SACKING SICKLE CELL

Former NFL player Robert Mackey listens as his aunt, Daisy Mitchell, who has sickle cell anemia, tells Golf Middle School students about her experience with the disease. PAGE 7 JOEL LERNER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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Difficulty reading the text due to the image quality. The content appears to be real estate listings with details about properties located in Morton Grove, including information about the number of bedrooms, bathrooms, features, and prices.
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NIKES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Plans advance for $4M renovation

BY TRACY GRIET

The Niles Public Library is one step closer to launching a major renovation project.

The library’s Board of Trustees recently selected the Frederick Quinn Corporation, of Addison, to be the construction manager to manage the renovation project.

The job of Frederick Quinn Corporation will be to partner with Product Architecture + Design firm to assist the library with the process of developing its $4M building project.

That estimated construction cost doesn’t include the expense of new mechanical upgrades, furnishings and other equipment.

Construction could start by early December.

The board received 11 bids from companies interested in being the construction manager, and interviewed four.

“It was a really difficult decision,” said Wilsey, public relations supervisor for the Niles Public Library, of the top two choices.

The project is expected to take about 10 months. When completed, the library will feature a new vending and cafe area, special areas for teenagers, more private study rooms, a new front entrance and an automated check-in system.

“The plan is to try to not close it all,” Wilsey said, referring to officials’ hope to keep the library open during construction.

Wilsey said the library may need to close if construction involves a gas line or other projects that could jeopardize the safety of library patrons.

On April 25, Product Architecture + Design will make another presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding an update on the renovation project.

Frederick Quinn Corporation has worked on various projects, including the Oswego Public Library.

The Niles Public Library is celebrating the Year of the Dragon by giving patrons a glimpse into Chinese culture and promoting dance group Shen Yun. Volunteer Jenny Wang shows the proper way to pour tea. TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES

NIKES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Recipients of annual hometown awards announced

Fourteen people and businesses that help to make Niles one of the “best places to raise kids” in the nation will be honored April 21 at the Niles Night of Roses at White Eagle Banquets.

The 9th annual Niles Night of Roses is a “tribute to hometown success,” and will feature dinner and the presentation of various awards, according to a news release.

Sponsors of the event include Golf Mill Shopping Center, BMO Harris Bank, Resurrection Health Care, Shure Systems, and Dyna Systems.

This year’s Bob Wordel Living Legend Award goes to Ralph Frese for his dedication to preserving the rivers and waterways in Chicago land.

Frese has worked to create a natural environment along the North Branch of the Chicago River, which runs through the Niles, named in his honor: the Ralph Frese Canoe Trail.

The company’s bottling plant has been a “terrific” business in the village for several years, dedicated to helping the environment by recycling, water stewardship and accessibility, the release stated.

Mike Tarfan, this year’s Coach of the Year, reported seeing the need for younger students at St. John Brebeuf school to participate in sports.

He “turned a few hours of bounces into a life-changing event,” the release stated.

The Dynamic Parent Volunteer award goes to Christine Aragon. She is an active parent volunteer at St. John Brebeuf, who believes it’s important to be a good role model and was instrumental in collecting $88,000 for the parish at St. John Brebeuf’s annual gala event, the release stated.

Serving the village for more than a decade, Bob Greiner is this year’s recipient of the Firefighter Hot Spot award.

He is the district chief and also the department’s training office.

Greiner is active in the “Fill the Boot” fundraising campaign and also gives his time to Parkview School and the Cub Scouts.

The Police Officer Special Agent award recipient is Daniel Scheel.

He has worked her way up from patrol in 2001 to evidence technician and finally serving on the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force.

Her technical expertise makes her a valuable part of the police department, the release stated.

Also being recognized is Ryan McEnerney, son of a Niles police officer who was a part-time community-service officer and a member of the Niles Fire Explorer, where he volunteers his time at burn camp and the “Fill the Boot” fundraiser.

In its 25th year of service to the community the Optimist Club of Niles supports various programs and raises funds to provide a positive outlet for children to be successful, the release stated.

“Unsung Worker: Not Enough Hours in the Day” award.

Ever since he became a Niles resident more than 40 years ago, he has been dedicated to updating the parks, youth sports, the village board and zoning board, and the release stated.

Also being recognized is Ryan McEnerney, son of a Niles police officer who was a part-time community-service officer and a member of the Niles Fire Explorer, where he volunteers his time at burn camp and the “Fill the Boot" fundraiser.

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By Tracy Gruen
SCHOOLS BRIEFS

Sons of Italy offer scholarships

The Illinois Sons of Italy Foundation announced that graduating high school seniors who are full or partial Italian ancestry are invited to compete for college scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each, to be awarded by the foundation.

The scholarships will be awarded to qualified students who will graduate this year from any recognized public or private high school within Illinois. Applicants will be selected based on a combination of financial need; scholastic achievements; activities in high school, including citizenship and leadership; personal essay and faculty recommendations.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Illinois Sons of Italy Foundation at 9447 W. 144th Place, Orland Park IL 60462, visit the self-addressed stamped envelope, or e-mail osiail.com. Applications must be completed and returned to the Foundation office by July 1, 2012. Winners will be notified on or before Aug. 31.

Preschool-K open house

As a result of growing enrollment, new Pre-K and kindergarten classes are being added for fall 2012. The St. Robert Bellarmine school board and parent ambassadors will host a Saturday-morning Preschool and Kindergarten Open House from 10 a.m. to noon April 28 at the school, 6036 W. Eastwood Ave., Chicago. Families can learn about the school programs and teachers will give brief presentations in their classrooms. Students are welcome.

