HELLO, PAW!
The Howard Leisure Center in Niles held a lunch with the Easter Bunny event to celebrate the spring season. Fourteen-month-old Molly Rascon touches the bunny. PAGE 13 | TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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Niles

NUes

Cindy Moderi

Recently painted & carpeted large 1 br unit w/view from big balcony. Foyer w/wood cabs, new carpet, window treatments, fresh paint, newer apt. w/2 bals. Ample closets & ba.
Carol Mayer

$113,300
Morton Grove

Total rehab 2 br, 2 ba condo w/granite counters, 42" maple cabs, ss appl. New bths, plumbing & electrical upgrades. Some fin liv/din/family.

Marta Schneider

$159,000
Morton Grove

Nicely updated 2 br, 2 ba top floor unit w/wood laminate firs, & ceramic tile kitchen. Large balcony. New light fixtures. Heated parking. Walk to train & more. $99,000
Morton Grove

Recent rehab 2 br, 2 ba corner unit. Eat-in kit w/pantry & more. Walk to 2 parks, buses & more.

Debra Hymers

$69,000
Morton Grove

Bright 1 br unit w/renovated kitchen, pool. Major updates through out. Bamboo floor & more. Kit w/dishwasher, top light.

Marta Schneider

$86,000
Morton Grove

Nicely maintained 2 br, 2 ba condo near park, shopping & more. Fresh paint on main fl, & new wood floors. Fin bsmt, 2.5-car gar.

Connie Misek

$219,000
Morton Grove

Nicely updated 2 br, 2 ba brick ranch near parks & 94. Hdwd floors, new kit & baths w/new cabs & granite countertops. Fin ll, new fms, hen & wd. Oversize gar.

Jennifer Barcal

Jeffrey Parise

$211,500
Morton Grove

Recently painted & carpeted updated bright 2 br, 2 ba 4th fir end-unit. Large uy/din w/walk-in closet & ba. Nicely maintained brick ranch, fireplace, new kit w/marble counters & wood floor. Large bsmt & heated garage.

Connie Misek

$219,000
Morton Grove

Nicely updated 2 br, 2 ba top floor unit w/wood laminate firs, ceramic tile kitchen. Large balcony. New light fixtures. Heated parking. Walk to train & more. $86,000
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NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Programs on deck for centennial of Titanic’s sinking

All aboard! The Niles Public Library is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking with films, a reader’s-theater performance and a history impersonator.

At 3 p.m. April 21, “twins” and teens will perform the voices of the crew, passengers, the iceberg and even the ship’s rat in a reader’s-theater production. Parts will be chosen, rehearsed, practiced and performed in one afternoon. All are welcome to attend.

“If you enjoy watching classic films on our big screen, you’ll love this film about the Titanic disaster,” a news release stated.

At 2 p.m. May 1, watch the 1953 version of Titanic starring Clifton Webb. At 2 p.m. May 8, the library will show the 1958 British film, “A Night to Remember.”

RJ Lindsey, living-history impersonator, brings back to life New York Times editor Carr Van Anda at 10:30 a.m. May 10.

“Van Anda presents a slide program detailing the ship’s construction and recounts the hour by hour events of the dramatic voyage,” the release stated. “An artifact display of replica dinnerware for each class, newspaper front pages, postcards, telegraph key, and a piece of coal from the ocean bottom will be available to view.”

Registration is requested for some programs. Call (630) 658-1224 or go to nileslibrary.org/calendar for more information.

The Niles Public Library District is at 6960 W. Oakton St., at the northeast corner of the Oakton and Waukegan intersection. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

THEATER

Maine South wants you to go to ‘Chicago’

In recent weeks, signs have been popping up on parkways around Park Ridge embossed with the word, “Chicago,” in large letters.

They are advertisements not for the bustling city to the east, but for the musical of the same name that will debut at Maine South later this month.

“Chicago,” now on Broadway starring Christie Brinkley, satirizes the glorification of celebrities, murder and scandal in 1920s Chicago. The production is done in vaudeville style and the orchestra will perform at stage level along with the cast.

Co-producing “Chicago” for Maine South are Fine Arts Chair Terayla Keith and theater teacher John Muszynski, who also is directing the production. Costumes are by Lauri McClennen, orchestra direction is by Joel Matter, vocal direction is by Matthew Hanes, technical direction is by Pat Sanchez and choreography is by Konnie Kay.

Female leads will be played by Becca Hess as Roxie Hart and Isabel Lima as Velma Kelly. Sean Cahill-Lemme plays the role of hotshot defense attorney Billy Flynn, and Phil Titean portrays Roxie’s hapless and clueless husband, Amos Hart. Forty-eight students comprise the cast and about 150 Maine South students are involved in the entire production.

trusted by Maine South.

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Biz/Maine South.

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VILLAGE BOARD

Trustees OK $100K purchase of video system to televise meetings

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Villagers debate salary bonuses, more personal days for workers

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Village trustees are discussing proposed changes to the village’s employee handbook, the first update to the manual in nearly a decade.

The last time changes were made to the village employee handbook was 2008. During further planned discussions trustees will go over various proposed changes to the 69-page document.

Staff proposed creating a senior management bonus that would be available for department directors and the village attorney. If approved, each year the village manager would decide who would receive the merit-based bonus.

Staff recommended a pool of $50,000 for the bonuses, but village trustees did not want to include a specific amount because each year their financial situation will be different.

“Every year, it would be at the discretion of the village board,” said Kathy Barnat, human resource coordinator, of the bonus amount.

The village manager suggested he would be excluded from the pool, and the board concurred.

Not all of the trustees were in favor of this merit-based management bonus.

“To me it’s like double compensation,” Trustee Rosemary Palicki said. Palicki was not in favor of a senior management bonus.

Another topic of discussion was whether full-time employees should receive one or two personal days off per year.

Union employees now get two personal days and nonunion full-time employees get one personal day. Barnat said the change was recommended in order to be fair to all employees.

Trustee Chris Hanusiak was concerned about the amount of productivity that would be lost by giving employees another personal day.

“You never get those hours back,” Hanusiak said.

Another item discussed was requiring all full-time staff to take a drug test. Now, only certain employees, such as police and fire personnel, are required to take a drug test.
911 dispatcher describes rush, reward of heeding calls for help

BY CATHY GRAN
cgran@pionneerlocal.com

Some days are just "organized chaos" at the North Suburban Communications Center.

"It can be a zoo," said Cate Loughridge, dispatcher and training officer for the center that covers all police calls for Park Ridge, Morton Grove, Niles and Des Plaines, as well as fire calls for Park Ridge and Des Plaines. "If it's busy in the morning, it usually stays busy all day."

Circumstances that trigger chaotic conditions include weather, special events, holiday weekends and children out of school. In February the center received 5,728 calls. The average call lasted 44 seconds.

Loughridge, who has been a dispatcher for nine years, said customer service is a big part of the job. Dispatchers understand people calling 911 usually are not thinking as clearly as they would be in a more relaxed situation. That makes the reaction of the dispatcher critical, she said.

"We try to calm them down before the responders arrive," Loughridge explained. "Our response determines how long their day is going to react to the officers. A lot of people think we're part of their police department, one of their officers. We're a separate operation."

A big part of the process for dispatchers is asking questions. The emergency-call taker must determine the type of problem; where it is; what kind of response the issue requires; the severity of the situation; and the number of officers needed to respond.

"That's why we ask the questions we ask," Loughridge said. "What some callers may not realize is that while they are answering questions, help is already on the way."

Because the center takes calls from multiple municipalities, dispatchers must be sure of the exact location, as many towns have the same street names.

"It's absolutely critical to verify the address," Loughridge said. "That's why we ask twice, so that there's no confusion. It's just like in real estate: location, location, location."

Medici calls require dispatchers to follow a specific protocol. The answers to those questions allow paramedics to put together a more complete understanding of the situation when they arrive and gives doctors at the hospital an idea of what to expect and how to address it, Loughridge said.

"But I can understand why the person on the other end just wants the help to be there now instead of answering questions," she said.

The ability to multi-task is invaluable, added Colleen Graham, operations manager at the center.

"You have the person on the phone, who may be hysterical, and then you're communicating with the police officer while your partner is typing in more information," she said. "You're talking and sending information at the same time." Graham added: "But once you have this job, it's in your blood."

In addition to dispatching emergency-services personnel the center also is responsible for keeping records of the calls.

Attending community events is another part of the job.

The center participates in the National Night Out program to fight crime and drug use. This year's event will be Aug. 7.

At the Park Ridge Fire Department's open house the center sets up a bank of phones for children to practice 911 skills.

"The more we get the information out, the better the understanding the public has," Loughridge said. "These kinds of events put a face to that 911 operator so that if they ever need us, it'll be easier for them."

"It's a way to make things run smoother."

Loughridge said she became involved when she saw an opening posted for the position.

"There's no specialized training," she said. "You just kind of fall into it."

Training is on-the-job for six months.

"We're family up here," Graham said of camaraderie among dispatchers. "We're tethered with the sea of people calling 911. There are a lot of Type-A personalities here, and you have to get along."

"You spend holidays together. We never close."

And that adrenaline rush they all share when chaos descends is all part of the job.

"When that kicks in, it's 'Let's go, let's go!'" Loughridge said with a smile.
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DISTRICT 207

Maine East, South name April's ‘Best’ students

Alexander Heyde, of Maine South High School; and Adam Ratner, of Maine East, were recently selected by Maine Township High School District 207 as “207’s Best” for April.

The seniors were recognized for their academic achievement during a District 207 Board of Education meeting.

With a grade-point average of 4.96, Alexander Heyde ranks within the top 1 percent of his class at Maine South. He is now taking multivariable calculus and differential equations and Mandarin Chinese, in addition to four advanced-placement courses. His academic honors include National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction and U.S. Presidential Scholars candidate. He also won the Gold Prize in the National Spanish Exam.

Heyde is a member of Maine South’s National Honor Society and Speech Team, lead editor of the Chi-...
Maine South High School's Rube Goldberg team runs its balloon-inflating machine at the national competition March 17 at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RUBE GOLDBERG CONTEST

Maine South team succeeds in making things far more complicated than necessary

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com

A portable kitchen that uses appliances — and physics — to inflate and pop a balloon earned a group of Maine South High School students a regional award in the 2012 Rube Goldberg competition, followed by an opportunity to compete nationally.

The seven-member Team No. 2 took first place at Argonne National Laboratory's 17th annual Rube Goldberg machine contest Feb. 17 at the Chicago Children's Museum. The team, consisting of freshmen Jimmy Connolly, Ryan Kovacin, Andrew Lazara, Grace Mauer, Chris Tulban, Lisa Soderlind and Matt Weiss, then competed March 17 at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich.

A dozen teams competed in the high school nationals, with Kimberly High School of Kimberly, Wis., winning first place.

This year's Rube Goldberg contest required students to use their science knowledge to build a machine that inflates and then pops a balloon — in the most complicated way possible, not unlike the board game, "Mouse Trap." At least 20 steps were required but Maine South's team accomplished its task in 35 steps using in large part, common household appliances like a toaster, coffee maker and vacuum.

To add a little more fun to their demonstration the team added a '50s color scheme to their little kitchen and dressed in '50s-style costumes for the competitions.

Work to construct their Rube Goldberg machine began in December with Kovacin leading the group as operations manager.

"The whole reason I got this team together was because my brother did it a while ago and I was able to hang around the machine a couple of times," Kovacin said. "It was just a lot of fun. I wanted to try it once I got into high school."

Tulban explained: "Basically, Rube Goldberg (machines) are just complicated ways to solve simple problems."

Getting involved in the competition, he said, was a "great way to prepare for the future if you want to go into the science field."

Winning the regional competition "was absolutely mind-blowing," Kovacin acknowledged.

"I didn't expect us to get that far," he said.

"When they said our name, I honestly felt like I was going to faint," an exuberant Mauer said.

Actually preparing their machine for competition was also a positive endeavor for each team member.

"I think it's been a life-changing experience that's been really enjoyable," Soderlind said.
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The Park Ridge teen-concert phenomenon known as Bobbapalooza is undergoing big changes as it moves to a new venue with new organizers.

Allegro Music Center and the Park Ridge Youth Commission are teaming up to host this year's battle of the teen bands which will be May 12 at the Park Ridge Community Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave. Doors open at 7 p.m. followed by performances at 8 p.m. The cost of entry is $5 per person.

Bobbapalooza began in 2007 as the brainchild of South Park Church Youth Pastor Bob Anderson, who was looking for a fun, safe activity where area teenagers could showcase their musical talents.

Modeling the concept off the annual Chicago music festival, Lollapalooza, Anderson saw the twice-annual Bobbapalooza grow to feature as many as 35 bands performing on multiple stages at South Park Church with an audience numbering more than 1,000 people. Organizing such large events began to take its toll, leading Anderson to ask Allegro Music owner Jared Skiba if he would be interested in taking over the management duties.

"It became so overwhelming, especially doing it twice a year on top of everything else I was doing," Anderson said, noting that he is still on board to help Allegro Music and the Park Ridge Youth Commission put on the May 12 event.

Anderson plans to devote more of his time to South Park's youth group which has more than 200 members and meets weekly for faith-based activities.

The last Bobbapalooza took place at South Park Church in May 2011.

"It was, to me, a really awesome ride," Anderson said. "We did about 10 of these things. I only hope it continues."

So does Skiba, who has been a part of Bobbapalooza since it began, volunteering as a judge and providing prizes and sponsorships.

"It's great because there's a built-in audience and built-in collection of bands from the area," Skiba said of the music fest. "From that sense it's bigger than anything I've ever quarterbacked. I actually have a great support staff and the fact that Bob is holding my hand through the process to get it going has made it so far an easy transition."

The lineup of musical acts for Bobbapalooza 2012 has not yet been announced; bands were required to apply and submit a video of a performance by April 1. The Park Ridge Community Center will feature at least two stages, if not three, Skiba said.

This year the winner of the Judge's Award will earn an opportunity to perform at the Taste of Park Ridge, which is planned for July 12-14 in Uptown.
NORTHRIDGE PREP

Track coach enjoys life spent on the run

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

In fifth grade, Mike Egle started running — and he's never stopped since.

Egle has been a physical-education teacher and coach at Northridge Preparatory School in Niles for two-dozen years.

In the recent Masters USA Indoor Track and Field Championship, Egle took home second place in the country with a mile time of 4 minutes 42 seconds; second place in the country in the 3-mile and fourth place in the nation in the 800-meter. He ran in the masters division for ages 50 to 54.

"It's great to run with guys from all over the country," Egle said.

Egle was part of his junior-high track team and in 1979 he led his team at Maine East High School to win state. He said Maine East was the fastest in the state for two decades. Finding a true passion in running Egle has competed in several races at the state, national and world levels. He has won three national championships and many runner-up honors in Puerto Rico he participated in a world championship and received three third-place awards.

"You feel so good when you run," Egle said. "You're so healthy and you get such an aerobic workout for your heart, lungs and brain."

Egle's best mile in college was 4 minutes, 7 seconds, and at age 40 he ran the mile in 4 minutes, 15 seconds.

A lot goes into staying fit and preparing for upcoming races. Egle runs an hour every day and does core work, such as sit-ups, push-ups and weight training. Once a week he goes on a long run. His most recent long run was 11 miles. Egle drinks protein recovery drinks after these workouts.

Egle's Northridge Prep team qualified for a state cross-country meet and the junior-high team is undefeated in its conference. He said it's very exciting to see the youngsters improve.

The Niles Park District sets up the cross-country meets, said Egle, who added that there were hundreds of middle-school students running in the Bunker Hill Forest Preserve in Niles.

"It was great to represent the Niles community," Egle said.

"There's never a dull moment," Egle said of running in races, teaching and coaching children at Northridge Prep.

In addition to running Egle's other favorite thing to do is to spend time with his family. He has a wife, Tina, who is a track and cross-country coach at Oakton Community College, and a son, Justin, who is 16-years-old.

Egle received three third-place awards.

Egle participated in the Oak Park 5K on Sunday.

"The best younger runners show up and the best older runners show up," said Egle, who was eager to participate in the latest race and is looking forward to outdoor-track season.

Mike Egle

TALES IN SCHOOL

Newfangled hall monitor combats bullies with kindness

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Telling your peers to shape up their behavior in the hallway is probably one of the toughest things a teenager can do.

But for seventh-grader Katelyn Kahn, of Park Ridge, it's all part of the job as a student ambassador for an anti-bullying program that aims to make students better citizens through even the smallest of good deeds.

"I promote acts of kindness throughout the school," explained Katelyn, a student at Emerson Middle School in Niles. "I try to be as nice as I can to everyone in school, and when I see things that shouldn't be happening, I try to tell people that's not a nice thing to do."

Katelyn represents Rachel's Challenge, a program adopted by Emerson this year as a way to send an anti-bullying message to students and encourage positive behavior, tolerance and compassion. The program is named for Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School murders of 1999 who was known for her kindness and compassion toward others.

Tricia Warneke, a sixth-grade teacher at Emerson, chose Katelyn as the Rachel's Challenge student ambassador based on her personality and the interest she had in Rachel Scott's story.

"She's really confident; she has great leadership skills; she's not afraid to put herself out there, to put herself on the line," Warneke said of Katelyn. "She'll take a risk to do what's right. I just knew she would be the best person for the job."

Rachel's Challenge urges students to perform simple, kind acts for others - like holding a door open, helping a student pick something up, saying hello to a teacher between passing periods. The hope, Katelyn said, is that such positive behavior will spread among the student body from person to person.

"If someone does something nice for you it usually makes you feel good and encourages you to do something nice for someone else," she explained.

Teachers also point out the values of Rachel's Challenge during class assignments.

As an ambassador Katelyn is a role model for the core values that Rachel's Challenge promotes. She speaks before classes, answers her peers' questions about the Rachel's Challenge initiative, and encourages students to join the Friends of Rachel club, which coordinates activities like this year's "mix it up lunch," during which students were asked to eat lunch anywhere other than their normal cafeteria table in an effort to spark new friendships. The club also helped make blankets for the homeless during Mary Seat of Wisdom Church's Blanket of Dreams the past December and will be bagging lunches for Uncle Pete, a man who delivers food to the homeless.

Katelyn said she wanted to get involved in Rachel's Challenge because of the "good messages" it promotes.

"Bullying is a big thing that goes on in all schools and (Rachel's Challenge) seemed like something to change the way a middle school works," she explained.

Katelyn acknowledges that her position as a role model doesn't always make her very popular with her classmates.

"I have been bullied before," she revealed. "They pick on me because I'm the student ambassador. They target me first."

But Katelyn, who projects a maturity beyond her 13 years, takes it all in stride.

"Anything like that can bother you, but I have a good group of friends and everyone at Rachel's Challenge tells me to ignore them and let it roll off my back," she said. "I try to ignore as much as I can."

