BY THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION
OF THE PROPERTY, PROVIDED THAT YOU PAY THE ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED BY THE CORPORATION
AT THE RATES SPECIFIED IN THE BY-LAWS. IF YOU FAIL TO PAY THE ASSESSMENTS, OR IF YOU
FAIL TO PAY THE ASSESSMENTS, THE CORPORATION MAY FORCE THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY.

The property is a condominium unit located at 521 W. Monroe Street, Suite 112, Chicago, IL 60603. The property was sold at the foreclosure sale on February 28, 2012, and paid for in full by certified funds at the close of the sale. The purchaser of the property is entitled to a deed to the property and all interests therein.

The property was sold subject to a mortgage, and the mortgagee, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., has the right to foreclose on the property if the mortgage is not paid in full. The purchaser of the property is subject to all liens and encumbrances, including any liens for real estate taxes, special assessments, or other charges against the property.

The property is subject to all terms and conditions of the condominium declaration, as well as any applicable laws and regulations. The purchaser of the property is subject to all covenants, conditions, and restrictions of the condominium declaration.

The purchaser of the property shall have no further recourse against the seller or the seller's representative for any reason.
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed with the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois on March 21, 2012. Under the Assumed Name of "COOK COUNTY CONSTRUCTION," the true name, the business located at 6161 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, IL 60639 and the true residence address of the owner(s) is: Vasile Cogina, 611 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, IL 60603.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D11213940 on March 14, 2012. Under the Assumed Name of "CEMEX CONSTRUCTION," the true name, the business located at 143 N. Woll Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 and the true residence address of the owner(s) is: Vasile Cogina, 611 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, IL 60603.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed with the County Clerk of Cook County, File No. D11213940 on March 14, 2012. Under the Assumed Name of "COOK COUNTY CONSTRUCTION," the true name, the business located at 143 N. Woll Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 and the true residence address of the owner(s) is: Vasile Cogina, 611 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, IL 60603.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FOR ELECTRIC RATES

Public Hearings are to be held on a Petition for a Change in the rates of the Village of Morton Grove, 4000 N. Olcott Avenue, Room 202, Skokie Court House, 4613 N. Oketo Avenue, Harwood Heights, Illinois 60706. The notice is given by the village of Morton Grove to obtain input from the Village Hall, 4000 N. Olcott Ave., Morton Grove, Illinois 60059. A referendum was passed on March 20, 2012, authorizing the village to negotiate for electric rates.

The village is to negotiate for electric rates. The current rates are to be held at the Village Hall, 4000 N. Olcott Ave., Morton Grove, Illinois 60059. A referendum was passed on March 20, 2012, authorizing the village to negotiate for electric rates.

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that the personal property described below is scheduled for sale by competitive bidding on April 24, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. on the premises where said property has been stored, which are located at 2525 West Armitage Ave, Chicago, IL 60647.

All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of sale. Payment must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold to the highest bidder. Payment will be made immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability subject to prior settlement of account. Payment due April 5, 2012.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Pioneer Press

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Thursday, April 5, 2012

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Available with money not currently on deposit at Charter One. $10,000 new money and active checking required to open. An active checking account is defined as having 5 qualifying payment transactions that post to and clear your account within a statement period - qualifying transactions include ATM withdrawals and payments made in our branches, payments made using our Online Banking service, Debit Card purchases, checks paid, automatic electronic payments to a third party, transfers to your checking, savings, and money market accounts are excluded. Online Banking transfers to Business loans or credit lines do not qualify. Personal accounts not required. MMA: Variable Annual Percentage Yield (APY) as of 1/1/12; APY 0.00% tiers $10,000, $50,000, $100,000, and $250,000; APY 0.30% tier $5,000,000; APY 0.05% below $10,000. Monthly maintenance fee of $20 may be waived with minimum daily balance of $10,000. Fees may reduce earnings. Member FDIC. Charter One is a brand name of RBC Citizens, N.A.

We’ve Always Been There...
Always Will Be

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We Know You!
Members of the Notre Dame College Prep Jugglers Theatre Troupe recently performed an emotional, realistic production of "The Things They Carried" at the school.

The production was based on Tim O'Brien's collection of short stories from one man's experience before and during the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1970.

With performers dressed in Army fatigues the Notre Dame play centered on the lives of heroic soldiers who saw their fellow troops killed and missed their loved ones at home. Live music from the Vietnam War era was played during the production.

Before the play Notre Dame held a Military Night reception in which audience members were able to ask questions to veterans of the Vietnam War and other wars, as well as current military personnel.

Rick Brayer, who serves on the Notre Dame High School Board of Education and is also a veteran, said that one major difference between the Vietnam War and the Iraq War is that those who served in the Vietnam War weren't greeted well when they got home as opposed to today's soldiers.

"I think we should all give our thanks for letting us sleep safely in our beds at night," said Brayer, to all the veterans and current military personnel who attended the reception.

Captain Michael Williams, of MACG-48, stationed at Great Lakes, recounted reading "The Things They Carried" in high school and talked about how it related to his own experience serving in Afghanistan.

Similar to drug use being an issue in the Vietnam War, Williams said that in Afghanistan farmers grow Poppy and make money off of the drug. He said while in Afghanistan they taught farmers how to grow other crops to try to steer them away from the drugs.

Williams said his job involved reviewing many reports related to snipers, suicide bombers and other dangers. One of the saddest moments was when they lost one of the Marines helicopters.

"You really don't know how you're going to react to fear," said Williams, who noted soldiers try to mentally prepare themselves for war, but they never really know what's like until they're there.

Notre Dame's the Rev. Raymond Klees again thanked all of the speakers for sharing their stories with the students and parents who attended the reception.

"The Vietnam War ripped the country in two," Klees said. "This play brings it all back."

Klees said for a few years he wore an aluminum wristband that honored a soldier he never met, but who lost his life in the Vietnam War. He later discovered that the soldier was a graduate of Notre Dame High School. His name and the name of several other alumni killed in Vietnam were listed on the back of the play program.

The NDHS production of "The Things They Carried" continued with performances on March 15-18.

The Dons of Notre Dame will be donating proceeds and donations collected from their Military Night to the Sentinels of Freedom, which provides "life scholarships" to men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces. 
SCHOOLS DIGEST

CAMPUS
Niles students Julia M. Prieto and Michael R. Carr Jr. (chemistry, educational studies) were named to the dean's list for the fall at Knox College.