Those who would like to attend are asked to contact the school office at (773) 725-5135 or stbellarmine@yahoo.com.

For information about other open house times, see the "Open Houses & Visits" page of the school website: srb-chicago.org.

Comedy Night scheduled for May 19

The St. Robert Bellarmine School Sports Association will present its annual Comedy Night on May 19 with comedians from the Mikey O Comedy Show. More details are available on the school website, srb-chicago.org.

Campus news

Jill Walsh, of Morton Grove, was named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. Walsh is a sophomore studying sculpture.
Former NFL player Robert Mackey visited Golf Middle School with his aunt, Daisy Mitchell, to discuss how his family has been impacted by sickle cell anemia on April 13. 

**GOLF MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Sickle cell survivor**

**BY CATHRYN GRAN**

cgran@pioneerlocal.com

Though he carries the marker for sickle cell anemia, Robert Mackey does not suffer from its debilitating effects. The former quarterback for the Houston Texans NFL team has seen firsthand the pain the disease has caused his mother and his aunt.

Mackey and his aunt, Daisy Mitchell, shared their experiences April 13 with eighth-grade students at Golf Middle School, which serves portions of Morton Grove and Niles.

Sickle cell anemia causes red blood cells to lose their form and, therefore, their ability to carry oxygen to all the body’s other cells, Mitchell explained.

When she first was diagnosed at age 11, her doctor gave her five years to live.

“I was born in 1960,” Mitchell said. “I’m still here.”

Raising awareness that those with sickle cell anemia still can lead productive lives is a goal of the Lydia W. Smith Foundation, created by Mackey.

The foundation also provides financial assistance to those with the disease.

Mitchell shared with students her message of hope and dreams.

“I deal with pain every single day,” she said. “Sometimes I have to take medication. Sometimes I listen to music. I find the violin and the piano to be soothing. And I do tai chi and yoga. But I continue to do what I need to do.”

Mitchell said she experienced many trying times in her youth because of the lack of awareness about the effects of sickle cell anemia.

She wanted to participate in such simple teenage pastimes like playing sports and dancing, but her illness left her lethargic.

“People would accuse me of being lazy,” Mitchell said. “I’d hear things like ‘She doesn’t look sick,’ or ‘She just wants attention.’”

Years later her nephew had to call his mom to fly to Mitchell’s side when she was hospitalized and on too much pain medication.

“That medication can make (the symptoms) worse,” Mitchell explained. “Everything was shutting down, my kidneys. I was aware but I couldn’t say anything. I thought I was like that for a few hours. It was a few days.”

Mitchell then explained the importance of sticking up for oneself.

“You have to be your own advocate,” she told the students. “If you have any type of illness, you cannot allow that disease to control your life.”

Teacher Danielle Maldonado echoed that sentiment.

Genetics and the human body make up a part of the eighth-grade science curriculum, she explained.

As part of their schoolwork, students engage in a mock emergency-room exercise.

By asking questions students learn what information they need to share with their doctors, Maldonado said.

“They need to know how to advocate for themselves,” she said. “It’s a great learning, and life, skill.”

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Abt Since 1936
Old-school barbershop cuts across generations

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Ron Dorweiler was on his way home from showing of the film, "Edward Scissorhands," when his daughter felt inspired enough to suggest the perfect name for the future barbershop he hoped to open.

"She said, 'You should name it Scissorhands,'" the barber recounted, matter-of-factly.

Two decades later Dorweiler and his team at Scissorhands of Park Ridge, 739 Devon Ave., are still giving haircuts to a dedicated customer base inside a shop that retains the quaint atmosphere of barbershops of long ago.

Though you won't see the actual Edward Scissorhands there, you will find an image of his portrayer, Johnny Depp, among the many celebrities and sports personalities who peer down from the walls, every inch of space covered with sports, movie and barbershop memorabilia from Dorweiler's personal collection. On one wall an old sign advertises 75-cent haircuts; below, Marilyn Monroe holds a bottle of Lustre Creme Shampoo. On a shelf close to the ceiling, bobblehead dolls of sports personalities look over the waiting area at the front of the shop, next to a green street sign that reads "Wrigley Field." (The White Sox are represented elsewhere - Dorweiler claims to be a fan of both Chicago teams).

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Even customers who have moved away continue to return.

"When they come back to visit family or friends they schedule their haircuts for when they're in town," said Lorenzo, who has been cutting hair with Dorweiler for nearly 30 years.

For those who cannot leave their homes Scissorhands will come to them. Since its opening Dorweiler has been making house calls to customers who are disabled or ill.

"Usually it's right in town and you know the people. It's very nice," Dorweiler noted. "And we charge the same price we charge in the shop, so it's not like extra money or anything."

After 20 years Dorweiler believes he has established a special rapport with many of his customers.

"It's funny how when you're in an area long enough you see cousins and friends and you feel like you're almost part of the family sometimes," he said.
In the 50 years since his ordination, the Rev. John P. Smyth many achievements have included transforming the appearance and attitude of Notre Dame College Preparatory School in Niles.

Smyth, the president of Notre Dame College Prep who will be celebrating the golden anniversary of his ordination on April 28, was the executive director of Maryville Academy, "City of Youth," in Des Plaines for more than 40 years.

During his time at Maryville Academy, Smyth impacted the lives of thousands of girls and boys in the Chicago area.