On April 2, Katelyn joined Warneke and Emerson Middle School Principal Jim Morrison in accepting a proclamation recognizing Rachel's Challenge at Emerson, a program Warneke says has created a noticeable awareness about behavior within the school.

"I hope it continues on in the culture of our school and just continues to get more and more positive," she said.
Children and their parents celebrate spring during a buffet lunch with Bunny at The Howard Leisure Center.

Bunny was available for a photo opportunity, so participants were encouraged to bring their cameras.

Special entertainment and a craft project were included in the event, which was offered to children up to third grade and their adult chaperones March 24 in the HLC Banquet Room. The event took place in two sessions, one from 11 a.m. to noon, followed by a second from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The Howard Leisure Center, run by the Niles Park District, is at 6676 W. Howard St., in Niles.
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ALERT

Niles police: Phone solicitors not with us

The Niles Police Department has been made aware that the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP) has been conducting telephone solicitation to Niles residents, a news release stated.

"The telephone solicitors are not members of the Niles Police Department and they should not be soliciting on behalf of the police department," the release stated. "One issue that is continually brought to the attention of the Niles Police Department is fundraising attempts through telephone solicitation of residents and businesses."

"Many of these fundraisers imply that the Niles Police Department is some way benefits from the donation. In fact it does not."

The Niles Police Department does not authorize nor does it want any organization to solicit on its behalf, the release stated. The department is funded through municipal taxes and fees authorized and budgeted by the village of Niles Board of Trustees.

"If a fundraiser states that they represent the Niles Police Department, you are asked to please file a formal police report so their claim can be fully investigated," the release stated. "When reporting these solicitations, residents are asked to provide as much information as possible, including the name of the person calling, the name and address of the organization, and any telephone numbers provided."

Illinois law requires paid fundraisers to identify themselves as such and to name the organization for which they are soliciting. The solicitations can be reported to the Niles Police Department by calling (847) 688-6500.

In some cases, organizations such as the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Metropolitan Alliance of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police may in fact have individual members of the Niles Police Department as members of their organization. But no one at the Niles Police Department has given consent to or hired telemarketers to solicit funds on behalf of the department. The decision to solicit funds through this type of telemarketing is being made by persons outside of our community. At times these solicitors may be pushy and imply that they are members of the Niles Police Department, when in fact they are not.

"Be assured that the Niles Police Department receives no direct benefit from these solicitations nor would it accept any," the release stated. "The department has received complaints that some telemarketers not only imply that they are the Niles police, but that donating will somehow improve the donor's service level. This could not be further from the truth. The Niles Police Department prides itself on the high level of service it provides to all residents."

"The Niles Police Department appreciates the support of our residents and business owners, but asks that if you choose to donate to a soliciting organization you do so based on your personal preference and choice and not because you feel pressured or swayed by the implication that the money will find its way to the local police officer or police department."

"To learn more about Illinois laws regarding charitable solicitations, go to the Illinois Attorney General's Office website at: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov."

COMMUNITY BRIEF

ComEd warns customers of impersonation scams

Prompted by a recent upswing in incidents involving scam artists impersonating Commonwealth Edison workers, the utility is alerting customers to be wary of schemes that could cost them money and valuable personal information, a news release stated.

"Last year, ComEd received 13 reports of impersonation incidents," said Kevin Brookens, senior vice president, strategy and administration, ComEd. "In just the past two months of this year, we've already received 28 reports of customers who have been lured into disclosing credit card information, handing over money to scam artists or allowing an impersonator to enter their homes."

In many of the reported cases the impersonators identified themselves as utility employees. Some of the perpetrators wore clothing, such as a hard hat, items bearing a utility-company logo or a generic orange safety vest. In other instances the culprits executed the scam in plain clothes.

In one recently reported case a culprit posing as a ComEd representative contacted a customer by phone, claimed that the billing cycle had changed and requested credit-card information to settle the customer's electric bill, the news release stated.

Other incidents have included scammers asking customers for money to fix parts on their meter and threatening to shut off power if they didn't hand over cash to fix parts on the customer's circuit breaker.

Customers who believe they're a victim of a scam should report the incident to police, Brookens said.

"Safety is our most important value at ComEd and we are very concerned about the safety of our customers," Brookens added. "That's why we want the public to be aware that ComEd employees always carry proper identification and that they'll never ask customers for cash or personal banking information. Customers also can verify if a ComEd worker is in the area by contacting us at 1-800-EDISON-1."

To help guard against impersonations ComEd recommends that customers:

- always ask to see a company photo ID before allowing any utility worker into their home or business.
- be skeptical of anyone wearing clothing with old or defaced company logos. If you have any doubts, ask to see a company photo ID.
- never pay on-site for services. ComEd employees never ask for cash payments or personal banking information.
- remember that ComEd employees do not engage in door-to-door sales or telemarketing activities with customers.

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DES PLAINES

1417 5th Ave.: Boguslaw Nowak to Sam C James, $392,000, March 14
1480 Jefferson St. Apt 505: Danna Trust to Emil Nadzakov, $215,000, March 12
1511 Oakwood Ave.: Open Home LLC to Jaclyn M Kelley, $280,000, March 13
1600 E Thacker St. Apt 506: Poulos Trust to Dennis L Freytes, $187,000, March 9
170 King Lane: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Katherine Boduch, $202,000, National Mortgage Assn to Pawel Koulentes to Kerry Washburn, $280,000, March 13
183 Windsor Drive: Casey Pallister to Kristopher W Koelszok, $205,000, March 15
202 Wildflower St.: Lexington Des Plaines LLC to Nathan T Diorenzo Angela Tomaso, $297,000, March 12
2205 University St.: Central Mortgage to Marco Freytes Wilma J Freytes, $240,000, March 14
2401 Lynn Court: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Pavel Bartusiak Anna Bartusiak, $234,000, March 12
4011 Western Ave. Apt 405: Zofia Smazek to Sneha Colotina, $42,000, March 9
405 Center St. Unit 103: Elaine Kalsczak Estate to Frank A Turk, $70,000, March 12
4931 Lady Bld Lane Apt 1B: Fannie Mae to Dejan Radic, $62,500, March 14
5367 Landings Lane Unit 407: Fannie Mae to Vincent A Keeyes, $71,000, March 12
5382 Landings Lane Unit 505: Bozena Den to Halina Sokolowska, $78,000, March 15
5601 Sunnyside Ave. Gt: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Lyudmila Polyakova, $97,500, March 14
604 Murray Lane Unit 21B: Fannie Mae to Dejan Radic, $62,500, March 14
8974 N Western Ave. Apt 405: Zofia Smazek to Sneha Colotina, $42,000, March 9
905 Center St. Unit 103: Elaine Kalsczak Estate to Frank A Turk, $70,000, March 12
9351 Central Road Apt 202: Clement Warda to Yakov Livosgalina Galina Sheynzon, $65,000, March 9
3813 Springdale Ave.: Agata Roszkowska to Chris Matsakis Monica Castle, $165,000, March 12
4222 Cove Lane Apt F: Fannie Mae to Eduardo Gandesa Fredelina B Gandesa, $75,000, March 13
4206 Central Road Apt 3b: HSBC Bank USA Trustee to Andrei Kolas, $70,500, March 15
4625 W Lake Ave.: Chicago Title Land Trust Co to Robert F Foster Sunghwa A Foster, $195,000, March 13
5701 N Milwaukee Ave. Apt 307: Cinqueranella Trust to Michael Gillespie Gerhausen to Michael Gillespie, $105,000, March 12
8001 N Oketo Ave.: Panopoulos Trust to Anthony Papadopoulos, $140,000, March 9
8630 Ferris Ave. Unit 508: Arch Bay Holdings LLC Series 2 to Manuel C Escaray Jr, $88,000, March 9
4211 W Thorndale Ave.: Chicago Title Land Trust Co to William Lhotka III, $462,500, March 12
5206 N Oriole Ave.: Timothy Levin to Alexander Shakhet Tatyana Shakhet, $60,000, March 12
5305 N Westminster Ave.: Sokol Trust to Philip F Stumfoll, $415,000, March 12
5731 N New Hampshire Ave.: Federal National Mortgage Assn to Amanda Murano to Lukasz Chrzanowski, $200,000, March 12
5850 W Lawrence Ave. Unit 307: Cinqueranella Trust to Beata Kowalska, $69,000, March 14
NORWOOD PARK

6701 N Milwaukee Ave. Apt 409: Parkway Bank & Trust Co to Christy Allison, $96,000, March 14
7051 W Touhy Ave. Apt 404: North Star Trust Co to Trustee of pesticides, $155,000, March 9
7525 W Palatine Road: Parkway Bank & Trust Co to Jean Pietrowski, $210,000, March 15
8750 W Lawrence Ave. Unit 307: Cinqueranella Trust to Elzbieta Konradczuk Beata Kowalska, $69,000, March 14
NILES

4726 Ross Street Unit 8B: Fannie Mae to Marzena Madry, $45,000, March 12
4848 Mulford St.: Fannie Mae to Matthew A Mlynski Aneta M Mlynski, $232,500, March 9
4900 Foster St. Apt 307: Charlotte G Denenberg to Denis Levin, $105,000, March 9
5006 Louise St.: Judicial Sales Corp to George Zervas, $225,000, March 9
7601 Lincoln Ave. Apt 315: Vishal Morde to Dandjel Lovric, $356,000, March 13
7720 Laramie Ave.: U.S. Bank Trust to Fouzan A Ansani, $155,000, March 9
3801 Hamlin Ave.: Ann Gross to Carol J Goliz, $88,000, March 12
6701 N Western Ave.: Kurt W Lhotka III, $462,500, March 12
8630 Ferris Ave. Unit 508: Arch Bay Holdings LLC Series 2 to Manuel C Escaray Jr, $88,000, March 9
NORRIDGE

6901 Church St.: Fannie Mae to Bertha J Joiner, $150,000, March 12
7125 Greenwood St.: Winski Trust to Mohammad Shafii, $133,000, March 14
7744 S Williams Ave.: Manny To Mansour Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad, $230,000, March 14
8424 Menard Ave. Khan Trust to George Illiopoulos Tania M Illiopoulos, $145,000, March 12
8630 Ferris Ave. Unit 508: Arch Bay Holdings LLC Series 2 to Manuel C Escaray Jr, $88,000, March 9
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Lighted by a chandelier, the dining room features hardwood flooring and is adjacent to the kitchen.

Track lighting is found in the master bedroom, which has decorative crown molding, two large windows and hardwood floors.

This property has a two-car garage and is 1.5 miles southwest of the Golf Metra station.

Listing agent: Phoebe Co, Koenig & Strey Real Living, 847-967-3700, pco@koenigstrey.com

SOUND OFF

Q: Given current conditions, how long should sellers expect their home to be on the market?

A: Sellers are often surprised when I tell them that our goal should be to have their property under contract within 30 days. Even in this current market, if a property is priced appropriately, it should sell within a reasonable period of time.

Sellers sometimes say “I’m in no hurry,” but it’s important to remember that market time is not your friend. Statistics prove that longer market time almost always results in a lower selling price. The longer the property remains on the market, the more potential buyers start to wonder “What’s wrong?” or “Why hasn’t someone else bought it?” It’s a difficult objection to overcome, which is why a price adjustment may be necessary if your home has not sold within 30 days.

A way to create a sense of urgency in this market is to price aggressively. Sellers don’t need to build in negotiation room when pricing.

— Edward Watts, Jameson Sotheby’s International Realty, 312-731-0300, edwatts@edwatts.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>Des Plaines</td>
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<td>$160,000</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Couple whose baby died from wrong IV dose gets $8.25 million

BY DAN ROZEK
Staff Reporter/drozek@suntimes.com

Born 15 weeks premature, Genesis Burkett survived despite weighing just 1 pound, 8 ounces.

But the little boy couldn't survive a medication mistake made at a suburban hospital that gave him the wrong IV dosage and took his life when he was 40 days old.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge has agreed to settle his parents' wrongful-death lawsuit for $8.25 million — the largest such settlement ever in Illinois, according to the parents' lawyers.

Fritzie and Cameron Burkett of Chicago are relieved the hospital acknowledged the error that killed their only child, their attorney said April 5. "They're grateful the hospital recognized their significant loss," Patrick Salvi said. "They hope it never happens again."

Genesis Burkett died at the hospital on Oct. 15, 2010, after receiving a fatal dose of sodium chloride in an IV administered to him after heart surgery.

The suit claimed an error made by the hospital pharmacy resulted in Genesis getting a dose 60 times the amount that was prescribed, causing the infant to go into cardiac arrest and die.

"The pharmacy made a critical mistake," Salvi said. "A hospital investigation showed the mistake occurred because the dosage for the boy's IV "had been incorrectly entered into the machine that mixes IV solutions," Lutheran General spokesman Greg Alford said April 5.

The hospital has changed procedures to prevent similar mistakes, according to Alford, who said, "We have taken comprehensive steps to ensure this type of tragedy does not happen again."

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Munster, IN (219) 836-2800
Evergreen Park (708) 423-7900
Chicago South Loop (312) 880-0808
Chicago Northside (773) 878-7909
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Warrenville (630) 393-9880
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Where do you think we go for local information?
The following incidents were listed in the weekly bulletin prepared by the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

BURGLARY
A 54-year-old Niles woman reported that when she arrived April 7 at work on the 7700 block of Milwaukee Avenue she noticed her desk was ransacked and her laptop computer was missing. An investigation was pending.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE
Someone reportedly stole a $10,000 engagement ring from the center console of a 2006 Audi station wagon April 8 in a parking lot on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. An investigation was pending.

A 19-year-old Niles woman reported that between April 6 and April 7 someone entered her 1996 Toyota while it was parked on the 8000 block of Lake Street and stole an iPod valued at $150.

IDENTITY THEFT
A Niles police officer received an email April 3 from a 47-year-old man from Little Rock, Ark., who said his credit-card number was used at a bank between May 31 and April 3 on the 8200 block of Golf Road. Police said six transactions of $800 each were made.

CREDIT-CARD THEFT
A 20-year-old South Elgin man reported that an unknown person used his credit card March 28 at a retail store on the 8500 block of Golf Road to purchase items totaling $391.95.

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ROBBERY
A 19-year-old Grayslake man reported that while he was sitting in his vehicle April 3 in the parking lot of Golf Mill Shopping Center, he saw a man in his 20s walking towards his vehicle. The victim said the stranger approached the driver-side door with his hand near his crotch, and though the victim did not see a weapon, he believed the offender had one. The offender allegedly told the victim to give him his money and exit the vehicle. The victim reportedly told the subject to get away from him and the offender fled toward the mall.

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

BURGLARY
A 54-year-old Niles woman reported that when she arrived April 7 at work on the 7700 block of Milwaukee Avenue she noticed her desk was ransacked and her laptop computer was missing. An investigation was pending.

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SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
An 83-year-old Niles woman said she received a phone call March 28 from her home on the 9200 block of Maryland from an alleged Internet Medication company. The caller allegedly asked the woman for her Social Security number, birthday and Medicaid information. The victim told police she believed it was a scam, as she hasn't heard from the company since then.

Parents renew request for signals at Maine South-student crossing

At that time they called for a crossing guard or a device with crossing lights that activate when a pedestrian pushes a button. On March 12 the parents indicated these are still options they favor.

"We do have a long-term goal of getting some type of permanent signal light there," Olson said, also asking for an "informational campaign and incentives for students" who properly use the crosswalk. Additionally, Olson asked for police to encourage students to avoid jaywalking and called upon the city to promote a pedestrian-safety campaign.

In a near-repeat from last spring some Park Ridge parents are again asking the city to do more to improve pedestrian safety in a crosswalk created near Maine South High School.

Parents Sue Dahl and Claire Olson attended two recent meetings before the Park Ridge City Council, sharing their ongoing concerns about the Talcott Road crosswalk just west of Hamlin Avenue.

"We've still had so many dangerous close calls that parents have observed," said Dahl, whose daughter was struck by a car in 2005 while walking home from school. "The crosswalk just isn't very visible," Olson noted.

In May 2011 the mothers, joined by several other parents and Maine South students, also brought their concerns to the City Council. Since 2005 there has been one accident at the site involving a pedestrian, said Park Ridge Police Cmdr. Lou Jogmen.

On March 12, Mitchell said city staff members have been meeting with Maine South officials and parents regarding their concerns. During the past year the crosswalk was repainted to make it more visible to motorists, and police enforcement has occurred, Mitchell said.

Recently a police speed trailer, which displays how fast vehicles are traveling, was set up along the south side of Talcott Road.

Jogmen said the police chief and other department officials feel the best option is to have a crossing guard posted there before and after school. District 207 cut funding for the crossing-guard position before the 2010-11 school year.
SATURDAY ONLY!
APRIL 14, 10AM–10PM

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SAVE 20%–75%

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FRESH NEW SHEETS • SOFT TOWELS • THE LATEST KITCHEN ELECTRICS • PREMIUM COOKWARE • THE PERFECT SOFA • ELEGANT TABLE SETTINGS • AND SO MUCH MORE!

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PLEASE VISIT BLOOMINGDALES.COM OR CALL STORES FOR HOURS. MEDINAH TEMPLE, CHICAGO, 312-324-7500. MEDINAH PARKING VALIDATION AT INTERPARKING ROVE GARAGE, 50 E. OHIO;
JUST 12.00 FOR UP TO 3 HOURS, REGULAR RATE APPLIES THEREAFTER. • OLD ORCHARD CENTER, SKOKIE, 847-675-5200. SORRY, NO FURNITURE AT OLD ORCHARD.
FEELING IMPEDED BY LIFE’S OBSTACLES? DO IT ANYWAY

We met when I hit a perfect storm of life circumstances. I clung to a bad relationship. Every weekday, I dragged into a grueling job, clocking in long hours with cutthroat personalities. Things went from bad to worse. They hired Aubrey from “Celebrity Apprentice.” Jokes aside, the stress kept adding up, and then my brother was killed in an accident. Numb, I called and made an appointment with a therapist named Bonnie.

Anxious, I arrived at her home office, taking note of the closed-in porch. On top of a table was a miniature decorative village. An eclectic collection of art and books graced shelves and walls. It was a cheerful, welcoming hearth, just like her. As a breeze lifted the curtain and a sunny day blazed through a window, I blinked and took stock. Throughout our sessions she never coddled. She didn’t judge. She listened and offered bracing advice. Life is often difficult and unfair. She emphasized faith and spirituality, to squeeze the bitter from lemons and make lemonade … to get moving again.

That was 24 years ago. Now retired and in her 80s, Bonnie survived Stage 4 ovarian cancer and a stroke. She lost her home and the love of her life. Still, whenever we have lunch, the twinkle remains in her eye. Despite hardships, she never is self-pitying. She laughs at my lame jokes. She is my Yoda, my North Star.