Casey Plach and Kevin Seske, of Niles, made the fall-semester dean's list at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Niles students Alan Bukingolts, Alyssa M. Milazzo, Annata E. Mathew, John Nasshan and Megan T. Meyer qualified for dean's list status at Bradley University for the fall semester.

Niles students George J. Katsigiannis, Kristina Sungmee Kim, Christine A. Merchut, and Lauren Shimanovsky made the fall semester at University of Wisconsin-Madison.


DISTRICT 71
The Optimist Club of Niles recently supported "Rachel's Challenge" with a $500 donation, a program completed at Niles Elementary School District 71.

Rachel's Challenge is a program that focuses on deliberation kindness and compassion. Participants included: Peggie Maniscalco, Culver School principal; Amy Kruppe, District 71 superintendent; Rich Mangold, Optimist Club treasurer; John Jekot, Optimist Club president; Pat Byrne, District 71 Board of Education president; Norb Johnson, Optimist Club member; Tina Nielsen, District 71 Board of Education member; and Jim Grammas, District 71 Board of Education member.

DISTRICT 207
The Maine Township Educational Foundation is holding its annual benefit dinner and auction, "A Night for Our Stars," from 6-9 p.m. April 12 at the Rosewood Restaurant, 9422 W. Higgins Road, Rosemont.

Entertainment will be provided by students of the Fine Arts Departments from Maine South, Maine East and Maine West high schools. Raffle and silent-auction items have been donated by local businesses to support the activities of the foundation. In addition physicians and staff from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, who are involved with the School Based Health Center located at Maine East, will be recognized for their service to the community. The master of ceremonies for the evening will be Dave Barker, former Maine East principal.

Through charitable donations from alumni, parents, staff, retired teachers, community members, local businesses and civic groups, the District 207 Foundation funds grants to teachers who are committed to excellence in education. This year the "Race to Nowhere" documentary at Maine South, the History Lecture Series and the Holiday Concert at Maine East, as well as the Maine West's Wind Ensemble's performance at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference and the new mosaic in the school's main entrance were supported through financial help from the foundation.

This spring the Foundation will help the Maine South Constitution team return to Washington, D.C., to represent the state in the national competition.

Tickets are $50 each ($20 with a donation to the foundation) and can be purchased online at www.maines07foundation.org. Donations to the District 207 Educational Foundation, which is a registered 501(c)(3) charity organization, can also be made on the website.

The event raises funds so the Educational Foundation can continue to improve student lives by providing unique and extended learning opportunities.

The District 207 Board of Education will honor outstanding parents at the June meeting through its annual "Parent of the Year Award." Nominations will be done online for students meeting the eligibility criteria. Students must submit a brief essay (no more than 1,000 words) about their parent or parents, outlining their worthiness for the award.

There will be one winner from each of the district's three high schools. District 207 Parent of the Year Award Criteria:

- District 207 nominating students must be seniors in good standing within their schools. ARC students are eligible to apply through Maine South, and Youth Campus students are eligible to apply through Maine East. Students may nominate a single parent or

SEE DIGEST, PAGE 28
DIGEST | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

their parents who are legal parents or custodial parents or guardians recognized by the school district. Parents must have demonstrated a commitment to education and the well-being of the student.

The nominating process calls for senior students to complete the online nomination form, available at www.main207.org, along with an essay describing why their parents should be the 2012 District 207 Parent of the Year. Applications are due by May 18.

The Awards will be presented at the June 6 Board of Education meeting in the district board room at Maine South High School. The honor will be awarded to parents of students from Maine East, Maine South and Maine West high schools.

RESURRECTION

Resurrection College Prep High School English teacher Noreen Maluchnik has been selected as a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Archdiocese of Chicago Board of Catholic Schools. Maluchnik, chair of the Resurrection English Department, will be honored at a dinner on March 11 at the Chicago Marriott.

Maluchnik has been on the faculty of Resurrection College Prep High School for 37 years. She currently teaches British and World Literature and Advanced Placement Literature and Language Composition courses to junior and senior students.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Loyola University and a master’s degree from Dominican University. She has been selected for the Distinguished Service Award in recognition for her years in Catholic education, for her accomplishments as an educator and for her ability to inspire her students.

According to Resurrection President/Principal Lynne Saccaro, "Her files are thick with more influential teacher commendations, handwritten letters and now emails of appreciation for the impact Ms. Maluchnik has had on our graduates’ lives. She is most deserving of this prestigious award."

Resurrection College Prep
High School World-Wide Youth in Science and Engineering Team competed in the WYSE annual regional competition at Wilbur Wright College on Feb. 10. Resurrection students competed in academic competitions in a variety of academic categories including: mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, English and engineering graphics. Eight Resurrection students won medals and the Resurrection team came in first place in their division. St. Ignatius College Prep took second place and Benito Juarez Community Academy took third place in the division. The Resurrection WYSE team will advance to the sectional competition held March 15 at North Central College in Naperville.

Members of the Resurrection WYSE Team who participated in the competition included: seniors Ashley Frangiamore, Theresa Banaszak, Sarah Gilsner, Rachel Heiberger, Marielle Jennings, Monika Gilsmer, Rachel Heiberger, senior (Biology, third place); Molly Powers, senior (Biology, third place and Physics, third place); Gabrielle Carrello, junior (Chemistry, first place and Engineering Graphics, first place); Ashley Frangiamore, senior (Engineering Graphics, second place); Nicole Marie Raus, senior (Engineering Graphics, third place); Hailee Higgins, junior (English, second place); Faith Stachuis, senior (Math, second place) and Lauren Neja, senior (Physics, third place).

The drama department of Resurrection College Prep High School presented "Fools" by Neil Simon. "Fools" is set in a Russian hamlet where the town has been cursed with 200 years of stupidity. The story follows a young school teacher, Leon Tolchinsky, who arrives in town and finds himself in a battle to break the curse.

The cast of characters included: Count Gregor (Nick Mateus, Maine South); Leon (Nick Oliger, Maine South); Sophia (Katie Nicolai); Dr. Zubrtsky (Danielle Melnick); Lenya (Cassandra Jordan); Yenicha the vendor (Jasmine Sherman); Mishkin the postman (Amanda Willner); Slovitch the butcher (Taylor Kohout); the Magistrate (Mary Pat Hastings); and Snetsky the sheep herder (Natalie Chin). The cast also included Sheep (Maddie Abbatacola and Olivia Anton); Duck (Lia Haddad); Cow (Jackie Komada); Pig (Amanda Willner); Attendant (Vanessa Komada); and Attendant (Hannah Keller). Performances held were at the Resurrection Little Theatre between March 15 and March 18.