"I hope I helped a lot of people out," said Smyth, who added that he had a great time at Maryville Academy and is now enjoying Notre Dame College Prep. "I'm very pleased to be a priest for 50 years."

Smyth said Notre Dame is a great school with great students.

"I'm amazed at how good the kids are and how hard they work," he said. "I admire the teachers."

Smyth has received the Laetare Medal, a prestigious Catholic award. At least five different presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have invited him to the White House.

The Rev. Raymond Klees, executive vice president of Notre Dame College Prep, said Smyth took care of the boys and girls at Maryville Academy so well that wards of the state were sent to Maryville Academy regularly.

Smyth was a pioneer when it came to fundraising efforts. His annual production of the "Chuck Wagon" brought politicians, union leaders, major-league athletes and many other people together at Maryville Academy to support children in need.

The executive board at Notre Dame College Prep offered Smyth the presidency in early-2007, and at the same time Klees came on board as executive vice president.

"He's recreated Notre Dame High School," Klees said.

During the five years Smyth has been president the school has upgraded its "curb appeal," adding a $200,000 grotto outside the school where community members come to pray. Six classrooms were rebuilt and equipped for 21st-century learning with SmartBoards; the little theater was renovated; and locker room upgrades were made.

Perhaps more important than physical changes, Smyth also changed the attitude of the school, colleagues insist.

"We will find a place for every boy," Klees said.

Unlike other Catholic schools, Klees said, Notre Dame focuses on education for children at all academic levels. He said the school is very supportive of youngsters with special needs and include them in regular classes, and have created the Burke Scholarship program for students with disabilities.

Smyth had the opportunity to pursue another passion in his life in 1957 when he was offered a National Basketball Association contract upon graduating from Notre Dame. A distinguished scholar-athlete at University of Notre Dame, Smyth was a three-sport high-school athlete at De Paul Academy. He declined the NBA contract in order to enter the Archdiocese of Chicago's Seminary in Mundelein and was ordained to the priesthood on April 28, 1962.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of his special day Notre Dame College Prep will host a Mass at 10 a.m. April 27 at the school. Community members are welcome to attend the event.
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WATER-RATE DISPUTE

Niles officials: Cut-rate water was for limited time only

BY TODD SHIELDS
tshieldspioneerlocal.com

The nearly year-old water-billing dustup between Niles and Glenview is far from settled, as the sum allegedly owed to Niles has reached $8.8 million in payments and penalties.

Niles officials held a press conference April 13 and hammered away at one point — a 19-percent discount given to 74 water customers was a short-time reimbursement, not a permanent water rate.

According to a Feb. 12 lawsuit filed against Glenview in Cook County Court, Niles Mayor Robert Callero.

In June 2011, Niles identified the sum was 19 percent, and that Niles would charge the lowest water rate to any customers.

Because the Niles Village Board of Trustees believed the 74 customers were paying more, they passed an ordinance providing the discount.

An amended lawsuit filed in June stated Glenview was paying less than what they paid for water in Cook County Court, Niles.

In a statement, Glenview village attorney Eric Patt said the 19-percent credit granted to the 74 customers was arbitrary “based on sewer rates of other area municipalities.”

His statement also said the number of North Maine customers was 4,900 — not 74 — and that from at least 2002 to 2010 Niles charged residents at a lower rate than it charged North Maine customers.

Last, Glenview believed Niles since 1997 had charged for sewer services included in the water rate.

But the lawsuit stated that, similar to Skokie, Grayslake and Norridge, Niles has never included a sewer charge on water bills.

Patt also stated Niles has refused under court order “to open its books and produce the documents necessary to allow Glenview to do a full audit.”

Glenview’s request to see the water documents was in reaction to Niles’ filing an amended complaint Feb. 24.

The complaint stated Glenview’s village manager, Todd Hileman, wrote in a June 22 letter that he agreed his village owed 81 percent of the water bills in question.

The letter was written to Niles Mayor Robert Callero.

The letter was written to Niles Mayor Robert Callero.

The complaint also stated Hileman wrote the disputed sum was 19 percent, and that Glenview would pay Niles 81 percent of the unpaid water invoices if Niles would “not stop providing water to North Maine Utility Company.”

“We have never shut off the water,” said Jay Judge, Niles’ attorney. “We did our part.”

Patt said the village early last year was willing to pay part of the 81 percent if Niles allowed “a full audit of their books and the parties would work together to reach a solution.”

He said the offer was a settlement and it did not acknowledge the disputed sum.

In fact, Glenview has consistently maintained throughout the litigation that until it can audit Niles’ records, the actual amount that Niles has overcharged North Maine Utilities cannot be determined,” he said.

Patt explained Glenview became aware of the alleged overcharging in May 2011 when Van Geem was quoted in the press saying Niles did not have a sewer fee.

“This led Glenview staff to look into the source of funding for Niles’ sewer system, which led to the discovery that NMU was being overcharged “., Patt said.

Glenview began withholding water payments collected from customers in an interest-bearing escrow account that in March totaled $3 million.

In June 2011, Niles filed the lawsuit against Glenview for refusing to pay Niles for water provided to North Maine Utilities.

Two months later Glenview filed a court request for Niles to produce specific water documents.

After Niles failed on three court motions, on Feb. 8 Novak told the village to turn over the requested information to Glenview.

But Glenview does not believe Niles has shown all the documents as ordered by Novak.

On Feb. 29, Glenview filed for sanctions against Niles for not complying with Novak’s order.