The last time I picked her up for lunch, she looked more frail. I ducked my head to hide my tears. I’m not sure how much longer she’ll have on the earth, and she’s precious to me. We enjoyed our Olive Garden soup-and-salad combo. The waitress talked us into decaf coffee and dessert. Bonnie described a new book she wanted to read, one on acquiring habits.

I told her about a difficult personal situation. She stirred her coffee and said, “Mother Teresa wanted ahead with her charitable work despite obstacles. Her philosophy was, ‘Do it anyway.’”

She told me about a difficult personal situation. She stirred her coffee and said, “Mother Teresa wanted ahead with her charitable work despite obstacles. Her philosophy was, ‘Do it anyway.’”

"Cheryl. Do it anyway."
Dear Fixer: I applied on Craigslist for a driving job and received an offer from a Phil Meyer who told me he was coming to Chicago with his wife and two sons on a six-month sabbatical. He emailed me and we corresponded a few times and I told him how much I wanted per hour, which came out to $600 per week.

Today, I received an envelope with a check for $2,100, which I deposited in my bank account. I became leery as to why a stranger would send another stranger that amount of money. He told me to put the check in my bank account and when the check cleared, I was to contact his real estate agent and give them the other portion of the money after I've taken out my $600.

Dear Thomas: Your intuition is right — this has "scam" written all over it. This con artist — most likely working overseas with accomplices in the United States — is counting on your bank to make the funds "available" right away, before it becomes apparent that the check is a fake. By then, he hopes you will already have spent $1,500 to the supposed real estate agent, who, we assume, is in on the scam.

We've advised you to complain to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Ill. Attorney General and the Chicago office of the FBI. You've also notified your bank. You were smart to not fall for this.

Dear Fixer: In January I purchased a GE range hood from Sears. It was installed on Jan. 25.

Unfortunately, in the course of removing the old hood and installing the new one, the installer cracked the surface of my glass cooktop, which was also purchased from Sears barely two years ago. I noticed the crack only after the installer had finished and departed, but I immediately called to report the damage.

On Feb. 1, two men came to my house and took pictures of the damaged stovetop. They said I would hear back in "a few days" and that they would initiate the claim that very day. The next day, I got a claim number from Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Sears' third-party insurance administrator.

After that, there were some delays while the installer was conducting the investigation. Meanwhile, since the manufacturer's warning on my cooktop strictly prohibits cooking on the appliance if there is any damage, I was forced to purchase an electric skillet and hot plate in order to prepare meals.

On March 8, I finally got an answer. The claims person from Sedgwick told me the installer had reviewed the photos and had said the stovetop was covered in dirt and debris — which, quite frankly, was laughable and obviously a desperate ploy to get out of replacing the damaged cooktop. Even if this were true, in the wildest stretch of the imagination, what has the presence of dirt and debris got to do with the crack in the stove's glass surface?

I haven't had any luck resolving this. Every phone call is met with misinformation, resistance, and false promises of quick resolution. Three months into this ordeal, I am relegated to cooking on a skillet and hot plate like some transient railcar jumper.

Fixer, can you fix this one?

Shirley Clark

Dear Shirley: You told us there was a thick towel over the glass cooktop on that fateful day, but apparently even that wasn't enough to protect the glass from this mishap. Just after the guy left, when you were cleaning up the area, you noticed a 4½-inch crack arcing over the left corner of the stovetop.

It seems obvious what happened, and the good news is once we got this into the hands at Sears, it was obvious to them, too.

Sears contacted their insurance company and immediately ordered you a new cooktop. They sent a different installation company to your house to do the work. And they will send you a check for the $319 you spent on the electric burner and skillet. Sears will then attempt to recoup the costs from the independent installer — but lucky for you, you won't have to get involved with that.

Costly lesson

With contractors, as with blind dates, it's best to have as much information as possible. Is this someone I can trust? What's his relationship record? If I go with this person, will my heart — and wallet — be happy?

Ellen wishes she would have checked out her contractor more thoroughly. She told The Fixer she made a down payment of 50 percent on a $7,900 fence to keep her dogs in her yard, but when the job was finished, her 6-pound Yorkie could easily walk right through all the gaps. Only later did Ellen notice other consumer complaints online.

Ellen wishes she would have done more research upfront, because consumer complaints can be quite decentralized.

Some consumers gripe to every official agency and informal website they can find; others go to only one or two. Some complaints are more believable than others. But when it comes to hiring a contractor, you can never have "TMI" — too much information. Better to know beforehand what you're getting into.

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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Diversions
PIONEERLOCAL.COM | THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012 | 83

4 For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for the coming week

1. The Park Ridge Chorale will present its spring concert, “Contemporary Classics,” at 4 p.m. April 15 at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. A variety of music will be sung, concluding with The Gospel Mass by Robert Ray. Tickets in advance are $14; $12 for seniors. Tickets at the door are $16; $14 for seniors. Admission is free for youth under 18. Call (847) 823-3958 or (847) 825-2216.

2. “Pushed to the Edge” presents Bharata Natyam, a dance theater from India, under 18. Call (847) 823-3958 for seniors; $1 for students. Tickets in advance are $14, more for students. Admission is $3; $2 for seniors and students. Tickets are $30-$38.


4. Des Plaines Valley Geological Society’s 47th annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil, 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 is $3; $2 for seniors; $1 for students. Free admission for children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult.

Music among friends for charity

BY MYRNA PETUCKI
Contributor

‘A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS’

At a time when charitable organizations are struggling to survive, Acts of Kindness Cabaret has raised over $200,000 for a variety of nonprofits. The organization was founded by Highland Park native Hily Ann Feldman, pianist Paul Hamilton, for an Acts of Kindness Cabaret showcase at the Skokie Gorilla Tango Theatre on Saturday evening, April 14.

Selections will include theater songs such as “Three Friends” from “Closer than Ever”; some Beatles selections; a classic Johnny Mercer tune, “The Whatchamacallit”; plus music by Sondheim, Stephen Schwartz and others. There will be solos, duets and trios.

Marianne Murphy Orland joined Acts of Kindness Cabaret six months ago when a scheduled performer had to drop out from another showcase because of a death in the family. “I had nine days to learn a two-hour show of all new material,” Orland said. That included a few songs that she had never heard before.

“‘It is a really, really good test of my mental agility,” Orland jokingly related.

Giving back

Orland was willing to take on that challenge because of her friendship with Feldman but even more because she believes that Acts of Kindness Cabaret is “a wonderful organization,” she said. “It’s a nice way to give back and use the gift and talent that I’ve been given in a generous way.”

A singer since childhood, Orland became a professional at the age of 17. She started out in musical theater and has sung extensively with big bands, performing selections from the 1940s to current hits. Like Feldman, Orland is now a member of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals. Her cabaret credits include “If I Were a Carpenter,” a tribute to the music of Karen Carpenter.

For “A Little Help from my Friends,” Orland’s selections will include “Come in from the Rain” and a couple of duets, “Make Your Own Party” and “I Get by with a Little Help from my Friends,” plus a variety of other numbers.

“‘It will be touching on lots of different kinds of friendships,” Orland said.
FAMILY FRIENDLY

Some of the area's most talented young singers, dancers and musicians will entertain during the Honors Performing Arts Showcase from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6100 Lincoln Ave.

"We're going by recommendations from teachers, either in private studios or schools," said Debbie Wiedeman, the information assistant in youth services who is organizing the showcase with Jill Wehrheim, youth librarian. "Also, if we have heard of someone who has won an award, we seek them out."

This is the fourth annual showcase at the library. Most of this year's performers are in high school, but several middle school and elementary school students also have been selected. They will play viola, fiddle, harp and piano, sing and dance in a variety of styles.

Wiedeman said the library designed this program, "to make it possible for the community to see what our students are doing, to be entertained and inspired."

For details, call (847) 965-4220 or visit webrary.org.

What a web she weaves
Wilbur the pig owes his life to a clever spider in "Charlotte's Web." Families can enjoy American Eagle Productions' musical adaptation of the E.B. White classic from 4 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Free tickets will be given out starting at 3:30 p.m.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2600, or visit skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.

Living history
To mark the 100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking, tweens and teens will perform the voices of the crew, passengers, iceberg and ship's rat in a reader's theater production at 3 p.m. April 21 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Kids in fifth grade and above will be chosen for parts and rehearse from 1 to 3 p.m. that day.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit www.nileslibrary.org.
A devastating ‘Bully’

BY BRUCE INGRAM

BULLY

You won't get a balanced, even-handed, objective view of bullying in American schools from this controversial and very personal documentary. What you will get is an uncomfortably up-close view of how it feels to be bullied, and the devastating effect it can have on the lives of young people and their families— even including the ultimate tragedy of suicide.

You may leave a screening of “Bully” with the vague feeling that you’ve been manipulated, but that won’t make it any easier to shake the emotions it triggers about a shameful practice that most of us have either suffered or perpetrated or witnessed at one point or another. “Bully” is likely to make anyone who sees it think long and hard about this issue, and for that reason it should be seen.

Keep in mind, though, that this is an activist documentary, made by a talented filmmaker with a very personal agenda. From the moment that co-writer/director Lee Hirsch (“Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony”) opens with home-video footage of a happy little boy who morphs into an unhappy and withdrawn schoolboy, as his tearful father looks on (“I knew he would be victimized at some point in time”), it’s clear he has a point to make. And that he will use all the tools at his disposal to get that point across.

He does quite a good job, too. And there are no doubt many parents and kids out there—all estimated that 11 million American children have to contend with bullying each year—who will say an emotional, confrontational film like “Bully” is infinitely more valuable than a traditional, talking-heads droner that carefully weighs the issue from all viewpoints, and is quickly forgotten. The story of Tyler Long, the happy little boy who hanged himself at the age of 17 after years of merciless bullying, according to his parents and friends, is the first of five cases “Bully” examines. Hirsch also tells the stories of 14-year-old Ja’Maya Jackson, an honors student who was charged with 45 felonies after threatening bullies with her mother’s handgun on a school bus, and 16-year-old Kelby Johnson, who was ostracized after coming out as a lesbian. Kelby is particularly affecting. After three suicide attempts, she decides to stay and stand up for herself despite her supportive parents’ offer to move to another town — only to realize the challenge is more than she can handle.

It’s 12-year-old Alex Libby, though, who’s most likely to get under your skin. A premature baby who was expected to die within 24 hours, Alex has grown up to be gawky and goggle-eyed and socially awkward, with a typically open, oval mouth—hence, his charming nickname, “Fishface.” (The crime of all the bullied kids in this film appears to be that they are different from the norm.) Alex’s one desire is to make friends and he is quick to excuse or minimize the behavior of his tormentors. Yet Hirsch, who followed him, along with other students, while embedded for a year in his middle school, captures instance after instance of shocking abuse as Alex is bullied by other students. Twice in one morning, boys threaten to kill him, once before he even gets on the school bus. On the bus, he is routinely stabbed with pencils, punched, ridiculed, and even beaten and choked by a much larger boy, while the bus driver appears to see, in the rear-view mirror.

After that episode, Hirsch decided the threat to Alex was so great that he shared the footage with police, school officials and Alex’s parents—leading to the film’s most concrete example of official ineffectiveness, if not indifference. It also led to the much-publicized showdown between the film’s distributor and the Motion Picture Association of America, which gave “Bully” an R rating because of the f-bombs employed by bullies. The MPAA reversed its decision and granted “Bully” a PG-13 rating, which clears the way for it to be shown by more major theater chains, after Hirsch agreed to cut the offending word from a few scenes.

The story in which Alex is beaten, though. The words are all there, as is the violence, as is the indifference of the kids looking on — and it’s all ugly. And hard to forget.
FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY
BULLY

* * 1/2
Rated: PG-13
Stars: Alex Libby, Kelby Johnson, Ja'Maya Jackson
• The stories of five kids victimized by school bullies — two ultimately taking their own lives — are explored in this controversial documentary, co-written and directed by Lee Hirsch (“Amandla! A Revolution in Four Part Harmony”). Reviewed in this section.

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS
Rated: R for strong bloody horror violence and gore, language, drug use and some sexuality/nudity
Stars: Anna Hutchison, Chris Hemsworth, Kristen Connolly
• Five young friends go to a cabin in the woods for a vacation, but find the setting far from restful. Screenwriter Drew Goddard (“Cloverfield”) makes his directorial debut with the horror, co-written by Joss Whedon (“Buffy the Vampire Slayer”).

THE THREE STOOGES
Rated: PG for slapstick action violence, some rude and suggestive humor including language
Stars: Sean Hayes, Will Sasso, Chris Diamantopoulos
• Moe, Larry and Curly (Diamantopoulos, Hayes and Sasso) uncover a murder plot while trying to save their childhood orphanage. Bobby and Peter Farrelly (“There’s Something About Mary”) directed the comedy.

STILL PLAYING
AMERICAN REUNION

* 1/2
Rated: R for crude and sexual content throughout, nudity, language, brief drug use and teen drinking
Stars: Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott
• Proof positive that no matter how pointless and painful and ignominious high school might have been, you can look forward to an equally mortifying experience at your high school reunion. While creative dividends have diminished steadily in the “American Pie” franchise, box office returns have not — hence this fairly predictable but still reasonably charming entry that sees our horn-dog heroes approaching middle age. Fortunately, Eugene Levy is still around to make things work.

CASA DE MI PADRE

* * 1/2
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.

THE HUNGER GAMES

* * *
Rated: PG-13 for intense, violent, thematic material and disturbing images — all involving teens
Stars: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth
• The much-anticipated movie version of “The Hunger Games” does little more than faithfully replicate the mega-best-selling original, yet, this proficiently and generally satisfying adaptation gets the job done and then some. Primarily because of the perfect casting of Lawrence as the bow-hunting heroine of a dystopian-future televised competition in which only one of 24 teenage participants can survive.

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 for some fantasy action and mild rude humor
Stars: Julia Roberts, Lily Collins, Nathan Lane
• Since it was directed by Tarsem Singh (“The Fall,” “Immortals”) you can be sure this so-so fairy-tale comedy looks good. But is it funny? Not so much. A pale imitation of the whimsical style of “The Princess Bride,” this faux-witty Snow White update gets a fair amount of traction thanks to Roberts and Lane; otherwise it’s slow, predictable and uninspired.

TITANIC

★★
Rated: No MPAA rating
Stars: Michel Piccoli, Nanni Moretti
• A gentle comedy that also wants to be a serious drama, and eventually lurches 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. Nanni Moretti (“The Son’s Room”) wrote and directed this tale of an obscure cardinal (Piccoli) who’s elected Pope, much to his dismay, and paralyzed with fear (and righteous doubt) at the prospect.
SHOWTIMES

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

RENAISSANCE PLACE
1850 2nd St., Highland Park
(847) 258-7282

Damsels in Distress (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20-7:50; Mon-Thru 2:45-5:20-7:50
Salmon Fishing In the Yemen (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20-7:50; Mon-Thru 2:45-5:20-7:50

The Salt of Life (NF) Fri, Sun 12:20-2:50-5:10-7:40; Sat, Mon-Thru 2:50-5:10-7:40
The Deep Blue Sea (R) Fri-Sun 3:30-5:15-8-10:25
The Footnote (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:50-7:30; Mon-Thru 2:30-7:30

HIGHLAND PARK
445 Central Ave., Highland Park
(847) 432-3300

The Hunger Games (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:45; Sun 1-4, Mon-Thru 4-7:45
The Artist (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:40-3:40-15:15; Sun, Mon-Thru 3:40-7:15
A Separation (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:45; Sun 1-4; Mon-Thru 4-7:45
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:15; Sun 1-4, Mon-Thru 4-7:15

RANDHURST
324 Theater Way, Mount Prospect
(888) 262-4266

The Metropolitan Opera: La Traviata (NR) Sat 11:55 a.m.
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:50-6:30-9:30; Mon-Thru 12:25-4:55-7:55-10:55
American Reunion (R) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:30; Mon-Thru 12:25-4:55-7:55-10:55
Titanic In 3-D (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:10-4:25-7-9:30; Mon-Thru 12:25-4:55-7:55-10:55

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The Artist (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:40-3:40-15:15; Sun, Mon-Thru 3:40-7:15
A Separation (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:45; Sun 1-4; Mon-Thru 4-7:45
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:15; Sun 1-4, Mon-Thru 4-7:15

RANDHURST
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The Metropolitan Opera: La Traviata (NR) Sat 11:55 a.m.
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:50-6:30-9:30; Mon-Thru 12:25-4:55-7:55-10:55
American Reunion (R) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:30; Mon-Thru 12:25-4:55-7:55-10:55
Titanic In 3-D (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:10-4:25-7-9:30; Mon-Thru 12:25-4:55-7:55-10:55

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The Hunger Games (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:45; Sun 1-4, Mon-Thru 4-7:45
The Artist (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:40-3:40-15:15; Sun, Mon-Thru 3:40-7:15
A Separation (PG-13) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:45; Sun 1-4; Mon-Thru 4-7:45
The Three Stooges (PG) Fri, Sat 1:4-7:15; Sun 1-4, Mon-Thru 4-7:15

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Titanic In 3-D (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:10-4:25-7-9:30; Mon-Thru 12:25-4:55-7:55-10:55
NEW ON VIDEO

Streep’s ‘Iron’-clad role

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

INTO THE ABYSS
★ ★ 1/2
Rated: PG-13 for mature thematic material and some disturbing images
Stars: Jason Burkett, Michael Perry, Werner Herzog
- Director Werner Herzog's documentary on capital punishment (focusing on a senseless 2001 triple murder in a small Texas town) offers little in the way of debate or analysis, or even basic information about the practice. As an unflinching look at the tragedy of lives wasted and stolen, though, and the collateral damage suffered by families of murder victims and professionals who participate in executions, it has profound emotional impact.

THE IRON LADY
★ ★ 1/2
Rated: PG-13 for some violent images and brief nudity
Stars: Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent
- Though Streep's Oscar-winning performance as the iron-willed (and occasionally iron-tisted) British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is richly detailed and compelling, the same can’t be said for this surprisingly superficial bi-drama. Director Phyllida Lloyd (who also directed Streep in “Mamma Mia!”), short-shrifts Thatcher’s political career in favor of Margaret Thatcher: Human Being - placing the emphasis on her declining years and her marriage, only hinting at the personal price she paid for power. Extras include several mini-documentaries including "Denis Thatcher: The Man Behind the Woman."

RECENT RELEASES

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 and corrupt (and depraved), ultimately, for private eye Nicholson to handle. Blu-ray extras include commentary by Towne and filmmaker David Fincher (“Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”) and an appreciation of “Chinatown” by Hollywood elite.

Extras include several mini-documentaries.