ST. JOHN BREBEUF

Nearly 80 of St. John Brebeuf first- to third-graders performed a Russian folktale, "The Tale of the Tsar Saltan," with the Chicago Marriott. Performances held were on March 11 at Wilbur Wright College.

The most On Demand selections for the week are:

- "Fools" by Neil Simon
- "The Captain's Dilemma" by J. M. Barrie
- "Amphitryon" by Jean-Pierre Marat
- "The Metropolitan Opera Season"
- "The Metropolitan Opera Season"
work and dedication in science. Joe Ciukowski from Notre Dame High School presented Matthew with a first-place win in the Notre Dame Science League Challenge. Matthew built a structure that protected an egg from the pressure of 16 books.

As a final celebration for 100 days of school, the students had a balloon-popping race. In teams of four, nine students had to run up and down the gym popping 100 balloons one for each day of school.

The new S.T.E.M. Lab (Science Technology Engineering and Math) at St. John Brebeuf School will provide students with hands-on learning experiences to further enhance their science and math skills. In the new lab, students will have the opportunity to control and maneuver robotic arms to reinforce mathematical and scientific strategies.

There are eight "RoboArms" the students can operate. A RoboArm is a high-tech robotic arm that students program to enhance comprehension in math and science concepts. The RoboArm rotates on five axes and incorporates end-of-arm tools, such as finger grippers, a shovel and a magnetic pickup tool for flexibility in classroom activities. Movement in degrees reinforces basic number sense. Students experiment, see spatial relationships, and create and solve equations. As a result, scientific and mathematical concepts come alive as students "do" science and apply math. In addition, hands-on activities provide opportunities for students to improve problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.

The lab also includes three "Hydraulift" devices. A hydraulift is a low-pressure, air-over-oil lift simulator. The unit uses water and food coloring to simulate a hydraulic fluid. The computer-controlled, working hydraulic and pneumatics system allows students to grasp and apply math, science, and technology concepts.

The S.T.E.M. Lab includes one "Tempest" console, which suspends ping-pong balls on columns of air. Students manipulate two RoboArms to move the balls from their columns in sequential patterns that require a variety of communication and cognitive skills. The Tempest helps students gain practical, hands-on experience in problem solving, teamwork, coordination and critical thinking skills. It provides valuable knowledge about pattern recognition, automation, circles, arcs, measurement, timing, angles and planes. Tempest is an example of how air flow, pressurization and Bernoulli's Principle are applied— all within an engaging classroom activity.

ST. PATRICK

The following Park Ridge residents were named to Saint Patrick High School's Senior One Honor Roll: First honors: sophomore Michael Potts; second honors: senior Daniel Potts, Jr.; sophomores Jack Donovan and Liam Forde.
Make your own Easter chicks and bunnies

Chef Gale Gand's Marshmallows

1/4 cup water
1/4 cup light corn syrup
1/4 cup sugar
2 egg whites
1 tablespoon powdered gelatin
3 tablespoons cold water
1/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
Food coloring of your choice
Sugar for sprinkling the pan

Combine 1/4 cup water, corn syrup and sugar in saucepan fitted with candy thermometer. Bring to a boil and boil to “softball” stage, or about 235 degrees.

Meanwhile, whip egg whites until soft peaks form. Sprinkle gelatin gradually over 3 tablespoons water, and let it sponge.

When syrup reaches 235 degrees, remove it from heat and pour syrup gradually into whipped egg whites.

Meanwhile, melt gelatin in microwave for 10 seconds at a time, until melted. On low, drizzle it and mix into egg white mixture. Add vanilla and a few drops of food coloring, and continue whipping, until stiff.

Line a sheet pan with parchment paper and sprinkle well with sugar.

Place egg white mixture in piping bag with a large plain tip and pipe in desired shapes. Let cool, then using a toothpick and some black coloring gel, make dots for the eyes.

Makes 40 marshmallows.

At the Just Born factory in Bethlehem, Pa., some 1 billion Peeps are produced each year. That’s enough Peeps to stretch from New York City to Tokyo, if Peeps could swim.

In 1954, factory owner Bob Born introduced a new machine to mass-produce his bright yellow marshmallow chicks, which he trademarked “Peeps” (www.marshmallowpeeps.com). The factory had been known for making fine French chocolates.

And now we finally know what came first, the chicken or the bunny. It wasn’t until the early 1980s that Born began making his marshmallow treats for Easter.

Born’s twin daughters, Ruby and Ella, often work alongside her. “Kids get so much out of cooking: math and motor skill development, a sense of how to nurture, chemistry—and then it tastes good in the end,” she said.

At Gand’s home, piped marshmallow chicks are a colorful centerpiece on the Easter brunch table, next to the ricotta doughnuts her family makes every year. But they don’t last long because they taste great. “We just pop them in our mouths and eat them,” Gand said.

Gand uses a few tricks of the sugar trade to ensure top quality chicks. “Make sure the mixture is slightly cooled so it holds up. Test the consistency first before piping the whole batch,” she said.

Kids’ favorite

Gand’s twin daughters, Ruby and Ella, often work alongside her. “Kids get so much out of cooking: math and motor skill development, a sense of how to nurture, chemistry—and then it tastes good in the end,” she said.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
- Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays - Income tax preparation, by appointment.
- Mondays, April 9, 16, 23, and 30 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Monday, April 9 - Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support Group, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday – April 17 - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- Wednesday, April 18 - Grief and loss support group (call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (The center is open only until noon on Fridays.)
- The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for senior citizens seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.
- Center counselors also are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois CareRx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-asset-freeze, and the longtime-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption.
- Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, #310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (The center is open only until noon on Fridays.)
- Chamber Niles Chamber of Commerce & Industry, (847) 268-8180. Annual Niles Night of Roses Awards Dinner: Honoring local citizens who make a difference, April 21 at White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant, 6839 Milwaukee Ave. Tickets, $50, available through the Niles Chamber.
- Civic A representative from the Niles Township Clerk’s office will be available 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and evenings by appointment on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to accommodate applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300.
- The Maine Township Neighborhood Watch meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in the basement of Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Meetings address issues within the unincorporated area of the township and all residents are invited. Reports from the Cook County Sheriff’s Police, North Maine Fire Department, and the township’s Code Enforcement Department are shared, and residents are invited to ask questions and report any concerns or problems in their neighborhood.
- Classes The Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, offers a variety of classes for the adults in the horticulture, garden design, nature studies and botanical arts by Garden staff and other experts. For information or to register, visit www.chicagobotanic.org/school or call (847) 873-8261.
- Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc., is now offering “Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy,” dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $50. Contact Dorinda King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.
- Clubs The Twenty-first Star Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at 11:30 a.m. April 14 at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. Lunch will be served at noon with a meeting and program to follow. Hostesses for the day are: Shirley Fish and Ann Michael; Barbara Hale, chairman. Chapter Regent Joy Martin will welcome Paul Melnik of Channel 7 News who will present a program, “Honor Flight Chicago.” Melnik has accompanied veterans on a Chicago Honor Flight and will reflect on his experiences. Women who are interested in membership in DAR should know that any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. Contact Second Vice Regent, Dorothy Wilson at (847) 328-6946.
- The Sweet Singers of Congregation Ezras Israel which entertains at nursing homes, retirement facilities and charitable organizations, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Rosenberg Auditorium of Ezras Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join. Call the Ezras Israel office at (773) 764-8320.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 32
CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