Before the litigation started, we complied with Glenview’s Freedom of Information Act request. It’s all there,” Judge said.

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Eighth-grade science students at Golf Middle School ran a mock emergency room April 6 showing off skills they learned in class.

Students write down data from their patients to find a diagnosis during the mock emergency-room exercise.

Photos by
Tamara Bell
Sun-Times Media
Eighth-grade Science students at Golf Middle School ran a mock emergency-room situation April 5, during which students diagnosed patients using information they learned in anatomy in class.

Beata Krupa writes down medical information during the experiment April 5 at Golf Middle School in Morton Grove.

Science students Billy Murphy, Robbie Schwert and Jacob Austria discuss diagnoses in the mock emergency room.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK
What will you do to avoid the upcoming construction on Harlem Avenue? The question was asked throughout the area.

“I will ride my bike more often.”
MARK CORTEZ OF OAK PARK

“The construction will also affect the expressway exit. I will avoid Harlem and 290.”
MARK JAMESON OF RIVER FOREST

“I always avoid Harlem as much as possible but hopefully North/South streets such as Oak Park Avenue will not be jammed.”
CAITLYN MOROCCO OF RIVER FOREST

“I will walk.”
JAMES WHITE OF OAK PARK

Sometimes we’re so focused on ourselves that we fail to look outside ourselves.
So it was for me one night last week. I was focused on taking out the garbage.
Mark Cortez

OK, maybe I was more focused on deciphering why the boys don’t do their chores and I end up taking out the garbage.
Mark Jameson

For just a moment I looked up and saw it — a streak of green light in the western sky just above the treetops racing to earth. A neighbor must be shooting off fireworks, I thought to myself.
Caitlyn Morocco

I completed the task of throwing out the trash, took one look back over my shoulder to see if anything else was out there, and walked back inside the house.

I went on with the mundane life of a suburban dad, not even bothering to log onto Facebook and ask my friends: “Did you see that?”

Apparently, other suburbanites who saw the same thing did turn to Facebook and Twitter. Some even called the national weather service.

I never said anything. Apparently, the Lyrid meteor shower will be one of the most visible this year.

The news of last week’s shooting star prompted news stories that reminded us that the Lyrid meteor shower will appear in the overnight skies of April 21-22.

So I’m urging my fellow suburbanites to get rid of the garbage that might be roiling our souls, and look up on the night of April 21-22 to see something beyond ourselves.

They say we are made of stardust. It is the celestial sight of perhaps a lifetime and barely said, “Huh-huh, that job is done?”

I was focused on taking out the garbage that might be roiling our souls, and looked up on the night of April 21-22 to see something beyond ourselves.

Maybe it is an urban legend, but I heard that when some twenty-sixes first saw the Milky Way, they were so freaked out by it that they made it a point to be inspired by the universe.

Thankfully, last month there will be a chance for us to look up and outward.

The night sky is not something we think about every so often. But sometimes we just have to look up and outward, to see something beyond ourselves that we might have not seen before.

Sometimes we’re so focused on ourselves that we fail to look outside ourselves.

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They say we are made of stardust. It is the celestial sight of perhaps a lifetime and barely said, “Huh-huh, that job is done?”

I was focused on taking out the garbage that might be roiling our souls, and looked up on the night of April 21-22 to see something beyond ourselves.

Maybe it is an urban legend, but I heard that when some twenty-sixes first saw the Milky Way, they were so freaked out by it that they made it a point to be inspired by the universe.

Thankfully, last month there will be a chance for us to look up and outward.

The night sky is not something we think about every so often. But sometimes we just have to look up and outward, to see something beyond ourselves that we might have not seen before.

They say we are made of stardust. It is
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School board divided on hiring tech coaches

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 board members and staff aren’t seeing eye-to-eye on a major component of a plan to prepare teachers for new state standards.

Staff members earlier this month made a presentation to the board on the proposed strategic plan and district priorities for next school year that included a recommendation to hire four instructional-technology coaches for $275,000.

Activities scheduled for the 2012-13 school year and the budget for those activities will be on the agenda at the April 23 board meeting.

Board members expressed concern with spending $275,000 for new technology coaches if there was no objective evidence that students would benefit from teachers receiving assistance from the coaches.

“I’m feeling the need to have measurable data,” said board member Sharon Lawson. “What I’m not seeing is how it’s helping the students.”

During the 2011-12 school year three technology coaches were added to three of the district’s schools as part of a pilot program.

Staff indicated in their presentation that the main objective for all staff next year is the implementation of Priority Standards/Common Core State Standards with technology integrated into the instruction of the new standards and the professional development needed to support the work.

During the presentation, board members expressed concern that the technology coaches are a critical part of professional development, providing data from a survey that showed teachers at pilot schools experienced a greater “significant” increase in technology use from last year to this year in comparison to teachers who did not have access to technology coaches. The survey also revealed that if given the chance next year, 75 percent of teachers at non-pilot schools have indicated they would take advantage of working with a coach.

Board members felt their survey was too subjective and didn’t provide measurable data that coaches were effective and the cost was justified.

“$275,000 for new technology coaches? I’m concerned about a permanent increase in head count,” board President John Heyde said of hiring four full-time coaches.

Heyde said he was satisfied with the survey and was not looking for more measurable data like other board members were.
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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Information is provided by Record Information Services, P.O. Box 894, Elburn IL 60119; phone (630) 557-1000; fax (630) 557-1001.