ALSO NEW

THE DARKEST HOUR
★★★
Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of war violence
Stars: Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Peter Mullan
- Steven Spielberg’s epic World War I drama about the soul connection between a farm boy and a thoroughbred stallion-turned-plow horse-turned-wartime beast of burden, turns out to be a bit of an odd duck. That’s not 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.

A HOLLIS FRAMPTON ODYSSEY
★★★
This digitally-remastered vintage entry from the long-running British sci-fi series features the Third Doctor (Jon Pertwee) confronting monsters materializing via the intergalactic peep show of a traveling entertainer. Extras include commentary and a making-of documentary.

NEXT WEEK

- Two special collections take the spotlight: "Frozen Planet," a seven-part BBC documentary series on the polar regions; and "Ernie Kovacs: The ABC Specials," featuring eight 1961 specials the pioneering TV comedian made during the year of his death.
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STAGE

"Absolute Hell," through April 29 at The Gift Theatre,
4802 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. 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.

"The Cherry Orchard," by Anton Chekhov, will be
presented by Piccolo Theatre through May 5 at the Evan-
ston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Curtain at 8
p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets:
$22 seniors; $15 students. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit

"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 p.m. Saturdays; 2:30 p.m.
Sundays. Tickets: $25-$60. Young Adult tickets
(25 and under) are $10. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.
northlight.org.

CLASSICAL

Chicago Choral Artists presents a concert for Earth
Day, with music by Sibelius, Brahms and Whitacre and a
Midwest premiere of Robert Kyri’s "On the Nature of
Creation," at 4 p.m. April 29 at Luther Memorial Church,
2500 W. Wilson, Chicago. $20; $15 seniors; $10 stu-
dents; Conductor’s Circle $40. Visit www.chicagocho-
rarlartists.org.

The Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 7
p.m. Sundays at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on the North-
western University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evan-

Tickets are $20-$75. April 22: Scott Speck leads the CPO in
Beethoven’s Symphony No. 7 and the “Fidelio” Overture.

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 Al-
pine Symphony" by Strauss. Tickets: $26; $12 for students.
Call (847) 467-4000 or visit www.pickstaiger.org.

The Met: Live in HD, the
Metropolitan Opera’s series of live performance transmis-
sions into movie theaters, in-
cludes "Kylie: Remembering,"
at A p.m. April 29 at the No-
va Center for the Performing
Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Mount Prospect.
Tickets are $26; $12 for students.
Call (847) 736-2490 or visit
www.risingstarschicago.com

See 60, page 13B
**New film documents skiing for disabled**

**BY MELISSA WASSERMAN**

Coming from the Sundance Film Festival to Skokie's North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, "The Movement" will make its Chicago premier on April 19.

Produced and directed by Kurt Miller, narrated by Robert Redford, and ski legend Miller, with music by The Foo Fighters and U2, "The Movement" profiles five disabled athletes who regain a sense of independence and newfound confidence through skiing. The 41-minute film is a Make a Hero production, which features Wilmette-based Adaptive Adventures.

"The film does a very good job of opening people's eyes to a little bit of what people they see around them that are living with physical challenges have to deal with and have to go through," said Adaptive Adventures Executive Director Joel Berman.

"One of the messages of the movie is that you can overcome these things and really still live life to the fullest and have a very high quality of life."

**Wilmette-based**

Adaptive Adventures, the Wilmette-based nonprofit organization, was founded 13 years ago by Berman and Matt Feeney. The organization provides outdoor sporting opportunities to physically disabled individuals, so they can find or regain freedom through mobility in sports and improve the quality of life.

In the program, children, teens, adults, and military can snow and water ski, snowboard, wakeboard, bike, kayak, whitewater raft.

The organization also aims to increase awareness and maintains the core values of "affordability, independence and leadership."

"It's about having confidence and independence and basically not letting your disability dictate who you are, but really being who you are regardless of what ability..."
Challenge Aspen staff shows Rick Finkelstein a practice crash in the monoski he'll use when learning to ski again. (PHOTO FROM THE MOVEMENT 2011 MAKEAHERO.ORG)

"THE MOVEMENT"

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Thursday, April 19: 5-7 p.m., All Abilities Sports Expo; 6-7 p.m., VIP Dinner; 7 p.m., film screening; 8 p.m., Q&A
For prices and to register, see www.adaptiveadventures.org (registration page: https://adaptiveadventures.webconnex.com/chicago_screening)

you have," said Wilmette native Berman, who snow skis and kayaks with his physical disability. "I look at it this way, we're all on a certain path in life and just because you have an accident or your ability level changes, it doesn't mean you're not still on that road, it just may be slightly different than what you thought."

Individuals, families and children within the community are all welcome to join in the upcoming premier event.

"I think everybody can relate to this," said Adaptive Adventures Managing Director Elizabeth Neufeld, a Chicago resident. "It's a beautiful film for kids, parents and families just talking about inclusiveness, will and determination. We're so excited to share it with the community."

The All Abilities Sports Expo will allow people of all abilities to learn about various outdoor sports through an "adaptive" perspective. Local Adaptive Adventures partners will also take part in the expo.

A VIP Dinner before the film will give guests the opportunity to meet Miller, the film's featured athletes, including Feeney, and honored veteran participants. Following the film, a question and answer session with Miller and Feeney will be held, along with an awards presentation to veteran and youth participants and the Chicago Blackhawks organization.

Funds for programs

The money raised from ticket sales will go towards obtaining and expanding the adaptive equipment for the organization's programs, which Berman explains provides more opportunities for all Adaptive Adventures participants.

Neufeld is confident the experience will instill a positive can-do attitude within each guest, allowing them to realize there are no limits to their own abilities. With everyone pushing their perceived limits, she hopes people will become more inclusive towards people with physical disabilities.

"My hopes are that people walk out of the theater and think about their own lives and their own movement and they think about really what it means to be inclusive," she said. "We hope people's perceptions are changed."

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The cast in Next Theatre's "After the Revolution" includes (back, from left), Phil Ridarelli, Mick Weber, Tasha Anne James, Mike Nussbaum; and (front, from left) Christine Stulik and Maryann Thebus. The play about a family dealing with its past runs through May 13 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Tickets are $30-$40; $15-$20 for Young Adult (ages 25 and younger) and students. Call (847) 475-1875 or visit www.nexttheatre.org. | PHOTO BY ELISSA SHORTRIDGE

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For tickets, it will be on sale Monday, April 16th but you can use the presale code listed for each show to buy your tickets starting Thursday morning, April 12th at 10AM! Be the first to get your tickets! (Presale ends Sunday, April 15th at 11:59PM)
Barbara Robertson takes on cabaret

By Bruce Ingram

Though she may be best known for her performances as Madame Morrible in the Chicago production of "Wicked," Chicago audiences know Barbara Robertson as a highly versatile, all-purpose actress (one might also say local treasure), equally at home with comedy, drama, tragedy - or song and dance.

Robertson doesn't define herself as a musical theater performer, but the Glennview native and Glenbard West grad has had enough prominence in that genre to inspire producers over the years to encourage her to consider a cabaret show.

So it's a bit of an event that the multiple Jeff Award winner is bringing her new "Stages of My Life" one-woman show April 16 to the Wilmette Theatre. She will also perform, in a more-or-less non-singing capacity, as the glamorous case-in-point and linker of songs in Chicago a cappella's April 14 "All About the Women" concert at the Music Institute of Chicago in Evanston.

Pioneer caught up to her near the end of her run in the Goodman Theatre's controversial production of "Camino Real" for a quick chat about life, music, motherhood, acting and how best to brave the roller coaster of life. I talk a little bit about being married and trying to do cabaret, came up to me after the show and said: "Barbara, it's time to do this." So I said okay and I've loved the experience. I've done it once at Millennium Park and a couple of times at Davenport's and it's been a little scary, though. I actually began the show by walking on stage and then running off. I was first writing my cabaret - and it's still in there to some extent - I divided the songs into songs I sing in the shower, songs I sing in shows, songs I sing to my kids...

I also think music is an integral part of theater - even in the rhythm of dialogue. So, it's part of the job.

Q: What can people expect to see in "Stages of My Life?"

A: It's a bit of an event. We all rode the roller coaster together. (Laughs.)

I like the metaphor of life as a roller coaster. My philosophy is to ride with grace and humor and keep your hands off the bar. And try not to swallow the bugs.

Barbara Robertson

have spent their lives being actresses. But I've spent my life being an actress. I can act my way through a song, but my singer friends... When they open their mouths, something else happens...

Q: Do you think of yourself as a singer?

A: I think of myself as an actress. My focus has not been on musical theater, really. I love music, though, and I love to sing. I sing all the time. It's a joke in my family, because I really do sing constantly. When my son was really young and he had to be in a car seat way in the back while I drove to auditions, I'd sing, "Doo-dah, doo-dah." (Laughs.) When I was first writing my cabaret - and it's still in there to some extent - I divided the songs into songs I sing on the street, songs I sing to my kids, songs I sing to我自己 and songs I sing with other people.

I also think music is an integral part of theater - even in the rhythm of dialogue. So, it's part of the job.

Q: What can people expect to see in "Stages of My Life?"

A: It's a bit of an event. We all rode the roller coaster together. (Laughs.)

I like the metaphor of life as a roller coaster. My philosophy is to ride with grace and humor and keep your hands off the bar. And try not to swallow the bugs.
GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7B


viola. $15; free for youth and seniors; $10 for students. April 29, 3 p.m.: Performance by The Lincoln Trio with guest violist Roberto Díaz. $25; $15 seniors; $10 for students.

The New North Shore Chamber Orchestra 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 Impressario Overture and Sinfonia Concertante for solo violin and solo viola, featuring Mathias Tacke, violin, and Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff, viola. $15; free for youth under 18 years. Call Ann Wagner, (847) 251-0558 or visit www.thenewnorthshorechamberorchestra.org.

Northeastern Illinois University, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-4636. April 20, 8 p.m.: Jon Manasse, clarinet, and Jon Nakamatsu, piano. $25; $15 seniors; $10 students.

The Northshore Concert Band will present its spring concert, "World Premiere and Band Classics," at 3 p.m. April 14 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $18; $13 seniors; $7 students and children. Call (847) 432-2263 or visit www.northshoreband.org.

The Park Ridge Chorale will present its spring concert, "Contemporary Classics," at 4 p.m. April 15 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect Ave, Park Ridge. Tickets in advance are $14; $12 for seniors. Tickets at the door are $16; $14 for seniors. Admission is free for youth under 18. Call (847) 823-5958 or (847) 825-2216.

Park Ridge Civic Orchestra presents concerts at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. Tickets are $25; $20 for students and senior citizens. Visit www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or call (847) 692-5150 or (847) 823-8861. April 29, 2:30 p.m.: "Sacred & Profane," with Edgar Muenzer, conductor. The program, featuring soloists Sarah Hibbard and Peer Reiff, includes Dvořák: Scherzo Capriccioso, Op. 66; Mahler: "Blumine"; and Orff: "Carmina Burana."

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Information: (847) 491-5441; tickets: (847) 467-4000. www.pickstaiger.org. April 13, 7:30 p.m.: Symphonic Wind Ensemble performs works by Bernstein, Bach, Milhaud, Wagner and others. $6; $4 for students. April 15, 6 p.m.: Harold Hall Robinson string bass master class. Admission is free. April 16, 5:30 p.m.: Northwestern Concerto/Aria Competition. Admission is free. April 21, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra presents "From Russia," featuring works by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. $8; $5 for students. April 27, 7:30 p.m.: Contemporary Music Ensemble presents "Chicago Voices, a program featuring composers with strong connections to Chicago. $6; $4 for students. April 28, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra presents "German Fest," featuring works by Wagner, Mahler and Beethoven. $6; $4 for students.

Segovia Classical Guitar Series, presented by the Northwestern University Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music and the Chicago Classical Guitar Society, features Eduardo Fernandez at 7:30 p.m. April 14 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, on Northwestern's Evanston campus. $24; $10 for students. Call (847) 467-4000 or visit www.pickstaiger.org.

William Ferris Chorale presents "Showstoppers and Premieres" at 7:30 p.m. April 28 at Loyola University's Madonna della Strada Chapel, 1032 W. Sheridan Road, Chicago. Preferred seating $25; general seating $20; $5 discount for students and seniors. Visit www.williamferrischorale.org.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

Ako Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, visit www.akotheatre.com. April 29, 7 p.m.: "Smoky Robinson presents Human Nature: The Motown Show." $29.50-$57.50. June 10, 7 p.m.: Roberto Carlos "Un Million De Amigos" ("One Million Friends") World Tour. $65-$125.

Allstate Arena, 5920 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. May 4: Rammstein — Made in Germany 1995-2011 Tour. May 26, 7 p.m.: LMFAO. $35, $55, $90, $120. May 27, 7:30 p.m.: Red Hot Chili Peppers — I'm With You World Tour. $39.50 and $59.50.

Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. (847) 947-8282. www.theshambles.com. No cover, unless noted otherwise. April 13, 7 p.m.-midnight: The Vito Zatto Show, $6 cover. April 14, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: The Ronnie Ross Show, no cover. April 15 and 29, 7-9 p.m.: Conne Marshall and Johnny Gabor. April 28, 5-9 p.m.: By the River Thames — Def Leppard/ Poison with special guest Lita Ford. $25-$55. April 29, 7 p.m.-1 a.m.: The Meters (oldies). April 22, 5-9 p.m.: Don "Doc" Brown. April 25, 8:30-10:30 p.m.: Rick "Elvis" Saucedo. $10 cover. April 27, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: The Cavern Beat (Beatles tribute). $7 cover. April 28, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.: No Limits Band (dance), no cover.

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Ethical Humanist Society Saturday Coffeehouse, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. (847) 677-3334. www.ethicalhuman.org/coffeehouse. April 14, 8 p.m.: Zozo, featuring folk singer/songwriter Andrew Calhoun, Casey Calhoun, vocals and dance, Gary Cleland, acoustic bass, and Victor Sanders, lead guitar. $8 includes beverages and pastries.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. See GP, PAGE 17B

www.uoneerocorn

www.ethicalhuman.org/coffeehouse
Skokie Valley Symphony celebrates its 50th

The Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra presents the second concert of its 50th anniversary season Sunday with a single piece of music. But what a piece it is! Mahler's nearly hour-long Fourth Symphony is sometimes called his most popular, and its finale, a shimmering showcase for the soprano voice, may just be the reason.

For the concert Stacy Tappan will sing that fourth and final movement. It is a nine-minute number from Mahler's song cycle "Das Knaben Wunderhorn" and it is a picture in verse and music of the simple, child-like joys of heaven.

Tappan is a graduate of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists (now Ryan Opera Center) and has appeared on the stage of the Civic Opera House in numerous lyric roles, including the voice of the Forest Bird in productions of "Siegfried" at Lyric, as well as productions of that Wagner work at the Los Angeles and San Francisco operas.

Versatile soprano

"Stacey is an outstanding soprano," said Francesco Milioto, now in his fifth season as music director of the 65-member community orchestra. "She has a wonderful voice and is very versatile. I've worked with her for many years," he continued, "and have seen her career blossom."

"This is the first time that Milioto has presented just one work on a program with his Skokie Valley players, but he is relishing the prospect. "With only one work, we can delve into more musical detail," he declared. "The Fourth is one of the most difficult pieces we've ever played," he admitted. "But we have had another year of music-making together, so I am really excited that we will have time to concentrate on this."

The celebratory program opens with a 15-minute video by Tom McGrath, recounting highlights of the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra from its first season in 1962 through today.

"We've had some world class musicians as our guest soloists," said Karen Frost, the orchestra's principal flute and artistic vice president on the SVSO's board.

Luminaries include a very young Izhak Perlman, Leonard Pennario, Eugene Istomin, Emanuel Ax, Pinchas Zukerman, Rudolf Firkusny, Jeffrey Siegel, Rachel Barton, Gil Shaham, and Mathieu Dufour. Daniel Barebohm was guest soloist at the request of then-conductor Daniel Bolco, who was an appren-

MAHLER'S SYMPHONY NO. 4
Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
3 p.m. Sunday, April 15; 1:45 p.m. preconcert lecture by Michael Vaughan
Tickets are $26-$40; $13 for youth 17 and under
Call 847-673-6300 or visit www.svos.org

"We've issued special invitations to past conductors, past board members and players - anyone affiliated with the orchestra, to come to this concert," said Milioto.

After the concert the audience will be urged to linger in the lobby, where strawberries and champagne will be served.

Extra concert

Sunday's concert is by no means the end of the celebration. An unprecedented fifth concert has been added to the schedule as a fund-raiser. At 8 p.m. Sunday, May 20, the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra will give an All-American Pops Concert, which includes Morton Gould's "American Suite," Perle Grofe's "Hollywood Suite," and favorites by Leroy Anderson, such as "Blue Tango," "Syncopated Clock," and "The Typewriter," during which a real manual typewriter will be used.

The highlight of the May program will be the American-as-

The Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra PHOTO BY TOM MCGRATH

Francesco Milioto is the conductor of the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra. PHOTO BY TOM MCGRATH

Corky Siegel apple-pie guest soloist Corky Siegel, the Chicago-based composer, blues pianist and world-class blues harmonica player, "He's going to solo in William Russell's 'Street Music,'" said Milioto. "It is a blues concerto for harmonica and orchestra and was commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony in 1974 — the year I was born!"

"Francesco has established such a bond with our audiences," said Kathy Canny, president of the orchestra's board. "I'm not a musician, but I'm a good listener and I've been associated with the orchestra for about 16 years."

"He speaks before the pieces are played and talks about the composer and the music," she declared. "Some conductors only face the audience to accept applause, but I think that Francesco's way is the key to his great popularity. Everybody loves him."
Some tales need to be retold. "The Diary of Anne Frank" is one of them. That's why Metropolis Performing Arts Centre is once again staging a play based on the true story of the Frank family, who hid in an attic in Amsterdam, along with several other Jews, during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Jeffrey Rubin of Skokie, who earned an acting degree from Illinois State University in May, plays Mrs. Van Daan's son Peter in this production. "He's a loner," Rubin said. "He doesn't like anyone. He doesn't like anything. At the start of the play, he's very into himself. His only real friend is his cat Mouschi — and he loves that cat."

### Father troubles
Being in hiding is very difficult for Peter, who initially only connects with Anne's father, Rubin indicated. "He's more a father to me than my actual father," the actor said. "He has a rough relationship with his father.

Peter is very much a mama's boy. He's 16 so he's trying to sway away from that."

At first, Peter thinks Anne is "a flake. She's very curious, very open, very out there. Peter's very in there and doesn't want to talk to anybody. As the play goes on, and Peter sees Anne's reaction to things and views on life, he reaches out to her."