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

Niles Chapter Toastmasters meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove Consistory, 6540 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9328.

Community

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie; information: (847) 967-4800, reservations: (847) 967-4889, www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Museum admission prices: General Admission: $12; seniors (65+), $8; students (ages 12-22), $8; children (ages 5-11). Reservations required for programs. Through June 17: Special Exhibitions — Ours to Fight for: American Jews in the Second World War. Through their artifacts, letters, and photographs, the “Greatest Generation” tells the story of what the war was like 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. April 5, 6:30-8 p.m.: David Scheffer provides an inside account of the formation of the war crimes tribunals following atrocities in the Balkans, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Cambodia.

April 15, 2-3:30 p.m.: Meet Linda Pressman, author of Looking Up: A Memoir of Sisters, Survivors and Skokie, as she signs copies of her funny and true stories. Pressman grew up in 1960s Skokie, as one of seven sisters born to Holocaust survivors. Free. April 19, 6:30-8 p.m.: Holocaust Remembrance Day — Yom HaShoah, Museum’s third anniversary. Abraham Foxman, Holocaust survivor and national director of the Anti-Defamation League, will discuss “A 21st Century Challenge: Protecting the Memory and Meaning of the Holocaust.” Foxman, whose life was saved by his Polish Catholic nanny, has devoted a lifetime to fighting antisemitism, discrimination and prejudice. Free with museum admission. April 22, 3-4 p.m.: In cooperation with Chicago’s Cantors, “Celebrating the Cantorial Arts of Europe,” performed by cantors from Chicago-area congregations, the program will feature the music of Jewish communities that were destroyed in the Holocaust. Free. April 26, 6:30-8 p.m.: A moderated panel of veterans representing World War II, Korean War and Vietnam and Afghanistan conflicts, will discuss the ways in which military service has changed in the last 60 years, the ways in which it will never change, and how their sacrifices shape the world today. Free with museum admission.

April 29, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Ages 3 to 6 and their families invited to reenact their favorite storybooks, complete with music, puppets, costumes and props, to understand their own feelings and the feelings of others. Children will learn appropriate social behavior by modeling examples presented in the stories through the guidance of educators and therapists. Free with museum admission. The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a regular basis at no cost. The Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9:11 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items will be accepted: Computers — PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals — mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs — printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses and institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swanco.org/recycling/battery-recycling.html.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a regular basis at no cost. The Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9:11 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items will be accepted: Computers — PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals — mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs — printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses and institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swanco.org/recycling/battery-recycling.html.

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

The Wm. B. Yeats Thrift Shoppe offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly

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CHICAGOLAND’S MASSIVE NATIONAL CIVIL-WAR & MILITARY EXTRAVAGANZA SAT. APRIL 21st (9AM-4PM)/$9 (COUNTY FARM & MANCHESTER) - DUPage County Fairgrounds - WHEATON, IL 715-526-9769 www.zurkopromotions.com Tour Buses & New Vendors Welcome!
Lutheran General Children’s Hospital has launched a special fund-raising program that will offer a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adults Services program of the hospital.

Call Almee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8518; or visit www.lghospitals.org/luft click on “I need a class or support group” and type in the class code 8652 — April 10: Boot Camp for New Parents, Dr. Joanna Lewis, pediatrician;

April 17: ADHD, Dr. James Venedon, developmental and behavioral pediatrician; April 24: Food Allergies, Dr. Mark Miller, pediatric allergist.

Advocate Medical Group is now providing immediate care and occupational health services at the Advocate Medical Group Patient Center, 7255 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles. This will provide community members with convenient, quality medical care including treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses such as: Cuts and burns, sprains and bruises, eye injuries, flu symptoms, sore throats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, ear aches, respiratory and urinary tract infections.

The center provides easy access to X-ray and laboratory services to assist in diagnosis and treatment of these and other ailments. In addition, the clinic provides international travel medical services including for those planning a trip out of the country.

Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call, (847) 647-0355.

The Knights of Niles Chess Club for kindergartners to

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

National headquarters leaving Park Ridge after half-century

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

American Society of Anesthesiologists, headquartered in Park Ridge since 1960, will be leaving the city in 2014.

ASA recently purchased property at 1110 American Lane, in Schaumburg, just south of the Woodfield Commons West Shopping Center, and is preparing to construct a new headquarters there, the organization said. A spring 2014 completion is anticipated.

ASA offices have been at 520 N. Northwest Highway since 1992. For 32 years ASA’s headquarters were at 515 Busse Highway.

The reason for the relocation is lack of space in the current building due to an increase in the number of staff, according to ASA Executive Vice President John A. Thonier.

Several years ago ASA purchased the former Napleton dealership, which was adjacent to its headquarters at Greenwood Avenue and Northwest Highway. Though the buildings were demolished the property has remained vacant. According to ASA the organization has not yet determined what it plans to do with the Park Ridge properties once it relocates to Schaumburg.

ASA also has offices in Washington, D.C.

OPERATION PAPERBACK

Maine Township collects books for troops, vets

Maine Township Town Hall in Park Ridge was a recent drop-off site for Operation Paperback, a volunteer project that collects paperback books to be sent to troops overseas and to veteran's hospitals.

Lucille Kozanecki, a retired teacher and a member of the MaineStreamers senior organization, coordinated the local effort.

The project was started last year by Delta Kappa Gamma, a national organization of retired teachers, of which Kozanecki is a member.

More than 15 boxes of books were collected during Maine Township's Operation Paperback drive.