DE PLAINES

20 Fremont Court: Delta Property Investments LLC to Rizman A Durrani, $242,500, March 21
2426 Birch St.: Orh Cambridge Homes Inc to Gregory W Lewis Roxann Lewis, $286,000, March 21
301 Davis Court: Fannie Mae to Johnnie P Benavidez, $65,000, March 21

EDISON PARK

6632 N Onarga Ave.: Gerald N Walsh Estate to Nathan Roseberry Nicole Roseberry, $268,000, March 23
7321 W Greenleaf Ave.: Richard Pleines to Jamie M Napolitano Anthony V Napolitano, $243,000, March 23

GLENVIEW

1386 Bennington Court: Jim Ludovic to Mark Friedman Jessica Friedman, $995,000, March 21
1552 Greenwood Road: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Izebea Kowalik, $75,000, March 23
1966 Dewes St.: Jeffrey J Heaney to John Goodman Stacy Goodman, $965,000, March 21
3126 Greenbriar Drive: Fannie Mae to Robert Herzog Margaret Herzog, $270,000, March 23
3220 Thornberry Drive: Community Savings Bank Trustee to Beata Zdobyak, $50,000, March 16

Norridge

4852 N Orange Ave.: Irene Pleshkevych to Valerie Kuchero, $170,000, March 16
9349 N Leonard Ave.: Fannie Mae to Leah B минестерства, $150,000, March 23

NILES

6801 N Milwaukee Ave.: Apot: Federal National Mortgage Association to Jennifer Kolecki, $192,000, March 16
6811 N Milwaukee Ave.: Fannie Mae to Marcin Kabanski Anna Kabanski, $135,000, March 20

Park Ridge

3300 W Higgins Ave. Unit 405: Chicago Title Land Trust to Marcin Kozun, $40,000, March 21
7401 W Ardmore Ave.: Fannie Mae to Michael Imperatrice, $192,000, March 21

O’HARE

5107 N Chester Ave.: First National Bank to Stephen Letica Mallory Cepa, $135,000, March 23
5136 N Swanson Ave.: Unit 201: 200j Tax & Scavanerg Lic to Brian Specht, $225,000, March 22

PARK RIDGE

5142 N Normandy Ave.: Otoole Trust to Kathleen Rose Velt, $210,000, March 21
5245 N Osceola Ave.: Fannie Mae to Danielle Mocsari Kristyna Mocsari, $395,000, March 23

Sokie

10117 Old Orchard Court Unit 304: Federal National Mortgage Association to Sierra G Lisboa, $50,000, March 19
4159 Golf Road: Henderson Trust to Alma Hodzic, $140,000, March 21
4609 Brummel St.: Vishny Trust to Gurbachan Singh Kamlesh Kaur, $127,500, March 22
5117 Chase Ave.: Wells Fargo Bank Trustee to Elizabeth M Komperda, $188,000, March 16
7833 Karlov Ave.: Tc National Bank to Ursula Imran, $187,000, March 21
8548 Karlov Ave.: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Sharib Jamali, $165,000, March 21
8653 Central Park Ave.: Beatriz Medina Tamayo to Lourdes Tamayo Ricardo Marquez, $300,000, March 20

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HOT PROPERTIES BY ROB PISKAC

Exceptional space
Townhouse’s open floor plan has 3,500 square feet

9213 Nagle Ave., Morton Grove — $399,000

Constructed in 1999, this 3,500-square-foot townhouse features a drive-up two-car garage. Highlights of the kitchen include modern appliances, hardwood flooring and a window over the sink.

A vaulted ceiling is in the living room, which includes recessed lighting, decorative trim and sliding-glass doors to a patio.

The master bathroom is equipped with tile flooring, dual vanities and a jetted tub. Carpeted flooring lines the master bedroom and is accompanied by a vaulted ceiling with a fan.

The lower level has recessed lighting, carpeted flooring and an abundance of storage space.

This property is situated a mile from both the Golf and Morton Grove Metra stations.

Listing agent: Lynn Briskin, @properties, 847-732-0303, lynnbriskin@properties.com

Beds: 4

SOUND OFF

Q: What are some low-cost methods for improving my home’s curb appeal prior to selling?

A: Curb appeal can drive prices higher and sell your home in less time. Here are a few tips to improve your home’s curb appeal without breaking the bank:

1) Wash the exterior of your home. You can rent a power washer for under $100 and wash away all the grime and buildup from the winter on your siding, brick, windows and driveway. As simple as it sounds, a good cleaning can make things look fresh and new again.

2) Add a fresh coat of paint. Depending on your budget, you could hire someone to repaint your whole house or just paint the shutters and trim yourself.

3) Give your yard a manicure! A beautiful green lawn, fresh mulch and pruned shrubs can boost the curb appeal of any home. Planting a few flowers, adding mulch and mowing the lawn regularly can go a long way.

There are a lot of things you can do to improve your home’s curb appeal on any budget, and with these good tips, a little creativity and a whole lot of heart, you can spruce up your home and help it get sold faster.

— Helen Oliveri, Keller Williams Realty Partners, 847-967-0022, Helen@helenoliveri.com

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

<table>
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<th>City</th>
<th>For sale</th>
<th>Median price</th>
<th>Foreclosure rate</th>
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<th># of foreclosures</th>
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<td>32.75%</td>
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</table>

Source: Chicagoblockshopper.com. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.
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MAINE TOWNSHIP

Pipe-bomb suspects sought in trio of similar incidents

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
johnson@pioneerlocal.com

An investigation continues into who has been placing homemade explosive devices outside a condominium building in unincorporated Maine Township.