Rubin read Anne Frank's diary and has another connection with her life. "After my bar mitzvah in 2000, we took a family trip for two weeks," he related. "They visited the Netherlands, Belgium and Israel. When they were in Amsterdam, the Rubins visited the loft where the Frank family hid for two years."

"It may not be very small to people walking in," he said. "But I can imagine it would be very small to people living there for two-and-a-half years, day in and day out, and never seeing anyone else."

It's important to retell Anne Frank's story, Rubin said, because, "You don't want to forget what people are capable of doing."

### Oak Park actor
Anne Frank's older sister Margot is played by Jocelyn Adamski of Oak Park. "She's very quiet, shy and reserved," Adamski said. "She doesn't have as dynamic a personality as Anne does but she does have a lot of strength within her in a different way. It's kind of an Old Worldly quiet strength and that's why Margot connects more with her mother who was of that time where women were supposed to hold everything in and be very composed. I think there's a lot more to Margot than people believe because she was so shy and quiet."

Adamski also read "The Diary of Anne Frank" when she was in school and is particularly pleased that Metropolis is staging performances for school groups. "It's so important for kids to know about the Holocaust and to know about that time," she explained. "Seeing it as a play, you really get to connect with these people on a deeply human level and it's so impactful. It's a very important story. It's still incredibly relevant today. Hatred still exists and intolerance still exists."

Adamski, who has a bachelor of fine arts in theater, has been acting since she was seven years old. She has performed extensively and is a company member of both the Janus Theatre in Elgin and Guild Theatre in Des Plaines. "I think it's important to pass on stories - both fiction and nonfiction," she said.

Jeffrey Rubin of Skokie plays the part of Peter Van Daan in the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre production of "The Diary of Anne Frank." BRIAN O' MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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Bach, brewing at Byron Colby Barn

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES

J.S. Bach's "Coffee Cantata" is the nearest thing to an opera the great master ever wrote, and it is still enjoyed today. That work, plus the composer's "Wedding Cantata," are among selections to be presented by the Milwaukee-based Ensemble Musical Offering, which makes its area debut Sunday at the historic Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake.

"It is about a father who wants his daughter to drink too much coffee," said bass-baritone Peter Van De Graaff of Skokie. "It was written in an era when women were not supposed to do that."

Van De Graaff plays the father in this chamber work, his daughter will be sung by Milwaukee soprano Sarah Richardson, and the narrator will be tenor Kevin Seimbor.

"Bach had 21 children," he said. "They were not supposed to drink coffee."

For this concert, the company's programs will be performed by a reducing cast of three singers and a varied combination of instrumentalists.

Young talent

Sarah Richardson, who is in the beginning stages of her career, is described as a "find" by EMO's Parsley. "I believe that Joan has heard about me from one of my voice teachers at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee," she said.

"I received some invitations for her Sept. 11 concert last fall and I've enjoyed singing with her group."

Though her musical education was more toward 19th-century opera, Richardson finds herself enjoying the Baroque repertoire. "It is wonderful singing this group," she said. "Joan has a real passion for what she does."

The soprano has been singing since she was a little girl and credits her aunt with introducing her to the glorious sound of opera. "I was about 12 when my aunt started studying voice and I thought what she was doing was so exciting. I wanted to learn how to do it," she declared.

Jennifer Gettel is Ensemble Musical Offering's principal soprano soloist, and has appeared with many choirs and orchestras in the Milwaukee area. She is a voice teacher at UW-Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

"Bach is the foundation of our Western musical heritage," declared Parsley with characteristic enthusiasm. "If you want to hear his music played on original instruments and sung by people who are dedicated to his music, this is the concert to attend."
Marriott hoists the Jolly Roger

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Don't you hate it when you think you can finally end your years as an apprenticeship pirate and then learn you still have 68 more years to serve? That's the dilemma facing Frederic in "The Pirates of Pencance," the swashbuckling Gilbert and Sullivan opera at the Marriott Theatre.

Omar Lopez-Cepero plays the unfortunate Frederic. "Frederic is this incredibly eager, optimistic young man," Lopez-Cepero said. "He's been indentured to pirates by mistake of his own making. He's a slave of duty."

However, his concept of duty is constantly changing. "That's what the comedy of the piece is," Lopez-Cepero said. "It's not really sure which direction to go. He absolutely believes what is going to happen. He's almost like a five-year-old in terms of this eagerness."

Leap baby

As it turns out, Frederic is a five-year-old. Even though he has lived for 21 years, the pirates won't release him because he has only celebrated five birthdays. You guessed it. He was born on Feb. 29.

Frederic's life is all about duty until he encounters the unfortunate Frederic. Even though he has little bit of this headstrong, adventurous streak in her," Noonan noted. "She's the one that eventually is leading the troops into battle and even bucking Frederic and her dad when they need to be -- always in the realm of the little perfect Victorian woman."

The Pirates of Pencance aren't exactly bloodthirsty villains, though. "They think they're pirates but they're actually these noblemen and they drink sherry instead of rum. They're just sweet guys," Lopez-Cepero said.

Lopez-Cepero and Patricia Noonan star in "The Pirates of Pencance." PHOTO BY PETER COOMBS AND MARRIOTT THEATRE

"The kind of comedy you can really sink your teeth into. It has a lot of over-the-top moments but also has some great sensitive moments. The lyrics are so interesting and funny -- and difficult."

And the melodies are beautiful. There are some great moments in the show that showcase everyone's vocal ability. It's exciting to be a part of a piece that has stood the test of time."
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From performances with the Royal Shakespeare Company to Broadway and Hollywood, actor Ian McDiarmid is a celebrated "storyteller who knows how to hold a stage unconditionally.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19B

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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 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) 967-4889. 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; reservations 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 invited to reenact their favorite storybooks, complete with music, puppets, costumes and props. Free with museum admission; reservations required. May 10, 6-9 p.m.: “In Conversation With Jewish GIs of World War II.” Howard Reich, son of Holocaust survivors, moderates a panel of American and foreign-born Jewish GIs. The veterans will reflect on their wartime experiences, and the impact their religious affiliation had on their time in the service. Free with museum admission; reservations recommended.
Catch Up With the Newspaper

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HOROSCOPES

For the week of April 18 — April 24

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A sudden change of plans could lead to a misunderstanding with a friend or family member. Be ready to offer a full explanation of your decision. A past favor is returned.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect pressure from those who want you to change your position on a matter of importance. However, the determined Bovine will be able to withstand the bullying and win out.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's time to stop dwelling on past disappointments and move on to other possibilities. By week's end, you'll be meeting new people and making new plans for the future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A long-simmering situation between co-workers threatens to heat up and could create problems with your work schedule. Best advice: Consult a supervisor on how to proceed.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might have just learned that someone close to you is keeping a secret. And, of course, the Cat's curiosity has gone into overdrive. But be patient. All is revealed soon enough.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Don't give up. The recognition citing the good work you recently did will come through. Meanwhile, an opportunity opens up that can lead to a lot of traveling later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A financial crunch eases, but it's still a good idea to keep a tight rein on what you spend for nonessentials. Education becomes a major focus as the week winds down.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Recent encounters with stressful situations could require some restorative measures to get your energy levels back up. Talk to your doctor about a diet and exercise program.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) New connections follow changes on the job or in your personal life. But keep your feelings refined until these relationships have a chance to develop.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Pay more attention to your aches and pains, and avoid self-diagnoses. Seek professional advice to make sure these problems won't lead to something more serious.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You love doing research and learning new things, so you'll be happy to know that education becomes a big part of your life at this time, and for some time to come.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your Piscean penchant for doing things logically could be challenged by an equally strong emotional reaction to a new situation. Best advice: Keep the two factors in balance.

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The Challenges and Rewards of Recruiting Generation Y

By: Matt Chamey, Monster Social Media Engagement Manager

The first thing you should know about recruiting Generation Y? According to pioneering generational researchers William Strauss and Neil Howe, workers born between 1982-2000 actually prefer to be called Millennials.

That nuance illustrates the essential element to recruiting and attracting the best Millennial talent - effective communications that speak to and understand their language and values.

Millennials and Social Media Use

While it's no secret that communication is increasingly facilitated by social tools and technologies, social networking is particularly relevant for Millennials.

According to the Pew Internet Foundation's 2010 Future of the Internet report, fully 75% of Millennials maintain an active presence on social media sites, compared to only 41% of the total online population; they are as likely to consume a daily blog as a daily newspaper.

The ubiquity of social media recruiting puts the onus on your staffing firm to deliver a clear, compelling message that speaks to this generation's expectations about work and life, and how they should be combined.

These changing expectations present the staffing industry with a unique opportunity to fill the requisitions of today with the talent of tomorrow. Like any recruiting relationship, however, creating and executing a strategy involves an understanding of the mindset - and motivations - of the professionals you’re looking to place.

If those professionals are Millennials, that means rethinking, and reframing, many of the pervasive misperceptions about Generation Y.

The End of the Trophy Generation

While they're commonly referred to as The Trophy Generation, the expectation of entitlement for many Millennials stopped at about the same time that they obtained their often inordinately expensive college degrees, entering one of the worst job markets on record.

In July 2010, youth unemployment reached 19.1%, the highest rate ever recorded since the statistic started being tracked in 1948; according to FinAid, the average student loan debt among students graduating with a four year degree was $23,186. These factors have forced a shift from career idealism to career pragmatism; for many Millennials, any job is a good job.

For staffing firms, this means having a highly skilled, highly educated pool of available candidates who are likely to take assignments that more experienced workers might not accept, at salaries that are more competitive - and aligned - with current market conditions.

That's not to say Gen Y candidates are easily exploited; in fact, it's key for staffing professionals to add value to the recruiting conversation. Doing so for emerging workers is easy: no matter what the outcome or staffing decision, provide them with feedback, coaching and a clear understanding of the hiring process. This will also help make them more informed job seekers - and better candidates.

The Social Media Connection

Social media marketing offers an efficient and effective way to stay connected with Gen Y candidates and track their career progression while keeping them on your radar, should the right opportunity arise.

Sharing job search tips and career content via Facebook or Twitter, whether original or repurposed, gives the candidate the incentive to stay active and engaged with your company brand. Consider providing content that's worth sharing with their wider network of their friends, who are likely to also be Gen Y talent...and potential candidates.

The key for recruiters is to present opportunities as learning experiences and help Gen Y candidates understand how these roles can translate into a career - or at least, the next step on the ladder.

Focusing on the big picture is important, but the details are what really matters. Showcase success stories through social networks featuring real Gen Y worker; create compelling evidence about what to expect - and how to exceed those expectations.

Blogs and short YouTube videos are great ways to extend your message and reach while targeting the mediums that Millennials use (and trust) most.
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The real estate is improved by a se-
TO PLACE YOUR GARAGE SALE AD, CALL 847-998-3400

![Advertisement Image]
Sales Real Est.

No. 00000000 Attorney Code: 21700
Case No. 11 CH 13009
Note: Pursuant to the Fair Credit Collection Practices Act, you are advised that any documentation or information obtained as part of the foreclosure process will be used for that purpose.

315, 410, 512/12 27121

Foreclosure Sales Real Est.

No. 00000000 Attorney Code: 21700
Case No. 11 CH 13009
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315, 410, 512/12 27121
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of the real property described as follows:

**Property Description:**

- **Real Property:** Land and improvements located at 6727 Clarendon Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076.
- **Auction:** Will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at 4:00 PM.

**Bid Requirements:**

- **Bidding Deadline:** Bids must be submitted in writing by 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 26, 2012.
- **Bidding Process:** Sealed bids will be accepted in writing and will be opened publicly.
- **Bidder Eligibility:** Bidders must be_of the age of majority and have a good faith interest in the property.

**Bid Submission:**

- **Location:** Chicago, Skokie, IL 60633.
- **Instructions:** Bids will be submitted to the attention of the Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69, 6727 Clarendon Street, Skokie, IL 60076. Bids must be submitted in writing by 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 26, 2012.

**Legal Description:**

The legal description of the property is as follows:

- **Parcel:** The real property is described as parcel #1021357300.
- **Acreage:** The property consists of approximately 1.00 acres.

**Additional Information:**

- **Notice:** All interested parties are encouraged to contact the Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 for additional information.

**Contact:**

- **School District:** Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69, 6727 Clarendon Street, Skokie, IL 60076.
- **Phone:** (847) 298-3400.

**Disclaimer:**

- **Notice:** The information provided is for general reference only and may not be complete or accurate. Interested parties are encouraged to verify all details with the Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 directly.

**Public Notice:**

- **Publication:** This notice is published in accordance with Section 32-1 of the Illinois School Code, as amended.

**Notice:**

- **Other Required Information:** All interested parties are encouraged to contact the Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 for additional information.

**Notice:**

- **Notice:** The Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this notice.

**Notice:**

- **Notice:** The Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 reserves the right to reject any and all bids or withdraw any bid at any time.

**Notice:**

- **Notice:** The Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this notice.

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- **Notice:** The Skokie & Morton Grove School District #69 is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this notice.
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE INTRIMARY - LIBRARY DISTRICT - FORMER EISENHOWER PUBLIC LIBRARY - LINCOLNUOOD, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Real Estate Purchase Option, the property listed below shall be sold on October 16, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of School District No. 71, Cook County, Illinois.

The property shall be sold subject to any easements, covenants, or restrictions as shown on the records of said District.

The property consists of 19 acres, more or less, located on the Northeast corner of the Northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 21 North, Range 21 East, Cook County, Illinois.

The property is subject to a first mortgage in the amount of $300,000.00.

All persons attending in person or by proxy shall be entitled to vote and shall be entitled to receive a notice of the sale and to be present at the sale.

In accordance with the requirements of the Illinois Real Estate License Act, the person having charge of the sale will take all actions necessary to ensure that the sale is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Dated: April 10, 2012

Village Clerk

PROVIDENCE WARD

NOTICE OF SALE INTRIMARY - LIBRARY DISTRICT - FORMER EISENHOWER PUBLIC LIBRARY - LINCOLNUOOD, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

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Dated: April 10, 2012

Village Clerk
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self- Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) by competitive bidding on April 24, 2012 at 12:00 PM on the premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #22350/20472, 555 East New York Street, Libertyville, IL 60048-4301 (847) 467-9400. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below:

Customer: A033 - Montgomery, Wendell
Unit: 313
Parking: 3017
Property: Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self- Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) by competitive bidding on April 26, 2012 at 12:00 PM on the premises where property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage #22335/2102, 555 East New York Street, Libertyville, IL 60048-4301 (847) 467-9400. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below:

Customer: A033 - Montgomery, Wendell
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CHEVY HAS 10 MODELS OFFERING 30 MPG HIGHWAY OR BETTER!

2012 CRUZE LS
LOW-MILEAGE LEASE EXAMPLE
FOR VERY WELL QUALIFIED LESSEES

$159 PER MONTH
24 MONTHS $1,719 DUE AT SIGNING
PLUS $350 DUE AT LEASE TERMINATION

No security deposit required.
Tax, title, license and dealer fees extra.
Mileage charge of $.20/mile over 24,000 miles.

2012 EQUINOX LS FWD
LOW-MILEAGE LEASE EXAMPLE
FOR VERY WELL QUALIFIED LESSEES

$229 PER MONTH
24 MONTHS $1,899 DUE AT SIGNING

No security deposit required.
Tax, title, license and dealer fees extra.
Mileage charge of $.20/mile over 24,000 miles.

TO GUARANTEE OUR QUALITY, WE BACK IT
100,000-MILE/5-YEAR
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.

FIND A CHEVY DEALER

CHEVYDEALER.COM

1 Based on EPA estimates. Visit fueleconomy.gov for details. 2 Example based on survey. Each dealer sets their own price. Your payments may vary. Payments are for a 2012 Cruze LS and an MSRP of $18,990. 24 monthly payments total $3,814. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. GM Financial must approve lease. Mileage charge of $.20/mile over 24,000 miles. Lessee pays for excess wear. Not available with other offers. Residency restrictions apply. Take delivery by 4/30/12. 3 EPA estimated. 4 Always use safety belts and proper child restraints. Children are safer when properly secured in a rear seat. See the Owner's Manual for more safety information. 5 Example based on survey. Each dealer sets their own price. Your payments may vary. Payments are for a 2012 Equinox LS FWD and an MSRP of $24,340. 24 monthly payments total $5,494. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. Ally Financial, Inc. must approve lease. Mileage charge of $.20/mile over 24,000 miles. Lessee pays for excess wear. Not available with other offers. Residency restrictions apply. Take delivery by 4/30/12. 6 EPA estimated FWD. ©2012 General Motors.
Give new life to old odds and ends with these Earth Day-inspired crafts

Earth Day crafts: Reuse, recycle, reinvent, revive

BY BETH ENGELMAN
Mommy on a Shoestring

Reuse beads to make party coasters
Have strings of plastic beads floating around? Turn them into cute coasters that will remind you of a party each time they're used.
You need:
Strings of plastic beads (such as those used for Mardi Gras or St. Patrick's Day)
Strong adhesive (such as Gorilla Glue)
Cork rounds (3- to 4-inch diameter)
Directions:
Spread glue evenly on cork rounds.
Place beads on top of cork (in a tight, coil pattern).
Allow 24 hours to dry before using.
Note: These coasters should be used for cold drinks only.
A piece of cork and some recycled beads can be used to create a coaster as an Earth Day recycling activity.

Recycle T-shirt to create a necklace
Not only are layered necklaces one of spring's most talked about accessories, but they also add pops of color to plain tank tops and shirts.
You need:
1 large T-shirt
Scissors
1-2 safety pins
Small decorative beads
Directions:
Choose the letter and number you want to highlight on your pendant.
Glue Scrabble tile to Domino piece.
Add a layer of glossy Mod Podge if desired.
Add pendant backing, or if you prefer to make the pendant into a necklace, add a jewelry bail and jump ring.
Thank you to Megan Heep for sharing this idea.

Revive game pieces to make a pendant
Personalize your favorite sweater or jacket with this cute game tile pendant made from old Scrabble and Domino tiles.
You need:
Domino and Scrabble tiles
Strong adhesive (such as Gorilla Glue)
Glossy Mod Podge (optional)
Pendant backing or jewelry bail and jump ring (available at craft stores)
Directions:
Choose the letter and number you want to highlight on your pendant.
Glue Scrabble tile to Domino piece.
Add a layer of glossy Mod Podge if desired.
Add pendant backing, or if you prefer to make the pendant into a necklace, add a jewelry bail and jump ring.
Thank you to Megan Heep for sharing this idea.

Reinvent glasses to make a vase
Turn ordinary drinking glasses into a decorative vase with this easy craft idea that comes courtesy of Mark Montano's ingenious book Dollar Store Décor (Universe Publishing, 2004).
You need:
2 glasses
Strong adhesive (such as Gorilla Glue)
Directions:
Spread glue evenly on the bottom of one glass and place the other glass on top.
Allow 24 hours to dry before using.