Maine Township trustee to open Park Ridge law office

Park Ridge resident and Maine Township Trustee Laura Morask has announced she will be opening a new law office April 12 at 713 Devon Ave. in Park Ridge.

Morask, who retired recently from the Cook County States Attorney's Office, will practice criminal law, DUI defense, police representation and municipal law.

A graduate of Washington University and Chicago-Kent College of Law, Morask started her career in law as a clerk in the state's attorney's office in 1985, eventually working in appeals, child abuse, narcotics and the felony trial division. A 25-year gang- and sex-crimes prosecutor, Morask most recently served as deputy supervisor of the Preliminary Hearing Unit Branch 44. Morask was also part of a multi-jurisdictional task force to dismantle the Black Gangster Disciple Street Gang and has operated as the Gang Crimes Liaison to the Skokie courthouse. Locally, Morask has educated Maine Township residents about gangs and gang crime during public presentations held at Maine Town Hall.
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

eighth-graders meets from 3:45-4:45 p.m. Fridays until April 27. Students can learn and improve chess skills but they should know how to move the pieces.

Reading with Rover — 7:30 p.m. April 5 and 19: Practice reading out loud with friendly, patient pups. Call Debbie at (847) 663-6199 or come in to sign up for a 20-minute slot; for kindergartners and older.

Celebrate Mo Willems' new book The Duckling Gets a Cookie! from 6:30-7:30 p.m. April 9, for ages 4 to 8 with grown-up.

Families with babies, toddlers, preschoolers and kids can boogie down in the library at 10 a.m. Fridays, April 13 and May 11. DJ Miss Cate will be spinning all the best tunes. No registration is required.

The film, "Contagion" (PG-13), will be screened at 2 p.m. April 7. This is a thriller centered on the threat posed by a deadly disease and an international team of doctors contracted by the Center for Disease Control to deal with the outbreak.

A Senior Coffee Hour will deal with Fall Prevention from 10:30-11:30 a.m. April 10. Get tips on how to lower the risk of falling in a presentation by the Senior Helpers of Niles-Linwood.

Todd Stocke, vice-president of Sourcebooks, Inc. will speak on the digital publishing explosion and what an editor does to prepare a manuscript for publication from 7-8:30 p.m. April 10.

Award winning photographer Paul Petersen will discuss latest techniques in travel and nature photography from 2-4 p.m. April 14. Peterson is a "Pure Michigan Award Winning Photographer" and was selected by the National Park Service as the "2011 Artist in Residence—Lakeshore."

For anyone who needs some help downloading eBooks, go to www.nileslib.org/contactus and click on eBook Help or click on the Overdrive Download link on the homepage to find step-by-step instruction sheets for different eBook readers as well as how to get started on MyMediaMall. MyMediaMall titles are now available for the Amazon Kindle.

Book Buddies — Students entering eighth grade in the fall and adults can become Book Buddies. Buddies read or listen to children read once a week for an hour. The Niles Public Library provides all materials and training.

The Niles Public Library is open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m. all year.

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

Youth programs on a drop-in basis: - Babytime: 11 a.m. on Mondays, for babies age 0 and under. Continuous year-round drop-in program for children with an adult. Includes stories, songs, fingerplays and extended playtime afterward. Rise & Shine Storytime: 10 a.m. on Thursdays, ages 2-6 with caregiver; enjoy stories, songs and more.

Maine Township
The vocal magic of "Mr. Sound Effects" joins the expanded variety of exhibits, programming, and entertainment that will be featured at Maine Township's Senior Expo "Swing into Spring" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 20 at the Golf Mill Shopping Center. Other highlights of the day include the Legacy Girls, who will return with their signature performance, an Andrews Sisters revue, at 1 p.m. as well as bingo preceding the Expo from 9-10 a.m., sponsored by Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano; a Zumba Gold demonstration from 11-11:30 a.m. by certified instructor Diane Garvey, who is a member of the MaineStreamer class; and two raffles, one at 10:45 a.m. and the second at 12:15 p.m. Displays will include senior housing, health, financial services, and other providers of products and services that benefit older Americans. Call (847) 297-2510 or visit www.mainetownship.com. Potential exhibitors should call the Expo Office at (847) 698-5069.

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

Immaculata High School Alumnae Association hosts its annual awards luncheon/reunion beginning at 11:30 a.m. April 22 at the chai- nert, 9100 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Immaculata Alumnae will give an award for service to Sonja Witschonke-Mess and for career achievement to Jeanne Meier-Hardy. This is also a reunion year for classes that end in “2” and “7.” Cost is $35 by April 12, $5 additional afterward. Contact Sister Mary C. Beckman, BVM, (773) 338-2211.

Resurrection College Prep High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, will celebrate an All-School Reunion Weekend April 21 and 22. Events will include a 5K Fun Run/Walk starting at 9 a.m. April 21; reunion Mass in the school beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday, followed by the Wall and Honor and dinner from 5-9 p.m.; and Wizard of Oz Family Movie Day beginning at 1 p.m. April 22. Call Stefanie Thorpe at (773) 775-6636, ext. 127, or visit www.reshs.org.

St. Mary Alumnae Association of St. Mary High School, formerly at 2044 W. Grenshaw Ave., Chicago, is sponsoring an all-class Reunion Luncheon to benefit the Sisters of Charity BVM Retirement Program. The event will be held April 29 at the Carlisle, 435 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard; reception begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m. (773) 620-2026.

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

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3256, or e-mail ryder@sbjsschool.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 Main- eStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. Membership includes a free subscription to the Maines-
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www.parkridgepresby.org
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Your Local Worship Guide

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

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

Congregation Bene Shalom
4435 Oakton, Skokie (847) 677-3330
www.beneshalom.org
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Evanshire Presbyterian Church
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Minyan Mon-Thurs 7PM;
Sat & Sun 6PM
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Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
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www.kehillatshalom.org

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Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast
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Call the Center Tax Hot Line, (847) 588-8440.
The Niles Senior Center Kitchen Band is looking for new members. Under the direction of ukulele-playing George Button, the popularity of this unique group of musicians has led to a very active performance schedule throughout Niles and the surrounding communities. If you like to sing, play the spoons, or want to learn to play a ukulele, consider joining. Join the Computer Interest Group to discuss all the recent computer innovations or individual problems or concerns. Call (847) 588-8420.