Three similar incidents have been reported since March 5 near the multi-family residence at 8688 Terrace Place, reported Cook County Sheriff's Police Deputy Cmdr. Anthony Brzezniak.

Brzezniak said someone placed a 2-liter bottle containing toilet-bowl cleaner and aluminum foil on the grounds of the condominium complex on March 5, 26 and 30. The mixing of the cleaning agent with the aluminum foil, when shaken, results in a chemical reaction, causing the bottles to explode, Brzezniak said. "We have a couple of suspects and the detectives are working on the case right now," Brzezniak said.

No injuries or property damage have been reported.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS

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

DRUG POSSESSION

Paul Lewis, 18, of the 8900 block of Robin Drive, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with possession of marijuana after he was approached by Golf-Maine Park District security at Dee Park on the 9200 block of Emerson Street.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Matthew Frym, 30, of the 7000 block of Birchwood, Niles, was charged with aggravated assault March 20 following an alleged road rage incident. According to police a 47-year-old Hoffman Estates man accused Frym of honking his horn repeatedly and then swerving at him in traffic. Both men reportedly parked their vehicles and exited on Golf Road near Western Avenue where the victim told police Frym threatened to cut him and retrieved an item he initially believed was a knife. The victim reportedly removed a black bar from his truck and Frym allegedly left the area, but was stopped several minutes later and taken into custody by police.

BATTERY

A 27-year-old man told police he was punched in the mouth on the afternoon of March 23 after he became involved in an argument with another man inside his residence on the 9200 block of North Knight Avenue. Police said the victim became angry after the man entered his bedroom.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

A vehicle was reported damaged March 31 at Crestwood condominiums and apartments on the 10000 block of Linda Lane.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

Burglary to vehicle reports were filed March 22 on the 9400 block of North Potter Road and March 12 on the 8900 block of Parkside Drive.

BURGLARY

A theft from a vehicle report was filed March 23 on the 9100 block of West Oaks Avenue.

HIT-AND-RUN

Hit-and-run accidents were reported March 24 at Ballard Road and Parkside Drive and March 31 at North Bumblebee Drive and Lady Bird Lane.

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SHERIFF'S POLICE

Gang members sought in Maine Township beating

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Cook County Sheriff's Police say a racial slur was directed at a 35-year-old man just before he was beaten by three men outside a residence in unincorporated Maine Township.

Police have identified two known area gang members as suspects in the beating, which occurred at 6:15 a.m. March 22 on the 8800 block of Darlington Street, north of Dempster Street, said Sheriff's Police Deputy Cmdr. Anthony Brzezniak.

Brzezniak said the victim, a resident of Skokie, had arrived in Maine Township to pick up his daughter when he was approached by three men, one of whom used a racial slur to refer to the victim.

The three men then allegedly "jumped" the victim and struck him in the head and face before they got into a vehicle and left the area, Brzezniak said.

The victim sought medical treatment at Evanston Hospital where he received eight stitches to his face, Brzezniak said.

Based on their investigation, police officers believe an 18-year-old Niles man and a 24-year-old Niles man, both described as self-admitted gang members, were involved in the beating, Brzezniak said.

The 18-year-old suspect was charged last summer in connection with the beating of another man in Niles.

No arrests were immediately made as police have not yet identified the suspects, Brzezniak said.

The police report did not indicate if the victim was known to have any gang affiliation, the commander added.

The location where the beating occurred is known territory of a local faction of an area street gang.

SHERIFF'S POLICE

Maine Township beating

Teen driver blames shoe in collision at Maine South

A loose shoe reportedly caused a one-car accident April 4 on the grounds of Maine South High School in Park Ridge.

A 17-year-old Park Ridge girl reportedly told police that her shoe partially came off while she was driving shortly after 8:30 a.m. on the school's rear driveway and as she attempted to put it back on, her 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee struck a minivan from behind. The minivan was stopped while unloading a passenger, police said.

No injuries were reported, but both vehicles sustained damage and were towed from the scene. No tickets were issued to the 17-year-old driver because the accident occurred on private property, police said.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICE

A 59-year-old Niles man reported that on April 11 on the 8900 block of Milwaukee Avenue, he loaned $2,500 to someone who agreed to pay him back in November 2011. The offender wrote the victim a check for $2,500, and it was deposited, but the check was returned due to insufficient funds.

POLICE BLOTTER

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

DEATH INVESTIGATION

A 39-year-old Mount Prospect man was found dead in his vehicle April 12 in a parking lot on the 8500 block of Golf Road. According to reports the man had sustained a laceration on his face and was taken to a retail store in Niles and then to his job in Evanston. His 34-year-old girlfriend, also of Mount Prospect, called Mount Prospect police and filed a missing-person report. Niles police said there was no indication of foul play.

THEFT

An unknown man, 25-35 years old, on April 12 reportedly stole electronic merchandise valued at $794 from a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road.

A 17-year-old from Morton Grove was arrested April 9 at Menard and Davis, and charged with retail theft. The suspect allegedly stole a pair of women's boots and undergarments from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center.

VANDALISM

On April 10 a Niles police officer found graffiti on the rear of a business office on the 8300 block of Golf Road. Police said the graffiti was not gang-related. Police were not sure when the graffiti was put on the building.

TRAFFIC OFFENSE

Brian Whittle, 45, of 7155 Lee St., was arrested April 10 at Waukegan and Keeney and charged with driving with a revoked license. He has a May 7 court date.