Loops of old T-shirts can be remade to create neck scarves.

Photos by Dan Luedert-Sun-Times Media

Game pieces from old games can be used as a fun activity for young hands to create funky Earth Day jewelry.
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 mbotter@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 16, 23, and 30 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- 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 first).
- Saturday, April 21 - Legal counseling, by appointment.
- Saturday, April 28 - Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Homeowners desiring additional income, companionship, or the ability to remain in their homes may wish to consider the Center of Concern's Shared Housing Program. Residents are matched with screened applicants who possess a temperament suitable to shared accommodations.

Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also is available by appointment. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, #310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (The center is open only until noon on Fridays.) The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteers opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

Center counselors also are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Care Rx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the longtime-occupant homeowner property tax exemption.

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 residents with property applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300.

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

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

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc. is offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Dorida King at dxking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs
Paul C. Odrobina, vice president of the Polish National Alliance, reminds members of Polish American Night being celebrated at U.S. Cellular Field on July 3, beginning at 7:10 p.m. when the White Sox play the Texas Rangers. Tickets can be purchased from the Polish National Alliance, (800) 621-3727, Ext. 316; Polish Roman Catholic Union, (800) 772-8632, ext. 2601; Polish Falcons of America (574) 289-2140; or the Polish Women's Alliance, (888) 522-1898, ext. 1208.

The Park Ridge Catholic Women's Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. April 16 at the Park Ridge South Recreational Center, 833 Talcott Toad, Park Ridge. The program will be a presentation by Jack Diamond featuring the career of singer Patsy Cline. Dessert and coffee will be served following the program. Bring items to donate to Infant, Inc.

The Twenty-first Star Chapter of the National Society of 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 Melkich of Channel 7 News who will present a program, "Honor Flight Chicago." Melkich has accompanied veterans on a Chicago Honor Flight and will reflect on his experiences.

open Public Inspection: Property is occupied and will not be available for inspection.

The Maine Township Women's Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month to accommodate veteran programs designed to prevent aging, seeking affordable housing, gardening design, nature studies and botanical arts by Garden staff and other experts. For information or to register, visit www.chicagobotanic.org/school or call (847) 835-8261.

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 Illinois Care Rx.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 30
CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29


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

Community

The Niles Senior Center's 10th Annual Rummage Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 21, rain or shine, in the center, 999 Civic Center Drive. There will be more than 40 stands on display. Two-dollar hot dog specials will be available. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds go to the Village American Cancer Society. Call (847) 586-9420 or ask for Jasmy.

For area residents interested in learning more about their home, the Niles Park District's Niles Historical Society will host its annual House History and Renovator Day, April 28, at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5524 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. The society will provide references on housing styles, appropriate renovations, and how to find more information about individual properties. Historic maps, old street names and addresses, and society researchers will be available to consult. At noon and 2 p.m., historian Anne Lunde will present a PowerPoint presentation, "Tell Me About My House — I Know It's Old," exploring research steps for Cook County properties in the Northwest Side and nearby suburbs. For properties within the Norwood Park neighborhood, additional historical information is available on former residents and many buildings that have been included in the society's annual house tours, community walks, articles, and other research projects. The society is currently preparing a history of Norwood Park in the 19th Century. The society's exhibits will be open until 4 p.m., including a special 100th anniversary display featuring the history of area Girl Scouts. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Donations are welcome for research assistance provided. Call (773) 631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

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 12-18), $5; children (ages 5-11), $6. Reservations required for groups. Through June 17: Special Exhibition — Our to Fight for: American Jews in the Second World War. Through their artifacts, letters, and photographs, the "Greatest Generation" tells the stories of what the war was like for all its participants, and for Jews in particular. Our to Fight for brings to life the actions and feelings of these young men and women. Free with museum admission. April 15, 2-3 p.m.: Meet Linda Pressman, author of "Looking Up: A Memoir of Sisters, Survivors and Skokie," as she signs copies of her book, and addresses, and society members provide references on growing up in 1960s Skokie, as one of seven sisters born to Holocaust survivors. Free. April 19, 6:30-8 p.m.: Holocaust Remembrance Day — Tom Haas teaches Illinois Holocaust Museum's third annual Memory Challenge. Free. April 26, 6:30-8 p.m.: A moderated panel of veterans representing 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 Chicago-area congregations, the program will feature the music of Jewish communities that were destroyed in the Holocaust. Free.
trained to sing in groups of Thursdays each month. Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8000, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays; Park Ridge Public Works, 400 Busse Highway, (847) 318-5240, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Additional drop-off sites are posted at swancc.org/recycling.html.

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost at the Glenview Transfer Station, 1251 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the 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, institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swancc.org.

Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and 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 the patient's needs and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe offers great prices and specializes in gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the "boutique" shop at 7705 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and fine merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

Fundraisers

Like New Auto Spa, Inc., 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fund-raising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/ Advocate Lutheran Children's Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed buys a gift card from the company and also asks for the Lutheran General discount which will receive a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adult Services program of the hospital. Call Alfafrin Maddern, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8518; Steve Radakovik at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9272; or visit www.likeneautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is only valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program.

Health

Free health screenings and yoga, zumba and cooking demonstrations will be offered through "A Day Just for You," women's health fair from 9 a.m. to noon April 21 at Resurrection Medical Center, 7435 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Doctors and dieticians will be on hand to answer questions at no charge. The health fair will feature hearing, skin, breast, blood pressure and hand screenings as well as body fat analysis. Participants will be able to pick up mail-in colorectal cancer screening kits. A yoga demonstration will be held at 10:15 a.m., a zumba demonstration (fitness program that combines Latin dance with aerobics) at 10:35 a.m., and a healthy cooking demonstration at 11:35 a.m. The fair will also feature bra fittings, chair massages, personal training sessions and a book trade. There will be a continental breakfast, raffle prizes, and gift bags. Registration in advance is required; call (877) 737-4636.

Temple Judea Mizpah Day will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 22 at 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie — Blood and bone marrow drives open to the community. Each blood donor can save three lives. Also, Project Linus will help volunteers make handmade blankets to keep hospitalized children warm. To register for the blood drive, call (847) 676-1566. Walk-ins welcome.

The Niles Senior Center is again partnering with Schaumburg Township Disability Services to bring an expanded number of hearing loss-focused screenings and exhibitors to the annual Hearing Health Fair from 9 a.m. to noon April 13 at the center, 999 Civic Center Drive. The first guest speaker at 9:30 a.m. will feature Nick Breyenhuy of Canine Companions for Independence, who will discuss and demonstrate the benefits a hearing dog provides. Dr. Phyllis Stern-Weisman, from North Suburban Hearing Service, will present "The Latest Technology for Hearing Loss" at 10:30 a.m. Exhibitors will be available before and after speaker presentations. The presentations will be translated into text on a projection screen through CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) services. In addition, two sign-language interpreters will be available. Miracle Ear and Sonus Hearing Care are offering free ear wax otoscope screenings, which displays what the inner ear looks like. Global Clinic will provide free vestibular balance screenings and Schaumburg Township Disability Services will have the ITAC hearing aid amplifiers available for anyone to test. Other exhibitors will display their brochures, products, and information. Admission is free and open to the public. Call (847) 588-8420.

Q: How do I teach my dog to back away from something I do not want him to get near?

A: This can be an interesting command to teach your dog. The command can be used for a variety of situations. If you are very careful if you drop anything on the floor from medicine to food. This command can also be used should you break something on the floor such as glass.

Personally, I am not sure that dogs understand that they can get locomotion from moving their rear end. Moving with the front is obvious to a dog, but not so much with the rear legs. Start by having your dog stand directly in front of you, toe to toe. Have a cookie in your hand and hold it a few inches above your dog's nose. Start to tell your dog "back." As you say this start to walk into your dog gently pushing him back with your legs. The idea here is to have your dog walk backwards. Do not expect your dog to walk backwards a great distance. Even 2-3 steps is success. Treat and praise your dog with any backward movement.

There is a good chance that when you start this, your dog might sit. This is normal. If this happens, continue to walk into your dog. Your momentum should encourage the dog to stand.

If you are having trouble with this exercise, there is another alternative. Have your dog stand along side of a wall. Have one hand with a treat at your dog's nose. Your other hand should be placed under your dog's stomach towards the rear. As you say back, push the treat at your dog while guiding him back with your other hand. Even a few steps are a success.

When the dog begins to understand the "back" command, start to increase the distance of your dog's backwards movement. You can also begin to show your dog your open palm while you motion back with that hand.

It can be a wonderful thing to see when your dog walks backwards on command. Take your time, and keep your expectations realistic.

Jeff Green, owner of Total Recall Dog Training, has been involved in dog training and competitive obedience since 1992 and has won multiple top obedience competition awards throughout the mid-west with his Border Collies.

Our readers are encouraged to submit no more than 2 questions each month for "Total Recall Dog Training." Each month, Jeff will answer questions that he feels present the most interesting or common issues among dog owners. If you would like to inquire about Jeff's services, he can be reached at 847-721-0234 or visit his website at www.trainmydog.com.

**TOTAL RECALL DOG TRAINING**

**IN YOUR HOME**

- **Housebreaking**
- **Older Dogs**
- **References**
- **Puppy Problems**
- **Puppy Evaluation**
- **Obedience**
- **Puppy Classes**

**Crates**

**Jeff Green** 847-721-0234

**AKC Obedience handler since 1992**

**www.trainmydog.com**  info@trainmydog.com
April 17: ADHD, Dr. James Weedon, 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. in 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.

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

Pediatric developmental screenings offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Ozark Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Contact: Ingrid Kenron at (847) 791-1531 or (847) 966-1505.

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

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

Historical Society

The Niles Historical Society presents a program on the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 at 2 p.m. April 22 at the Niles Historical Museum by Nilesite Ralph Frese. He will discuss "How the War Was Won" before munitions factories, large-scale uniform manufacturers, high-tech training and "hands-on." There is plenty of free parking, free admission (donations accepted), and following a brief business meeting and program, there will be free refreshments, dessert and socializing.

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

Library

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

The Knights of Niles Chess Club for kindergartners to 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 19. Practice reading out loud with friendly, patient pups. This program is for beginning or struggling readers and/or dog lovers. Call Debbie at (847) 663-6619 or come in to sign up for a 20-minute slot, for kindergartners and older.

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.

Award winning photographer Paul Petersen will discuss latest techniques in travel and nature photography from 2-4 p.m. April 14. Petersen is "Pure Michigan Award Winning Photographer" and was selected by the National Park Service as the "2011 Artist in Residence-Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore." The film, "Anonymous" (PG-13), will be screened at 2 p.m. April 19. This film advances the theory that it was really Edward DeVere, Earl of Oxford, who penned Shakespeare's plays.

Programs are encouraged to bring original songs to play live and get feedback from others at the Niles Songwriters Group meeting at 7:30 p.m. April 19. The Citizens Utility Board will review home telephone bills and recommend ways to cut costs from 1:30-4:30 p.m. April 24. CUB will review one bill per account.

For anyone who needs some help downloading eBooks, go to www.nileslibrary.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 the homepage. The Niles Library has eBooks, go to www.nileslibrary.org/contactus and click on the MyMediaMall. MyMediaMall titles are now available for the Amazon Kindle.

Book Buddies — Students entering third 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.
CHILD CARE CONNECTION

Now accepting Summer and Fall enrollment for infants and toddlers!

Child Care Center of Evanston
1840 Asbury Ave., Evanston, IL 60201

Infants/toddlers, call 847-864-5610
Children 2-5 yrs, call 847-869-2680

www.childcarecenterofevanston.org

Call 630-978-8229 to place your ad!
CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33
dren (ages 7-15) and adults offered at Feldman Park, 8800 Kathy Lane, Niles, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Call (847) 297-3000.
The Golf Maine Park District offers a selection of ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale to the public from a Lights for Learning kiosk. Proceeds from the sale of every bulb will directly fund the scholarship program sponsored by the district. The scholarship program allows children the opportunity to attend camp when they may not have the resources to do so on their own. The kiosk also houses the Lights for Learning teacher tool kits, designed for educators and organization leaders, to provide informational materials on the overall Lights for Learning Program.
ENERGY STAR Activity Books and teacher tool kits are available for rental for parties, meetings and ongoing activities. Call (847) 297-3059.

Leaders, to provide information on the overall conservation and electronics.

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

Religion
Celebrate Pesach with the family from 6-11 p.m. April 6 at Chabad & Free, 9401 Margail, Des Plaines. The Seder is led in English and Russian with many explanations and insights by Rabbi Naftoly Hershkovitch. A three-course meal will be included. Call (847) 296-1770.

Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, will offer its K'tonim Pre-School Program of Judaic Arts and Play, for children ages 2 and older. Children will enjoy Judaic arts and crafts, stories, games, singing, and snacks with their parents and/or grandparents. Siblings are welcome. Children under 2 are free. The 2011-12 classes will be held every Sunday per month from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Schedule to be determined. Tuition per semester will be $60 and $75, respectively, for members enrolling one or two children; and $85 and $100, respectively, for nonmembers enrolling one or two children. Call the temple office at (847) 676-1566.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 8202 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie, will host Adult Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services. Classes will be held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with “Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch” the first Sunday of each month. Call the church at (847) 672-1434.

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian education hour at 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:35 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

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

Ezra-Habanim, the Nile Township Jewish Congregation, 1700 Dempster St., Skokie, introduces Adult Hebrew classes on Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or go to www.ehnt.org.

Reunions
Immaculata High School Alumni Association hosts its annual awards luncheon/reunion beginning at 11:30 a.m. April 22 at the Chateau Ritz, 9100 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Immaculata Alumni will give an award for service to Sonja Witschonke-Mess and for career achievement to Jeanne Meler Hardy. This is also a reunion year for classes that end in "81" and "82." 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 p.m. Saturday, followed by the Wall and Honor dinner from 6-9 p.m.; and Wizard of Oz Family Movie Day beginning at 1 p.m. April 22. Call Stefanie Thorpe at (773) 775-6616, ext. 127, or visit www.rehsf.org.

St. Mary Alumni Association of St. Mary High School, formerly at 2044 W. Grenshaw Ave., Chicago, is sponsoring an all-school Reunion Luncheon to benefit the Sisters of Charity BVM Retirement Program. The event will be held April 29 at the Harborside at 435 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard; reception begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch at 12:30 p.m. Call (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 $50 per person. Call Arnie Kamens, class of 1950, at (847) 432-2737; visit www.roosevelthschicago.org.

St. John Brebeuf is looking for all St. John Brebeuf School alumni. Alumni should contact Libby Ryder, (847) 966-3266, or e-mail lryder@sjschool.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 MaineeiStreamers monthly newsletter, which details activities for the upcoming month. Most activities are at Maine Town
Hall, 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, unless otherwise noted. Contact the MaineTidrens, (847) 297-2580, or go to www<mainetownship.com.

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

Senior Center
The Niles Senior Center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8620 for an application. Visit www.mainetownship.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

The Annual Rummage Sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 21. There will be more than 40 vendors who will sell a wide variety of items. A $2 hot dog lunch will be available. A raffle will help the American Cancer Society and the Niles Food Pantry. Contact Jayme for information.

Men’s and Women’s Golf Leagues Kick-Off meetings – Men’s Golf Kick-off is at 10:30 a.m. April 12. Women’s Golf Kick-off is 10:30 a.m. May 3. All 9-hole outings are held at Tam Golf Course with lunch following at the Niles Senior Center.

The Yoga In Chairs program increases flexibility, strength and balance. It will be held from 10:45-11:45 a.m. Thursdays, May 3 to 31. Cost is $30, members; $35, nonmembers.

Computer classes – Intro to Computers, 9-10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 17 to 26, $20 members/$25 nonmembers. Basic Introduction to the Internet, 9:30-10:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 17 to 26; $25 members/$30 nonmembers. Introduction to Online Banking, 2-3 p.m. Wednesdays, April 18 and 25; $25 members/$30 nonmembers.

The Niles Senior Center continues a grief workshop series for Niles residents touched by the loss of a loved one. Call Bev Wessels or Trudy Davis at (847) 588-8620 for more information and to enroll. There is no cost to participate, but registration is necessary. The workshops will meet from 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays and will focus on the following areas: Workshop #2, April 18 – “Dealing with Expectations of Ourselves and Others” – Dealing with other people’s feelings and concerns. Workshop #3, April 25 – “Adjusting to a Different Lifestyle” – Explore the stress of living alone and ways to adjust to new social roles and responsibilities.

The Niles Senior Center Caregiver Support Group is a source of practical and emotional help for caregivers, where issues such as hiring in-home help are frequently discussed. The group is facilitated by Niles Senior Center social worker who offer coping tools, help relieve caregiver stress, and offer a safe place for caregivers to receive the support of other community members dealing with similar challenges. Contact Bev Wessels at (847) 588-8620.

Walk-in assistance in filing the Senior Freeze Application is available from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. No appointment is necessary.

Circuit Breaker appointments are now available by appointment only at the Niles Senior Center. Appointments are on Friday mornings.

Free tax assistance appointments are available. Some restrictions apply. Call the Center Tax Hot Line, (847) 588-8640.

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 are interested in learning how to play a ukulele, consider joining this fun group. Contact the Computer Interest Group to discuss all the recent computer innovations or individual problems or concerns. Contact Jaymi for dates, (847) 588-8620.

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.-noon monthly. Learn about the latest equipment and devices. Contact Trudy, (847) 588-8640.

Registration is required for the following winter program sessions; there is no cost for members of the Niles Senior Center; nonmembers 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.-noon; Choral Group, Tuesdays, 10:11-30 a.m.; Social Mahjongg, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Social Bridge, Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m.; Line Dance, Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m.; Social Bunco, third Tuesday of the month, 1-3 p.m.; Computer Interest Group, every other Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.; All American, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon; Issues in the News, Thursdays, 9:11-30 a.m.; Social Mahjongg, 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; $15, nonmembers. Weight Management meets the first Thursday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Diabetic Management meets the second Thursday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Virtually Impaired Motivators (VIM) meets the third Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cancer Survivor Group meets the third Thursday of the month, 1-2 p.m.

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Classes winter term, running to June 25 – Level 4 Advanced, meets 9-10 a.m. Mondays; includes weight training and under 3-pound weights, standing and sitting exercises. Cost for each session is $10, members; $15, nonmembers. Contact Sue Friedman.

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

Seniors
Rules of the Road, the two-day AARP Driver Safety Class, hosted by the Norwood Park Senior Center, will be given from 1-5 p.m. April 24 and 26 at the Senior Center, 5801 N. Natoma Ave. in Chicago. The sessions are open to persons age 55 or older who want to refresh their knowledge. Completion of the course may qualify participants for a three-year discount on their liability insurance, an aggregate savings that could exceed $100. Cost of the class is $14 per person ($12 per person for AARP members). To register, call (773) 775-6071.