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

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

Registration is required for the following winter program sessions; there is no cost for members of the Niles Senior Center: non-members pay a $12 fee for each group - Social Card Play of Billiards, Mondays to Fridays; 9 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Drop-In Art, Mondays and Fridays; 9 a.m.-noon; Sudoku Club, Mondays; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Choral Group, Tuesdays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Social Mahjong, Tuesdays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Social Bridge, Tuesdays; 1-4 p.m.; Line Dance, Tuesdays; 1-2 p.m.; Social Bunco, Tuesday of the month, 1-3 p.m.; Computer Interest Group, every other Wednesday; 1:30-3 p.m.; American Thrusdays, American Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to noon; Issues in the News, Thursdays; 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.; Social Mahjong, Thursdays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Drop-In Ceramics, Thursdays; 1-3 p.m.; Drop-In Wood Carving, Thursdays; 1-3 p.m.; Social Scrabble, Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon.

The Niles Senior Center offers a wide variety of support groups. Cost per group is $10; members: $5; nonmembers. Weight Management meets the first Thursday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Diabetic Management meets the second Thursday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Virtually Impaired Motivators (VIM) meets the third Tuesday of month, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cancer Survivor Group meets the third Thursday of the month, 1-2 p.m.

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

Seniors

Theater—More than a Cafe, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., invites adults 55 and older to experience professionally taught, free-to-low-cost programs such as lifelong learning programs, fitness classes, free blood-pressure checks and health screenings, free consumer seminars, special-interest workshops, special events and door prizes. Call (773) 774-4804 for more information, except where noted. Chess Club for checkmate champs and new people who want to learn the rules and basics. Sessions are Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Jazzercise is a fitness program that combines aerobic exercises with elements of jazz dance. A series of dance routines is set to popular music while incorporating yoga, Pilates, cardio-kickboxing, and other fitness styles. The classes move incrementally through different intensity levels, so anyone is welcome to join. Classes are held at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and the cost is $3.35. Line Dancing is offered at 11:15 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Each class costs $3.25. A variety of exercise classes fit for every level is available. Try the gentle-moderate exercise class, 11:15 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays that features a combination of seated and standing exercises for a complete cardiovascular workout. The moderate-high energy class is at 11 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, giving more of a challenge with cardio, stretching, and toning routines. Each class costs $3.25. Computer Classes - All classes are four weeks and meet once a week for two hours. Begin with level one and advance through 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) 600-2560 to schedule an appointment.

Golf Mill Shopping Center is hosting “Feats of Fitness,” a mall-walking program Mondays through Saturdays to enable seniors to walk within an enclosed environment. The program is sponsored by Bethany Terrace, Golf Mill Shopping Center, Maine Township MaineStreamers and Partners in Healthcare (North Shore Physicians Group), Health seminars and blood pressure screenings will be offered throughout the year every month on the second Wednesday. Call the Golf Mill management office at (847) 699-1070.

Support

"Education and Support for You, Your Family, and Your Child with Mental Health Issues," sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Cook County North Suburban, will take place from 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays, April 25 to May 30, at the Maryville Scott Nolan Center, 555 Wilson Lane, Des Plaines. This is a free, six-week course for parents of children and adolescents dealing with mental health issues. Trained family members discuss getting an accurate diagnosis, latest research, therapies, treatment, crisis prevention, dealing with the school and juvenile justice systems, and transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. Diagnoses discussed include childhood bipolar disorder, depression, ADD/ADHD, anxiety disorders, OCD, and others. To register, call (847) 716-2252.

Meet others to practice conversational Spanish at the Golf Mill Shopping Center Food Court at 3 p.m. Saturdays, April 8, 15, 22, and 29. Local Hispanic sing-along table near Subway. Call (847) 830-7656.

La Leche League, a breastfeeding support group, will meet at 10 a.m. at Healthy Beginnings, 8267 W. Golf Road in Niles (Four Flags Shopping Center). Expecting and nursing mothers are invited to attend this series of meetings, continuing April 20, May 18, June 15. No registration is necessary. Babies are always welcome. Visit llli.org.

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Hennessey enshrined in coaches Hall of Fame

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

The Spanish word for gentlemen is dons, the nickname carefully selected by Notre Dame Prep's first principal for the school's athletic teams.

Over the last 35 years, the face of Notre Dame Preps has been head football coach and athletic director Mike Hennessey, the quintessential gentleman, molder of young men, role model to his coaches and student-athletes and a testament to the virtues of hard work and humility.

Hennessey entered the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Saturday in Champaign, and was the lone speaker on behalf of the 16 new inductees.

"I think I might have drawn the short straw," joked the self-effacing Hennessey.

Notre Dame hit the jackpot when it hired Hennessey as head football coach in 1987, seven years before he also became the athletic director. Hennessey has directed the football team to 124 victories and 14 IHSA state playoff berths, including a current streak of six straight, despite going up against powerhouses such as Joliet Catholic and Marist in the ESCC.

Droves of grads come back and help out because they know Hennessey will do for their sons what he did for them.

"Mike gets his student-athletes to understand the game of life and the importance of giving back," said veteran wrestling coach and assistant athletic director Augie Genovesi. "I never met a man with more class. He makes time for every student. He's the man who turns the lights on and off seven days a week."

Hennessey has directed the football team to 124 victories and 14 IHSA state playoff berths, including a current streak of six straight, despite going up against powerhouses such as Joliet Catholic and Marist in the ESCC.

Last fall's Dons overcame a slow start as Nick Pieruccini blossomed into an all-state quarterback. He eventually accepted a scholarship offer from Minnesota State, a Division II school in Mankato.

Hennessey has produced 31 all-state performers and more than 70 college players, including 10 All-Americans.

"I owe coach Hennessey a lot," said Pieruccini. "I was looking at Drake, Dayton, Butler and some other D-I schools. I probably wouldn't play quarterback. He set up visits, came down during my free period, asked me what I liked and didn't like. He did everything to his fullest to help me decide."

Pieruccini learned a few life lessons along the way.

"Coach Hennessey taught me to work my hardest. When we had the slow start, he kept the fire in us and challenged us to fight back," related the senior. "I remember a couple of times when I was a junior. I was acting out of line. He didn't yell, but he snapped at me and I deserved it. Both of Hennessey's jobs, coaching and administration, are increasingly more time-intensive. Notre Dame now offers 15 sports, five more than a generation ago. There's little time to find out what type of person they are, their character, their work habits," shared Hennessey. "They have to be organized. They have to show enthusiasm and the ability to be a leader."

The gentleman of all Notre Dame Dons may as well have been describing himself.
Junior battery sparking Maine East's success

BY ROB VALENTIN
Contributors

Last season wasn’t a whole lot of fun for the Maine East baseball team.