BATTERY

Carlos Gonzalez-Marin, 23, of 1939 Oakton, Park Ridge, was arrested April 8 on suspicion of aggravated battery after a fight at a liquor establishment on the 8500 block of Golf Road. Gonzalez-Marin allegedly cut a 22-year-old man from Prospect Heights with a razor. The victim reportedly suffered a laceration on the right side of his chest about 10 inches long.

ACCIDENT BRIEFS

Teen driver blames shoe in collision at Maine South

A loose shoe reportedly caused a two-car accident April 4 on the 8800 block of Dempster Street, just north of Dempster Street, said Sheriff's Police Deputy Cmdr. Anthony Brzezniak.

Brzezniak said a Maine South High School student was stopped while unloading a passenger, police said.

The offense driver blamed his shoe for the accident. A Loose shoe reportedly caused a one-car accident April 4 on the grounds of Maine South High School in Park Ridge.

A 17-year-old Park Ridge girl reportedly told police that her shoe partially came off while she was driving shortly after 8:30 a.m. on the school's rear driveway and as she attempted to put it back on, her 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee struck a minivan from behind. The minivan was stopped while unloading a passenger, police said.

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A Hall of Fame for regular people?

Every once in a while I'll receive an email announcing that some group — civic, or trade, or ethnic or whatever — is holding a dinner to honor an important person.

Often the person to be honored has little if anything to do with the group. But be she is well-known and may cause the email recipients to attend — and buy tickets for — the event.

It's harmless, really. And these awards dinners help fund worthy organizations.

But chances are the honorees at these dinners have been honored by someone else before, and will be honored by another someone else again. These are well-known, successful people. They are used to being honored.

What if — just for one year — all the organizations in America stopped honoring well-known, successful people and instead honored regular people?

Why honor regular people, you may ask?

Maybe regular people don't deserve to be honored. In fact, a recent survey I read stated that the average worker wastes two hours out of every eight-hour work day. Maybe that's right. Maybe it isn't.

A study I haven't seen though is about how many workers go into hock, or get a second job to send their kids to college. And I'd like to see another survey about how much time a mail carrier wastes when it's 84 degrees out and it's catalog day, or how much time a waitress wastes during the dinner rush.

The thing is, people goof off at work and people work hard at work. Work is performed by human beings and human beings do all kinds of things, whether they're at work or not.

Most people — I am convinced — do the best they can. They work hard and worry simultaneously. They call that multitasking.

The vast majority do their jobs in anonymity and with calamity only one serious illness away.

There is no dinner to honor them. There is no Sales Clerk Hall of Fame.

So, perhaps it might be a good idea, just once, for a civic group to honor an ordinary person. There would be plenty to honor, I bet. Just leading an ordinary decent life is extraordinary, particularly in these economic times. I have a hunch that it wouldn't be just the person honored who would be moved by such an occasion. Those who give also receive.

This probably isn't going to happen, though. There would be a financial risk. And whoever heard of a Hall of Fame for Regular People?

For one thing, how would members of the hall of fame be selected?

There would be way too many candidates.

Pioneer people poll

Today we introduce a weekly poll. Each Thursday we'll give the results and ask a new question. This week question comes from an item in Paul Sassone's column on this page.

How many hours do you waste each workday?

1. None
2. One
3. Two to four
4. Every hour except lunchtime

To submit your answer, visit highlandpark suntimes.com.
Shoes don’t fit, but bills keep filling up mailbox

Dear Fixer: Last spring, I ordered a pair of shoes from the Mason Shoe Company in Monroe, Wis. The shoes did not fit, so I returned them the next day with a check for $64.95 that they requested.

That was on June 23. I thought that was the end. The next month I received another bill. I called and was rudely told it was some sort of stocking fee. I’m not even sure what the exact language the lady used was. I mailed them a second check for $13.99 on Sept. 16.

They have continued to send me new bills every month. They now say I owe them $67. I mailed them a second check for $13.99 on the exact language the lady used was. I called and was rudely told it was some kind of handling fee (on top of the $7.95 you sent in last month) that was never paid.

By the end of last month, the account was racking up another $11.99 in late fees and finance charges.

The good news is that after we stepped in, the company agreed to make a one-time adjustment to your bill to wipe out your bill, which at that point had grown to $77.

Your story is a cautionary tale for anyone who have toughened their return policies, the slow, but their delay did prove costly.

Dear LaVerne: We're wondering — did you order shoes or apply for a juice loan?

Team Fixer found that apparently, there were some unpaid charges associated with Mason Shoe Co's financing plan that got out of hand. Your shoe purchase was $64.95 and you did return the shoes within the 120-day window for returns.

But the Mason customer service rep we spoke with said there was a shipping and handling fee (on top of the $7.95 you sent in the beginning) that was never paid.

Accounts that aren’t up to date get zapped with a monthly late fee of $10 plus a finance charge of $1. So, even after you sent them that $13.99, you were still behind, and each month the account was racking up another $11.99 in late fees and finance charges.

Dear Fixer: Are there any free document shredding services in the Chicago area?

Thank you. I love reading your column.

Nubia Tapia

Dear Nubia: You can shred to your heart's content (well, up to 10 boxes full of stuff) at the big annual free “Shred It and Forget It” event from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 23 at the United Center, parking lot E. The event is sponsored by the Better Business Bureau, along with the City of Chicago, Chicago Police Department, FBI, Federal Trade Commission, Illinois Attorney General’s Office, and United States Postal Inspection Service.