Resurrection Pain Center
(773) 990-8934

To find out more, contact:

Resurrection Pain Center
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Technique trumps recipes

BY TOM WITOM
Contributor

Dramatic changes have reshaped the culinary scene since master chef Jacques Pepin moved to the United States from his native France in 1969. Now nutrition, diets, organic foods and artisan goods all command attention, while media exposure is elevating the status of chefs and restaurateurs to new heights.

The 77-year-old chef, cookbook author and teacher recognizes the transformation in Essential Pepin (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $40), his 26th cookbook and a companion to the 11th public television cooking series he has hosted.

While the hefty 685-page volume serves up more than 700 updated versions of Pepin's all-time favorite recipes, one thing the affable, down-to-earth chef makes clear is that techniques and methods always trump recipes.

Know basics

"While trends change, basic techniques do not," writes in the introduction. On more than one occasion he has observed: "a great chef is first a great technician."

With that in mind, Essential Pepin comes with a three-hour instructional DVD in which the chef demonstrates nearly 100 techniques from how to chop a knife to how to chop garlic. Segments under "Basics," for example, provide plenty of useful tips, from cutting parchment paper to sautéing like a chef.

The book lacks full-color photography but contains fetching black-and-white food-related line drawings produced by Pepin's own hand.

Chapter topics cover the gamut from soups and salads to fish, poultry and game. Fruit and frozen desserts rate separate chapters as do pastries, puddings, sweet souffles and crépes. Cakes, cookies and candies; and tarts, pies and pastries.

Turkey Cutlets in Anchovy-Lemon Sauce

Serves 8

1 whole turkey breast (about 5 pounds)
1 2-ounce can anchovy fillets in oil
1 tablespoon drained capers
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
About 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

To bone the turkey breast: First, remove the wings at the joints (reserve them to use in another recipe). Pull off the skin and discard it or use it for cracklings. Cut down along the breastbone and remove the meat from each side. Slice the meat into large pieces. Holding the knife at an angle, cut each piece lengthwise into 4 large cutlets.

Using a meat pounder, pound the cutlets lightly between two sheets of plastic wrap to make them approximately equal in size and about 1/4 inch thick. Set aside. Drain the anchovies, reserving the oil. Coarsely chop the anchovies and put them in a bowl. Toss with the capers and lemon juice and set aside.

Divide the butter and anchovy oil between two large skillets and heat until hot. Sprinkle the cutlets with the salt and pepper and add the anchovies and put them in a bowl. Toss with the capers and lemon juice and set aside.

Sauté the cutlets until brown and crisp, in a 400-degree oven; use as cracklings or soak the potatoes after slicing them. Rinsing would remove most of the starch, or soak the potatoes after slicing them. Rinsing would remove most of the starch. Sometimes I use grated cheese in this dish, but other times I don't, depending on my mood. It is important not to rinse or soak the potatoes after slicing them. Rinsing would remove most of the starch, which is needed to thicken the mixture as it comes to a boil on top of the stove. The gratin goes well with a salad of frisée or escarole dressed with a mustardy garlic dressing. One of the greatest treats of this dish is the leftovers, which can be enjoyed cool or at room temperature the next day.

Recipes excerpted from Essential Pepin, © 2011 by Jacques Pepin. Reproduced by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.
Staying in 2012 — and fixing it

There is so much to find infuriating about the Trayvon Martin case it is hard to know where to start. So I'll start at the beginning. The one fact on which we all agree. A teenage boy is dead for no reason and a young man's life is ruined. It is a terrible tragedy that should not have happened.

Why and how it happened is not clear.

One version of the truth says an innocent boy was hunted down like a dog by neighborhood vigilante George Zimmerman and shot in cold blood because he was a black kid wearing a hoodie.

The other version of the truth says George Zimmerman is a neighborhood watch volunteer who reported a suspicious person to police. This person turned on Zimmerman, attacked him, beat him and was going for Zimmerman's gun before Zimmerman protected himself the only way he could — with the gun.

In one story, Zimmerman is the worst type of cold-blooded killer and racist. In the other, he's a neighborhood volunteer who defended himself.

My reporter's instinct tells me the truth is somewhere in the middle.

My guess is Zimmerman was looking for a confrontation, and Martin was a teen trying to learn to be a man and wasn't going to back down from a confrontation.

The result was a personal tragedy for the families and the racial fallout we are left with.

I find the racial debate being played out infuriating because I refuse to return to 1967.

The activists who have taken sides on this case want to take us back to an America where race divided us more than ever, where white-on-black violence was rampant and where the races looked at each other with suspicion and fear. In a word, 1967.

I left that place behind long ago. I think most Americans did, too. And I don't want to go back there. Most Americans don't either.

But the likes of the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton and the other activists want to go back there, or maybe that's the America they live in. Adding to the polarization, Rush Limbaugh claims the media are concentrating on the story in order to help the president's re-election chances, while Glenn Beck's website states, with a distinct lack of supporting evidence, that Martin in fact was the aggressor.

In 2012 America today, I come in contact with the most diverse group of Americans ever. I live and work with blacks, Hispanics, whites, new Indian immigrants, new Middle Eastern immigrants. We work together on projects and in the community. We shop at the same stores and eat at the same restaurants.

If some people want to live in 1967, so be it. But I'm not going back there.

The Grilled Cheese Invitational, who knew?

I was watching "The Price is Right" the other morning because... Well, because I um... Shut up! I can watch what I want.

So, like I said, I was watching "The Price is Right." And one of the prizes was two tickets to the Grilled Cheese Invitational, which will be held April 28 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

This contest has been going on for 10 years. Why has this been kept from me?

A good grilled cheese sandwich is the best sandwich ever invented, narrowly easily out the BLT.

I thought that the love of a good grilled cheese sandwich was pretty much limited to me and all 5-year-olds.

Now I learn there is a whole contest — a 10-year-old contest — full of hundreds, maybe thousands of people who love grilled cheese.

No, I am not going to the contest, either as a spectator or participant. I can't afford the trip. And besides, I already make a good grilled cheese sandwich. Even my wife thinks they are good. Though I often wonder if the praise she lavishes on me as a grilled cheese maker is just so that she won't have to make them.

I learned how to make grilled cheese from my father, a down-to-earth kind of cook. You take a well-used frying pan. Melt a goodly amount of butter in it.

The sandwich should consist of white bread and American cheese. I prefer Land O'Lakes yellow American cheese from the deli counter, where I have it cut thick. I think thick-cut American cheese melts better than thinly cut cheese.

Insert sandwich into frying pan. Flip sandwich frequently until bread is crispy dark brown and cheese is beginning to ooze.

Remove sandwich and eat — or give it to your wife, who is giving you that look, and then make another for yourself.

This is not the only way to make a grilled cheese sandwich, merely the best.

But I have an open mind. Do you have a better way? I'd like to hear it.

Meanwhile, I'll keep my eye on the Internet for results from the Grilled Cheese Invitational. They may have some good ideas I can try at home.

After all, they are grilled cheese lovers and thus my brothers and sisters.

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Elder Abuse workshop offered  

Learn more about combatting elder abuse on April 19 at Oakton.

Sponsored by the College’s Continuing Education for Health Professionals program, a conference, “Combating Elder Abuse: Signs, Symptoms, and Intervention,” is geared toward social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals. This program is also open to the general public.

Expert speakers include Dr. Roger Weise, medical director of older adult health care, Alexian Brothers Medical Group; Holly Zielke, elder abuse program coordinator, Illinois Department on Aging; and Gary Gilles, licensed clinical professional counselor with a private practice in Palatine.

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to: Identify exploitation, neglect, and abuse of older adults in today’s practicing health care environment; develop a practical framework for compassionate intervention in domestic elder abuse; identify family dynamics that are most likely to lead to elder abuse; understand the proper procedure for reporting elder abuse and neglect.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Oakton’s Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Early-bird registration is $70 before March 31 ($96 after March 19). Upon completion, participants will be eligible for continuing education credits.

To register or for a detailed program brochure, contact Oakton’s Alliance for Lifelong Learning at (847) 635-1808 or (847) 635-1934.

Teen Depression workshop offered

About 20 percent of adolescents experience depression before they reach adulthood. Learn more about teen depression on April 25 at Oakton.

Sponsored by the College’s Continuing Education for Health Professionals program, the conference, “Teen’s Family: Understanding and Dealing with Teen Depression from a Biopsychosocial Perspective,” is geared toward social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals. This program also is open to the general public.

Participants will gain a better understanding of how parents, school professionals, and mental health practitioners can best support teens who struggle with depression. In addition to professionals presenting at this program, a high school senior and her mother will share their personal experience with depression and its effect on their family and community.

The conference is sponsored by Erika’s Lighthouse, an educational organization in Winnetka dedicated to raising awareness of adolescent depression and mental health for young people.

The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Oakton’s Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Registration fee is $70 before March 26 ($96 after March 26; walk-in registration is $121). Upon completion, participants will be eligible for continuing education credits.

To register or for a detailed program brochure, contact Oakton’s Alliance for Lifelong Learning at (847) 635-1808 or (847) 635-1934.
Chicago Cubs Charities is working to make Chicago a great place to live, work and play by harnessing the passion of Cubs fans to improve the lives of children and families across the City and beyond. Chicago Cubs Charities’ goal is to provide increased access to sports opportunities and target improvements in health, fitness and education for those at risk. Through grants to quality non-profit programs, development of parks and baseball fields, and other community initiatives, the Cubs and Chicago Cubs Charities help fulfill a commitment to be the best in the game, on and off the field.

For more information on Chicago Cubs Charities programs and events or to make a donation, please visit www.cubs.com/community or call 773-404-CUBS

The CHICAGO SUN-TIMES proudly supports Chicago Cubs Charities

Memory laps

Brain trainers’ mind games give a heady workout

Brain trainer
CogFit-Quest
8707 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

BY IRV LEAVITT
leavitt@pioneerlocal.com

There was a time when I could carry two sheets of drywall up three flights of stairs, go from first to third on a bloop to short-center, and remember verbatim three key quotes of any interview.

Now, if I have to lug a full cup of coffee, I use the elevator. I don’t run unless I’m being chased. And if I don’t write it down, it didn’t happen.

But Joanne Telser-Freere gave me a list of 10 words or phrases to remember more than three weeks ago, and I still remember all of them, in order.

This is very strange, because five minutes ago a fellow employee told “me I’d left my car’s hazard lights on. That’s likely because instead of remembering the mere details, I’ve been concentrating on remembering the words and phrases that Telser-Freere gave me.

But Telser-Freere, one of the honchos at CogFit-Quest brain training in Skokie, showed me a trick: link words together with something out in Skokie. She took me to a park and showed me how to use a bracelet to help me remember.

“OK, a Bracelet is clasped around the leg of the Desk,” I had told her.

“OK. Now you got it,” she said.

Third word: Corn. Flying through the air, I could see a corn kernel scattering everywhere. I asked her how she did it.

She said she remembered her partner Richard Goodman’s first name by thinking of him as Rich Man. He said it was even better because he used an iPod, or Coffe-fee.

I turned to Goodman. “Kinda stinks to be you,” I said.

He said it was even. He thinks of her as Joe Hen.

Memories are made of this

This all sounds kind of silly—kind of? — but when it came time for me to help the two of them teach a two-hour, 18-segment memory course for our Unemployee series, their methods actually worked.

For instance, each of the three students remembered the names of the eight photos of people that they had seen once, and not for over a week. All the pictures were normal-looking except for, bizarrely, an eyepatched pirate with a parakeet on his shoulder. Surprisingly, the students had difficulty remembering his name.

That’s likely because instead of being called Blackbeard, Bluebeard or Snooki, Scourge of the Sea, he was named Samuel Middleton.

Not even Samuel RRRR Middle-tons.

The name-remembering segment of our class was enhanced by the method of famous mentalist Harry Lorayne, which employs several steps. One of them is to make a remark about the name to help it stick in your head better.

How’s this: “Samuel Middleton — what kind of a ridiculous name is that for a pirate?”

Rhyme without reason

CogFit courses are intended to help a wide range of people, from executives wanting to sharpen up to dementia patients just trying to slow down the disease.

Each of the three people in the class — their last of a six-session course — had a different reason for being there. Joel Strauss, a retired teacher from Wilmette, told me he used to memorize whole books, but felt “a natural decline in cognitive ability,” and wanted to recharge his batteries a bit. Nathan Hakimian, a Skokie college student, wanted to push his academic envelope. And Amy Segami, a Chicago artist, told me, “I have always been interested in the brain and creativity. And my memory has plateaued a bit.”

Not surprisingly, perhaps, Se- gami excelled at some of the more creative segments of the training, including recalling limericks, after being given just the first line. “There was a Young Person of Crete, Whose toilette was far from complete; She dressed in a sack, Spickle-speckled with black, That ombliferous person of Crete.”

I find it particularly difficult to remember words that don’t exist, don’t you? Perhaps it didn’t matter as much to Segami, who is not a native English speaker, that 19th-century smart-aleck poet Edward Lear had used one of his less-transparent made-up words. With sinuously or flamboyant, I would have had a chance.

Math times two

Strauss was particularly good at the Mental Math exercises, in which the students are given four num- bers, and asked to add, subtract, multiply them and divide them to come up with a fifth, or just under it, if it won’t come out even. Of course, you have to remember how you did it.

All in one minute.

On one of the problems, both Segami and Hakimian figured it out and happily announced their steps.

“I’ve got it two different ways,” Strauss said.

I didn’t try to keep up with him. I’m a word man.

Hakimian was ace at the list-remembering, Sixteen straight. And his mind had progressed to the point that he didn’t have to think of a trick clobbering an armchair to remember the furniture. His brain was rewired.

Or he was cheating. I really have no way of knowing.

The only segment with a real physical component involved reciting memorized words, then throwing a ball at one of the other students. Goodman said the physicality ex- ercised a function of the brain that didn’t get much of a workout just from thinking.

He either said that or that he liked to play catch. I don’t remember. I just did this for one day, OK?

So we’d say our name, plus a color and a country of our choice, then say the name of another player, along with the color and country he or she had chosen, and toss the ball to that person.

There were a couple of complicating variations, but I found the original way challenging enough.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

International Career Development Conference in Salt Lake City, to be held on April 28 through May 1.

Niles West: Shawn Cherian, Aid Idrizovic and Sneh Sukhadia, first place, Creative Marketing; Ben Truong and Stephanie Younan, second place, Creative Marketing; Tezen Mathew, second place, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project; Bogdan Ilinescu and Elizabeth Troyk, third place, Finance Operations Research Event; Cody Inglesby, Joel Nelson and Robert Urosev, third place, Financial Literacy Promotion Project; Shawn Cherian, Aid Idrizovic and Sneh Sukhadia, third place, Learn and Earn Project; George Furman III, fourth place, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project; and Smita Jain, Jay Shah and Ben Truong, fourth place, Learn and Earn Project.

Niles North: Zain Lakhan and Aqil Hussain, first place, Finance Operations Research Event; Saud Ahmed, Jordan Weiss and Alex Stavropoulos, second place, Business Services Operations Research Event; Sam Eisenberg, Jeff Fox and Harsh Patel, third place, Buying and Merchandising Operations Research; and Elif Gundogdu, third place, Public Relations Project. Sonali Patel was selected as a Voting Delegate.

The following students were Top Ten in the State in their categories. Niles West: Brandon Moy, Buying & Merchandising Operations Research Event; Ken Banchencherennuk, Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making Event; Pravin Varughese and Talha Ahmed, Buying and Merchandising Operations Research Event; Sam Porto, Sports and Entertainment Operations Research Event; Ayush Shrestha and Matt Macelli, Public Relations Project Event; Deepa Pardiwala and Jessica Angamalangaraj, International Business Plan Event; Aid Idrizovic, Business Finance Event; Joel Nelson, Hotel and Lodging Management Event; and Badriddine Assioud, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Event.

Achieving third place in role play: Aid Idrizovic, Business Finance Event; and Angelika Przewoznik and Stephanie Younan, Travel and Tourism Team Event.

Niles North: Aqil Hussain, Accounting Operations; Jordan Weiss, Business Services Marketing; Zain Lakhan, Human Resources Management; Ben Rios, Marketing Management; Jeff Fox, Retail Merchandising; Ayrie Gomez, Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Med Jimenez and Troy D'Souza, Buying and Merchandising Operations Research Event; Xavier Ghani, Teresa Khoshaba and Sonali Patel, Buying and Merchandising Operations Event; Mahak Lakhan and Maciej Kowalkowski, Community Service Project; Ammar Mufjih, Abdul Saleem and Sharif Salman, Creative Marketing Project; Ayrie Gomez and Justin Thomas, Creative Marketing Project; Saud Ahmed, Maytal Maor and Sonali Patel, Financial Literacy Promotion Project; Muhamed Muflic, Mithulaka and Ralph Reyes, Learn and Earn Project; Paul Kim, Brandon Porefik and Donna Khuu, Public Relations Project; Ayrie Gomez and Maytal Maor, Public Relations Project; and Paul Kim, Brandon Porefik and Aqil Hussain, Entrepreneurship Written Event.

Students who received competency certificates (less than 50 percent of participants achieve this). Niles West: Talha Ahmed, Accounting Applications Event; Jay Shah, Tony Soldo and Aid Idrizovic, Business Finance; Pravin Varughese, Food Marketing Event; Rexly Penaflorida and Cody Inglesby, Hotel and Lodging Management Event; Derek Fuji and Brian Barnabas, Human Resources Management Event; Robert Urosev, Marketing Management Event; Ravid Sukhadia, Restaurant and Food Service Management Event; Badriddine Assioud, Vera Rather, Sony Shajan and George Furman III, Sports and Entertainment Marketing Event; Tezen Mathew, Retail Merchandising Event; Deepa Pardiwala, Principles of Marketing Event; Brandon Moy and Ken Banchencherennuk, Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making Event; Elizabeth Troyk, Bogdan Ilinescu, Jessica Daczko and Amelia Discher, Hospitality Services Team Decision Making Event; Smita Jain and Timothy Chan, Marketing Communications Team Decision Making Event; and Shawn Cherian, Jobin Joseph, Stephanie Younan and Angelika Przewoznik, Travel and Tourism Team Decision.
The Chicago Headline Club certainly thinks so. This distinguished local organization saw fit to nominate six of our journalists in seven categories for their Lisagor Awards.

Congratulations to our nominees.

And congratulations to you, our readers, for reading a winner.