The Blue Demons managed just four wins and piled up 23 losses. But the early spring brought a respite to the Boys in Blue.

“We were playing really well and had never appeared in a game. But on February 11, 2012, against Washington College, with 10 runs by 19 with a minute left to play, coach George Pricetti called on Weissman. He was immediately fouled when he took the inbounds pass and missed his first free throw. But sure enough, in play (9,275 as fashion), Weissman hailed the second, calling it a ‘dream come true’.

Maine East’s Cory Evans tags out Hoffman Estates’ Mark Roberts trying to steal during nonconference action in Park Ridge. The Demons have already surpassed last season’s win total.

I learned that it takes time to turn a program around, and the success we’re having now proves that it takes time,” he said. “We have more wins than we did last year, so that’s a pretty big step. This year is our year to win and I’m really excited. We want double-digit wins and a higher seed in the playoffs. We just have to keep doing what we’re doing.”

The Demons hit a bump in the road Saturday loss against Taft. Lorenzo Aguayo was lights-out for the Eagles, tossing a complete-game, two-hitter (9 strikeouts) as the temperature hovered around 60 degrees.

Andrew Glowacki pitched well in the loss, giving up just two earned runs, and No. 9 hitter Muhammad Tabani accounted for both Blue Demons hits.

“I thought we were just a little flat, but we’ve proven we can hit,” Tabani said.

“We didn’t bring our A game (Saturday),” Plis added.

“We’ll have a few bats along the way, but it’s a long season.”
Colletta carving out huge impact

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

Niles West junior Kyle Colletta, one of the best baseball players in the area, probably is not even the top athlete on his own team.

Colletta, playing shortstop and leading his team in hits, was named Freshman Newcomer of the Year by Pioneer Press two years ago. He moved to second base last spring, when Kevin Ross transferred from Mather and hit .386 with 30 RBI and 16 steals to earn a scholarship from the University of Michigan.

The Wolves (8-4) have stormed out of the gate this spring, with Ross tormenting pitchers at a .400 clip and attracting droves of big-league scouts. Some projections have him being drafted within the top five rounds in June.

Playing a mean second fiddle to his band leader partner, the lefty hitting, righty throwing Colletta is batting .400 and excelling as the Wolves’ No. 2 starting pitcher behind senior ace Jason Meger. Veteran head coach Garry Gustafson tabbed the high-character junior as a co-captain along with Ross and Meger.

“Kyle can be one of the best players ever to come through here,” Gustafson said. “He will wind up as a four-year starter, one of the few we have had at Niles West. He is a tremendous kid and has a great attitude.”

Niles West started the season by overwhelming Wheeling 9-0, Lakeview 11-1 and Mather 25-0, while also dispatching Lane 5-2. After a 3-0 road loss to Barrington, the Wolves showed they can win close games as well as blowouts by edging St. Joseph 8-6, St. Patrick 7-1, Rolling Meadows 6-3 and Buffalo Grove 6-3 on Saturday.

Colletta packed on 25 pounds of muscle with an offseason strength program.

“I have gained a lot of confidence. This team works hard and has great chemistry,” Colletta said. “The conference will be a dogfight, but we feel we have the ability to win it. We still have to clean up our fundamentals, an inning or so here and there where we’ve been sloppy. We have to fix that, and we will.”

Singles by Colletta, Ross and senior Seth Rosenberg off Buffalo Grove’s ace set the stage for senior first baseman Eric Stojanoff’s bases-clearing double in the bottom of the fifth inning. After DH Jordan Grifflth walked, Quinn Winkler lashed an RBI triple to the wall. A double steal by Winkler and Evan Athanasiou created another run.

Senior righty Nick Meyer, making a strong case for the Wolves’ 7-6 win over St. Patrick. Niles West won eight of its first nine games this season. (JON DURR/GRAMER TIMES MEDIA)
New bats become a pitcher's best friend

BY MATT HARNESS

mharness@pioneerlocal.com

A month into the baseball season and most baseball players in the area are trying not to think about the new BBCOR bats they've been forced to swing this season.

Sparked by concerns that baseballs bounce too fast off metal bats, the National Federation of State High School Associations pushed for bats that acted more like wood. BBCOR (bat-ball coefficient of restitution) bats have a smaller sweet spot and reduce the trampoline effect of the ball off the barrel.

An informal survey of players showed they agree the ball doesn't come off the bat as fast. Some hate the new bats, and some don't care.

But you would be hard-pressed to find a batter who likes them.

"It's different, but it's a small difference," said Maine South senior Kyle Richardson, who will play next season at Notre Dame. "If you hit the ball hard, you hit the ball hard."

"As a team, we've taken the attitude that we won't let the bats psych us out. We will go about it the same way. It's all about how you mentally approach it."

So far, there isn't any evidence to suggest the game is safer. Last year, the NCAA used the new bats and offenses slowed down considerably.

According to the Sun-Times, runs were down 20 percent last spring. Batting average dropped an average of 23 points and home runs fell by 45 percent.

Disclaim for the new equipment is far from unanimous, however.

"As a pitcher, I love it," said New Trier left-hander Brady Arenson, who will play at Coastal Carolina next season. "I think it's great. The end-of-the-bat shots that used to go through the gap don't happen now."

In Notre Dame's 6-5 win over Evanston last week, both teams combined for nine doubles and 10 singles. Batted balls rarely traveled through the air.

Entering this week, the Wildcats have 11 extra-base hits, including one home run, in 212 at-bats.

"The balls don't carry as much," said Notre Dame coach Nelson Gord, whose club hadn't allowed a home run or hit one through nine games. "That really changes things, especially when you're pitching to a team's Nos. 3-4 hitters. They used to be able to launch one at any time. That's not the case anymore."

Conversely, pitchers are standing taller on the mound. In his first start of the spring, Arenson tossed a perfect five innings. The senior said he attacked the strike zone more than he would have last season.

"I think it's a much more realistic game," he said. "Last year a ball that's not hit well may have been a double. This year, it's a grounder. The new bats really take away the doubles, triples and home runs. The ball isn't going to leave the field as much."

In a study of 59 area games through Saturday, total runs stood at 9.8 a game. Gord said that's a clear drop from years past.

Gord has encouraged the Dons to pitch smarter and play better defense. Notre Dame entered the week with 15 walks allowed and only 11 errors.

Glenbrook North coach Dominic Savino told his players in the preseason not to let the new bats mess their minds.