Feature Writing
Jennifer Johnson

In-Depth Reporting
Bill Dwyer

Business Reporting
Jennifer Johnson

News Columns or Commentary
Irv Leavitt

Graphics
Lenore Krasner

Editorial Writing
Jennifer Clark

Photography
Michael Schmidt
Loan program combines remodeling, mortgage costs

Smaller rehabs are a true bright spot in this spring's real estate market. Well-priced homes in the under-$400,000 range have started to sell at a steady pace in many of Chicago's suburbs. Part of the reason is that prices are down significantly from the highs of a few years ago. But another reason is the flexibility of the new and improved 203(k) loan program, offered through the Federal Housing Authority (FHA).

The FHA 203(k) loan rolls remodeling and mortgage costs together, whether you are buying a new or refinancing an existing home loan to pay for upgrades. One key requirement is that the whole mortgage, including remodeling costs, has to align with FHA mortgage limits where you live. In the Chicago metropolitan area, the FHA currently allows loans up to $410,000 for any single-family home. The limits are $379,000 for two-family homes, $379,000 for three-family homes and $379,000 for four-family homes.

You can do the work yourself, and the loan can be put toward receipted supplies — but you cannot pay yourself for your labor. But, if you pay a contractor, both supplies and labor costs are covered — fully documented, of course. Also, plan on several FHA inspections to track progress and compliance.

Other loan features include 15- or 30-year term options; ARM or fixed-rate; a minimum 3.5% down payment; interest rate a bit higher than market; some higher fees compared with other loans for such things as title checks, architectural plan reviews, appraisal, and FHA inspections; no balloon payments allowed. There is more paperwork and documentation than a normal mortgage, and typically a longer approval process, too.

Approved renovations must be for a minimum of $5,000 and up — as long as the maximum fully rehabbed value of the home fits within FHA maximum loan limits for your area, as noted above.

According to AllRegs, on mortgage regulations, the full loan amount is determined by first assessing the as-is value of a home, or the purchase price of the property before rehabilitation — whichever is less. Then, the estimated cost of rehabilitation and allowable closing costs is added on for the total loan value. Alternatively, the loan amount can be calculated as 110 percent of the expected market value of the property upon completion of the work, plus allowable closing costs.

Professional rehabbers and do-it-yourselfers alike have been utilizing this revised loan program because it makes rehabilitation more profitable compared to new construction. The FHA program typically includes higher appraisal value coupled with great buys, both possible and potentially profitable again. Houses can even be in such ill repair that a conventional mortgage wouldn't be allowed.

But, beware of time limits. Six months is all the time you have to complete the work. You must further commit to start within 30 days of closing and not halt work at any time for 30 days or more.

There are a few other caveats, and condos can be harder to finance than homes. For complete details, go to hud.gov. Also, seek a lender who has a broker or division which specializes in these FHA loans.

Julie Morse is a licensed real estate agent.
Your Local Worship Guide

Central Zone

CHICAGO

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

Morton Grove

Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
6944 Austin Avenue
(Morton Grove, IL)
(847) 965-2982
www.mgcppresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

NORTHFIELD

Willow Creek Community Church
North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Road
847-481-6500
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 am
Promisedland (Infants-Gr5): 9 & 11 am
Elevate (Grades 6-8): 11 am
Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm
For more information visit
www.WillowNorthShore.org

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Single? Partnered?
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6240 N. Avondale,
NORTHERN PARK

Zion Lutheran Church
8600 W Lawrence Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706
(708) 453-3514
Rev. Luther John Bajus, Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Holy Communion 3rd & 5th Sunday
Early Communion – 1st Sunday 9:00 am
Sunday School – 10:35 am
Adult Bible Study – 10:45 am
Handicapped Accessible
Serving the Community
Sharing God’s Promises

NORWOOD PARK

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

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

Norwood Park Lutheran (ELCA)
5917 N. Nina Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
773-631-2860
Fax 773-631-0142
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
(Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)
Education Hour - Sundays 9 am
Rev. Robert Johnson, Pastor

To showcase your House of Worship here
call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
Wes Science Olympiad team earns medals

The Niles West Science Olympiad team competed at the Regional competition held March 10 at the College of Lake County. The team earned 15 medals and placed ninth out of 16.

Medals were awarded to: Nick Clark and Bill Pendavini, first (Junior Varsity); Ferri Questions, Sarah Charnness and Purva Chandell, second; Dynamic Plant; Andy Rapoport and Awais Ahmed, second (Junior Varsity); Technical Problem Solving; Chris Matei and Imran Khan, second (Junior Varsity). Microbe Missions: Bill Pendavini and Ryan Cyric, second (Junior Varsity); Optics Lab; Rishika Maladiik, Nick Clark and Andy Rapoport, third (Junior Varsity); Experimental Design; Rishika Maladiik and Femino Ghevala, third (Junior Varsity); Anatomy and Physiology; Christian Marin and Jessica Kiler, third (Junior Varsity); Water Quality; Patrick Liscio and Lyra Zia, fourth, Fermi Questions; Caitlin Platek and Shana Nissian, fifth; Astronomy; Michelle McManus, Samantha Barnes and Patrick Liscio, fifth, Experimental Design; Josni Joseph and Anne McManus. Other members of the Science Olympiad Team: Zain U.S. Army, Brinda Shah, Rachel Traisman and Kristine Park.

Best in Category plaques were awarded to: Felicia Phan, Microbiology and Anne McManus, Chemistry. Students who received gold medals and qualified for state: Andy Tran, Sana Khan, Jesi Joseph and Revyn Reyes. The Science Olympiad Coaches: Elizabeth Ramsey, Howard Swider, Chris Barnett and Chris Hawker.

West wins gold medals at IJAS

Niles West competed at the regional Illinois Junior Academy of Science (IJAS) Fair Contest on March 17 at Niles North High School. Niles North entered 38 projects and qualified for the IJAS State Exposition to be held May 4 and 5 at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Felix Angelov was selected to participate in the International Science and Engineering Foundation (ISEF), the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. The ISEF, held in May, brings together nearly 1,500 students from more than 65 regions to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips and the grand prize of a $50,000 scholarship.

Best in Category awards went to: Felicia Phan, Microbiology and Anne McManus, Chemistry. Students who received gold medals and qualified for state: Andy Tran, Sana Khan, Jesi Joseph and Revyn Reyes. The Science Olympiad Coaches: Elizabeth Ramsey, Howard Swider, Chris Barnett and Chris Hawker.

Students advance in History Fair

The following District 219 students qualified for the Finals/State level of the History Fair Competition. For students competing at this level, their scores may determine if they will participate in National History Day, held in June at the University of Maryland.


Niles West's Joseph Darga for "Prohibition in Chicago"; and Javaria Hagn and Anna Chirayil for "Women's Suffrage."
Theil forms key brick in front wall

BY ROB VALENTIN
Contributor

Artur Theil is just one brick in the self-proclaimed Polish Wall on the Maine East boys volleyball team.

The senior, one of four front-liners of Polish descent on the Blue Demons, is making all sorts of contributions this season for East, which started the season with a 5-2 record.

The 6-foot 3 Theil leads the team in kills (61), and has been clutch when a game is on the line. Such was the case in Maine East's 23-25, 25-22, 25-18 over Niles West in a CSL crossover at home April 5.

With Game 2 hanging in the balance, Theil registered the Blue Demons' final three points with three thundering kills. Niles West, which had captured the first game, never recovered, and was dominated in Game 3. Theil finished with 13 kills for a 380 kill percentage.

"They scored an ace on us, and they did this chant that really made me angry," Theil said. "They started stomping on the ground and dancing around. I was so mad and stepped in with a lot of confidence and anger, and that helped me play better. I just had to do my role and finish the play."

Added Maine East head coach Jon Kulesza: "He's been like that all season. He's been really strong for us."

Kulesza has seen a big difference in Theil this season.

"At the banquet (last spring), we asked, 'How do you want to be remembered?' — and one of the things he said was, 'I want to be remembered as one of the smartest hitters,' and he's proving that to be true," Kulesza said. "He's not all power. He can pound it down when he has to, but he knows when to tip, and he has a great repertoire of shots."

Theil didn't play club volleyball in the offseason, but spent a lot of time conditioning and playing beach volleyball with setter Jon Colden.

"I think I'm a smarter hitter now," Theil said. "I have my favorites, but I can hit a lot of different spots on the court now. I really wanted to be able to help the team out this year, I have a lot more responsibility now."

Kulesza will expect big contributions from Theil the rest of the way. But considering what Theil has shown so far — 61 kills in seven games — it looks like he's up to the challenge.

"Niles West is a good team, and Vernon Hills is a good team and he put up great numbers against them," Kulesza said. "I know we're going to be facing some tough teams down the line, and if he continues this, he has an opportunity to make a name for himself, whether it's all-conference, or dare I say, all-state."

Theil plans to attend the University of Iowa, and hopes to play on the club team.

The Polish Wall has been especially strong this season, with terrific play from Theil, senior Greg Siemienczuk, senior Adam Bloniarz and junior Maciej Olfinowski.

The group has used its common heritage to its advantage. Kulesza, who's hardly fluent in the language, has learned how to say certain numbers in Polish to help direct his teammates' attack without letting the other team know.

Maine East hopes to rewrite history this season. The Blue Demons have never won a regional title. The key to playoff success could hinge on a high sectional seed.

"We've made it to the title games, but we just haven't made it over the hump," Kulesza said. "These guys give you reason for optimism, I'll say that. They're experienced, and we have five guys that can put the ball away.

"But we've got to get better, and if we can earn a seed where we avoid the No. 1 or No. 2 in the regional title game ... I think a lot of teams in this area can beat each other."

Maine East senior Artur Theil leads the Blue Demons in spikes and is a big reason why they jumped out to a 5-2 start. | JON LANGHAM-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Choate, Krogstad create family atmosphere

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

Setter Evan Choate and outside hitter Kyle Krogstad, Notre Dame's senior co-captains, have a special rapport both on and off the court.

"We grew up together. Our families are close. Our dads are both firemen," said Choate, who has led the fun-loving but hard-working Dons to a 7-1 start.

After winning the first set 25-21, visiting Notre Dame came back from a 24-22 deficit to put away a good Niles North squad 26-24 on March 28. Choate finished with 15 assists and set up Krogstad (6 kills) for the key point in the Dons' turnaround.

"Evan did a great job distributing the ball," said Notre Dame head coach Pat Cole.

The Dons easily dispatched Maine West 25-17, 25-14 on April 2. Choate dominated the Warriors with flawless serving while helping the 6-foot-1/2 Krogstad rack up 10 kills.

"We have stepped up as a team. Our fundamentals are all there," said the 5-9 1/2 Choate, who adds six kills per match from the back row. "We think we can beat Marist and win. (the ESCC) this year."

Family is important to the Dons standouts, and influenced his decision to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where several relatives reside. Choate, a sports fanatic, has embraced the leadership role on his team.

"I'm more confident as a senior and feel like an official team leader now," said Choate. "First of all, I need to be on my game. Second, I've learned that if I'm in a bad mood or feeling a little off, I can't show that. I want to set the right example all the time."

Choate presides over a loose bunch affectionately dubbed the Daffy Dons.

"I don't want us to change that at all. The more fun we have, the better we play. We're all really close," he said.

Notre Dame built confidence with a 4-1 showing in the Marist Tournament on March 23-24. A highlight was a victory in straight sets over top-seeded Andrew.

Senior right-side hitter Robert Murdach shut down Niles North's talented outside hitter to make Notre Dame's comeback win possible. Krogstad's outstanding defense was every bit as crucial as his prolific offense.

Senior middle Andrew Pruski and junior middle Kevin Cole each thrived in the front row. Improved junior outside hitter Andrew Cirillo has developed front-row skills to add to his prowess on the back row.

Notre Dame hosts Maine East at 5 p.m. today (Thursday). The Dons face the first of several stiff ESCC tests with a road date at Benet on Tuesday.
One good measurement of a major league hitter's consistency is consecutive-game hitting streaks. A 10-game streak by Ichiro Suzuki in 2011 was the 40th double-digit streak of his career, tying him with Pete Rose for the fifth most double-digit streaks since 1900. Stan Musial ranks fourth with 41, Al Simmons is third with 42, while Hank Aaron sits in second place with 44. The leader — Ty Cobb, by a mile, with an incredible 65 hitting streaks of at least one hit in at least 10 straight games.

If you were to try to make it on foot from the North Pole to the South Pole, how many miles would you cover and how long would it take? Pat Farmer, a 48-year-old Pole journey, set out to raise $100,000 for the Red Cross. There was also a leaguer banned from baseball mid-2011 until early 2012.

Pole journey. That means the 48-year-old Farmer averaged 2,600 miles per day, raising $100,000 for the Red Cross. Farmer would it take? Pat Farmer set out to raise $100,000 for the Red Cross. The leader — Ty Cobb, by a mile, with an incredible 65 hitting streaks of at least one hit in at least 10 straight games.

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Jones fitting right in with Vikes

BY ROB VALENTIN

Niles North senior Angela Jones faced the question every athlete focuses on.

Should she give up competitive sports forever?

The query came after Jones, who attended Maine East High when she tore her ACL in her left knee last May. Just 16 months earlier, Jones had torn her right ACL.

The hugely competitive athlete who had participated in cross country, basketball, soccer and track and field for the Blue Demons, thought about it for a long time. She knew how long the rehab would take and that she would never be 100 percent again.

"I did think about not playing and my mom did not want me to play and to this day she still wants me to not play," Jones said. "I feel like with this injury I was at the bottom of the barrel and but I climbed out of it."

She also felt like she was cursed.

"It's hard to not think that way," Jones said. "How could I have such bad luck? But when something like that happens, you have to get your mind set in other places. As much as I didn't want it to happen, it happened."

After six months of diligent rehab, Jones returned to the basketball team midseason and was able to contribute to a much-improved Vikings team.

When the soccer season rolled around, Jones decided she wanted to give it another try. Having not played since her freshman season at Maine East, Jones did not know what to expect, especially since she was coming to a new team.

"Everyone was really accepting," Jones said. "It was easier coming into the soccer team because I was able to try out. I've been able to play and start in each game. With basketball I couldn't try out and play in the Thanksgiving Tournament. I had to try and fit in once I was able to play."

Paul Elkins took over as girls soccer coach at Niles North this season and he's been thrilled with what Jones has been able to bring to the pitch.

"She is an absolute lion on the field," Elkins said. "She's got the personality where she could fit in with whatever team in any sport she went into. When she's on the field she plays in between the lines as hard as anybody and the girls really respect her for that. She's as tough as a kid as I've met."

Jones is playing midfield and for a forward with a Vikings' team that is off to a slow start at 1-4-1.

"Our record hasn't really shown it, but when you come out and look at us play, we'll give a good game every time," Jones said.

The Vikings are also led by four senior captains: midfielder Stephanie Arias, midfield/defender Camila Marquez, defender Berina Gradjen and midfielder Nagwah Lahalyeh.

"Camila has been really versatile and is our leading scorer," Elkins said. "Nagwah has been a consistent performer in the midfield and Berina has been a solid player for us in the back. Stephanie has started every game and is another strong presence in the locker room and on the field leading the girls."

Niles North also has a promising freshman in the starting lineup, Alyssa Brand.

The Vikings this week compete in the Pepsi Showdown for the second straight season. They were to open against Warren on Monday, with the winner meeting Loyola on Tuesday. The tournament resumes today (Thursday). It's the state's biggest in-season tournament and Elkins thinks his team is ready to take on the challenge.

"It's a pretty unique opportunity," he said. "Not every team gets to play a quarter of their season in a tournament like this. I think they're excited. They still talk about last year and being a part of it.

Hopefully we can get a win in our first game and see what we stack up.

"I'm really excited for the Pepsi Showdown," Jones added. "Coach told us there's some good teams in there and just to get the opportunity to go out there and play better teams is always good."

Meger provides two-way threat for Wolves

BY MIKE CAMERON

Take away ace pitcher, third baseman and cleanup hitter Jason Meger, and Niles West will probably face a difficult time contending for the CSL South crown.

The versatile Meger is as indispensable to the red-hot Wolves (11-1) as is fellow co-captain senior superstar shortstop Kevin Ross and junior second baseman/pitcher Kyle Colletta.

A third-year starter, Meger opened 2012 at 2-1 with a 2.00 ERA, while hitting .350 with five doubles in the middle of veteran head coach Gary Gustafson's potent lineup.

"Jason is a very solid three-year varsity player," said Gustafson. "He's our No. 1 starting pitcher, and I think as good a third baseman as there is in the area."

Before reaching his pitch-count limit, Meger held Von Steuben to one hit and struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings to earn a 6-1 victory on April 3. Two days later, he collected two hits and a walk at the plate.

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Meger, who gave up bas-
Born with spina bifida, Fuller makes no excuses

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

Senior right-hander James Fuller suffered his roughest outing of the season in Saturday's 6-1 defeat to Von Steuben, where he got the loss after giving up three earned runs in three innings.

He'll be looking to bounce back when the Vikings begin conference play this week. But that shouldn't be a problem for an athlete who has overcome challenges his whole life.

Born with spina bifida, Fuller has managed to succeed despite being unable to build up muscle in his legs. He wears braces on his legs, but still is unable to play sports that involve heavy running.

Fuller also golfed for Niles North, receiving special permission from the IHSA to ride a cart during the last nine holes of 18-hole tournaments. As a youngster, he earned a black belt in karate.

At the urging of his mother, a few years ago Fuller reluctantly joined a wheelchair basketball league. He had so much fun that he continues to play to this day.

"We kind of raised (James) to never let (the condition) get in the way," said Fuller's father Doug. "We never put him in special classes or programs - only where we had to. He played regular Little League and did karate. We never expected him to do anything less. He's not able to do the high jump or things like that, but he's done a great job. We don't consider him disabled. He doesn't make excuses."

Fuller's father said one of his son's orthotists keeps a photo of James in a baseball uniform on an office wall to inspire other patients with disabilities.

Fuller plans to study business and hopes to work with people with disabilities, while he's in college and out in the real world.

"I would be amazing to be able to incorporate a business degree with interacting with people with disabilities," he said. "I feel I'm someone who can offer the best perspective on that. Even in college, I want to stay involved with people who have disabilities."

"James was a relief guy for us (last year), but has come into his own," Niles North head coach Ed Toledo said. "He's not like he came out of nowhere because he was slots as our No. 2 guy. He's got a fastball, curve and change. He's not an overpowering kid, but he knows how to pitch and locate his pitches."

Fuller said added arm strength, a result of Niles North's enhanced weight-training program, and the chance to pitch for extended periods have been part of his success.

"It's one of those things where you say, 'I want to show everybody I can do it.' It's something within yourself, maybe it's a small-man thing," he said. "It's definitely influenced me. It's a birth defect and it's significant - it's not nothing. But once you've accepted it, you want to go out and show you can do better (than what people expect)."

Fuller plans next year to attend UW-Whitewater, which has the Impressive Center for Students with Disabilities and a sizable population of students who take advantage of the center.

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