"The first time we addressed it was to educate the players about it, and how we can adapt our offense to be more successful," the coach said. "That was the last time we talked about it. Everybody is playing with exact same bat, so there are no excuses anymore. This is the weapon we get to swing."

"I think our players have done an outstanding job. It ultimately lends itself to developing more fundamentally sound players."

Notre Dame's Keenan Connelly holds one of the new "safer" bats being used by high schools throughout the United States. Despite warm weather this spring, coaches say run production is down. ROB DICKER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Lazar, Wolves specialize in winning

BY MIKE BUDA
Contributor

Lacking an all-around gymnast hasn't hindered Niles West.

First-year head coach Adrián Batista has utilized the depth of his roster this season and it makes it easier on his team if there's a slip-up.

"It's working for us," said Batista. "It's a little harder to have everyone hit, but if one guy misses, it's not the end of the world and we could recover because we're pretty deep."

The Wolves don't feel slighted by Batista's decision to exercise his options.

"We love that we don't have an all-rounder," said senior Ari Lazar. "We're so proud that we are putting up state scores from a team that doesn't have a club kid, whereas all the other ranked teams in the state have club kids."

His team may be in a positive state of mind at the moment with their situation, but Batista can see it changing when the time is right.

"That's just the way the team's been this year," Batista said. "In a couple years from now, we may have three all-arounders and that's what we'll go with, but we'll do whatever we can do to put together the best team."

Niles West (3-1, 3-1 CSL) picked up another place finish Saturday at the sixth annual John Burkel Invitational.

The Wolves, behind a sensational performance on vault, scored 134.65 points to capture the 13-team meet.

Lazar placed second on pommel horse (8.5) and fourth on parallel bars (6.9). Last season, Lazar qualified for state on pommel horse and this year he's ready to raise his game and advance in three events.

"I have a little cleaning up to do if I want to make finals," Lazar said. "If I hit on parallel bars, I think I can go to state and rings I just need to clean up a trick or two and throw in a double back and I'll be ready for state."

Senior Brent Quimosing was close behind Lazar on the horse, placing eighth (7.05). Senior Josh Nicolson, another state hopeful, took second on the still rings (8.5), while junior Brandon Naguita finished fifth (7.55). On floor, senior Casey Mahoney-Muno came in fifth (6.50) and tied for 10th on vault (8.8). Senior David Imamkarimov grabbed seventh place on the horizontal bar (6.57).

Batista and the Wolves have meshed well so far this season.

"The team is responding really well with me," said Batista. "They've taken me in as their head coach, they're listening and they're buying into what I'm selling."

Moskovits motivates young North crew

BY MIKE BUDA
Contributor

There are some words that no coach really enjoys using.

"We knew that going into the season we were very young," said Niles North head coach Rick Meyer. "I hate to use the term rebuilding, but we are kind of in a rebuilding phase right now. We have a bunch of sophomores and juniors on the varsity level, and they're not really to state-qualifying individuals, but they're on (the right) track."

Senior Mendel Moskovits is striving to return to the state meet, and his seniority on a team filled with underclassmen is something he takes seriously.

"It actually helps motivate me, especially when I'm about to compete, because I feel a lot more energized to get the team together and motivated," said Moskovits. Meyer admits he does not foresee a conference championship this season, but Moskovits predicts good things for the young squad.

"We have a lot of talent, especially with our freshmen," Moskovits said. "This is a freshman team and we're performing big tricks early on; so I'm excited."

Niles North (4-3, 2-2 CSL) finished 12th in the 13-team John Burkel Invitational Saturday in Skokie. The Vikings scored 102.6.

Moskovits, placed eighth in all-around (36.5), with his best performance coming on rings (7.5) for sixth place.

"I didn't have a good meet," Moskovits said. "We were here last week against Niles West, and I think that was one of my best meets. I was throwing some new tricks on floor, and (Saturday) I wasn't that great, but it's gotten better towards the end."

The senior is trying to get back to the state meet, after advancing last year on parallel bars.

"I do expect him to qualify for three out of those four events, I think that's a pretty good goal, and it's a realistic goal."

Moskovits still is fine-tuning his routines, but expects to be ready to make a run in the postseason.

"I'm good where I need to be with tricks, but I need to keep practicing on my routines," Moskovits said. "But I think I'm set where I need to be, requirement-wise."

Junior Shawn DeGuzman placed 16th on still rings (6.1) and 33rd on floor exercise (7.0). Junior Antonio Coelho finished 25th (6.4) on floor. Junior Dhawal Gheewala took 18th on pommel horse (6.1).
Husejnovic acts like she’s done it before

BY ROB VALENTIN
Contributor

Maine East’s Medina Husejnovic was very quiet and unassuming as a freshman on the girls water polo team last year.

While she’s always been athletic, she was trying to learn the rules and concepts of the sport she just started playing.

Then, last summer, the team’s leading goal scorer, sophomore Maria Protic, decided to train and play with a club team in Evanston. That made it necessary for someone to step up and take command of a fairly young program.

Husejnovic answered the call and has never looked back. Ten games into a new season, Husejnovic leads the team in goals (38), assists (27) and steals (56).

“Last year I didn’t really know anything,” she said. “I barely knew the rules and I just watched. During the summer, coach told me I had to be a team player and step up. I told myself, ‘You can do this.’ I wasn’t afraid to take shots and now I know what I’m doing.”

Amin could see an almost immediate transition when he called for Husejnovic to take on a bigger role.

“She came out last summer and played point for us in our summer league and she kind of came out of her shell,” Amin said. “I was curious if she would continue it into the season. And she did. She’s driving, shooting and creating. And when she scores there’s no celebrating. She just has a blank look on her face like, ‘That’s to be expected.’”

Husejnovic also put in the effort during the off-season. She worked hard in the weight room to build her ability to jump higher out of the pool and get more on her shots.

Her best game this season came against Maine South, when the Blue Demons (8-2) trailed 4-2 with just three minutes remaining in the game. Husejnovic scored twice to force overtime and then found the net with just seven seconds remaining in OT to give Maine East the 5-4 win.

With strong play from Husejnovic, Protic and goalie Isabelle Trier, the Blue Demons have also registered big wins over Glenbrook South and Evanston. Husejnovic has fallen in love with water polo so much that she may try to continue playing at the next level. But she has other aspirations as well.

“I really want to do water polo in college,” she said. “I didn’t think I could be really good in any sport but then I found water polo. It’s just amazing. I want to go to Duke because I want to be a doctor but if I can get a scholarship from another school for water polo I might go there.”
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