This is a great way to safely get rid of old, unneeded personal and financial documents. You can also bring old or broken TVs, monitors, laptops, PCs, servers, data storage devices, printers, fax/copy machines, cell phones, VCRs, DVD players, video cameras, and game consoles for recycling and safe disposal.

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Save on phone bills

The nonprofit Citizens Utility Board will hold six free phone bill clinics this month to help consumers potentially save hundreds of dollars each year.

Attendees should bring their phone bills for a personal analysis. Here is the schedule and the phone numbers to register:

- Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., 1 p.m. April 23, (847) 929-5101
- Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., 10 a.m. April 24, (847) 256-5025
- Wilmette Public Library, 6950 Oakton St., 1:30 p.m. April 24, (847) 663-1234
- Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., 1 p.m. April 25, (847) 729-7500
- Naperville Public Library, 200 W. Jefferson, 6:30 p.m. April 26, (630) 637-6328
- Cary Public Library, 1600 Three Oaks Road, 10 a.m. April 27, (847) 639-4210

For more information, visit CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

Costly lesson

Today's lesson begins with a confession. The Fixer got a digital video camera as a gift in December 2010 and didn't take it out of its box till last month.

Not smart.

Fixer readers Ed and Sandi weren't quite as slow, but their delay did prove costly.

Last May, they bought a decorative box frame to commemorate their daughter's coming graduation. It had room for the diploma and the mortar board tassel and would look great on a wall.

But as luck would have it, their daughter didn't get her degree till September. When they attempted to mount the tassel in the frame, they found it didn't fit. The frame also looked cheap and was falling apart.

They went back to the store but were told they couldn't return the frame because too much time had passed. Also, the store no longer carried that item. Like many retailers who have toughened their return policies, the store would not budge.

At least it was only a frame. The Fixer has heard from others who have bought expensive items, and for whatever reason waited until after the return period to open them. Items like a digital video camera, which luckily for The Fixer, is working just fine.

Contributing: Mike Nolan.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem? Tell it to The Fixer at www.pioneerlocal.com/fixer, where you'll find a simple form to fill out. Or, you can mail a brief description of your problem, along with your name, address and telephone number, to: The Fixer, 3701 W. Lake Ave, Glenview IL 60026.

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Percentage savings is on labor only
Callaways sing the ’60s and ’70s

BY DONALD LIEBENSON
Contributor

Coming of the age in the Chicago area in the 1960s and 70s, Ann Hampton Callaway was a little bit Joni Mitchell, while sister Liz was a little bit Petula Clark. Ann wanted to be the fifth Beatle. Liz wanted to be the 6th Dimension.

But they both loved Carole King, and how music cemented their sisterly bond and wove the tapestry of their lives is at the heart of “BOOM!” the autobiographical show they will perform April 21 at Skokie’s North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

The Callaways need no introduction, especially among these parts. The former Chicago and Winnetka residents are celebrated Tony Award-nominated actresses and acclaimed songwriters and entertainers, both solo and together.

But “BOOM!” an explosion of baby boomer nostalgia, is their most personal show, with often poignant reminiscences of their childhood played against a riot of songs from the soundtrack of their childhood that span the silly (“Sugar Sugar,” the theme from “Batman”) to the sublime (“Yesterday”).

Oldie favorites

The show is an outgrowth of “The Beat Goes On,” Liz’s CD of songs from the ’60s. “I’ve always had an affinity for the music of that era without necessarily exploring the reasons why these songs so resonated with me,” she said in a phone interview. “When you’re a kid, you don’t know why you like a song; you just do. Ann and I were talking about doing a new show together and the music we used to listen to. It seemed like the perfect fit.”

Ann and Liz are three years apart. “We were very different,” Liz said. “Ann, the eldest, was more of a poet and was introspective. I was a sports nut and a tomboy. We had our own rooms and our own stereo sets. We listened to our own music. But loving music was our common bond.”

“Carole King was a major link,” Ann agreed in a separate phone interview, “and one of the major themes of the show is that while we both loved different music, it is through music that we found each other.”

“BOOM!” is not a jukebox musical, but it is packed with era-defining songs by the Beatles, Bob Dylan (“Blowin’ in the Wind”), Stevie Wonder (“You are the Sunshine of My Life”), Nancy Sinatra (“These Books Were Made for Walkin’”), and other AM radio staples of the tumultuous era.

One of the highlights of the show for both sisters is a back-seat-of-the-car medley, featuring songs the girls used to “irritate” their father (the late, legendary broadcaster John Callaway) with during family car trips. “He wanted to listen to Mantovani,” Ann laughed, “but we wanted to listen to Top 40.”

Their fans grew up with those songs too, so “the great fun of doing this show,” Ann said, “is the audience reaction. One compliment we get is, ‘Wow, I never really heard the words before.’”

Home again

Since premiering “BOOM!” to rapturous reviews at New York’s Town Hall in 2010, the Callaways have performed the show across the country. Saturday’s performance marks the show’s Chicago-area premiere.

It’s a homecoming both eagerly awaited. “There’s nothing better,” Liz said. “Chicago will always be home to us and I always love performing here. There’s always a great connection with the audience. They get us, they really get us.”

There is a palpable respect for each other’s singular talents, and the harmonious blending of their voices. “I like to say that Liz has a siren voice and I have a moonlit voice,” Ann said. “When you put them together it’s like the color of twilight, a beautiful new voice born out of a lifetime of experience and love and the joy of doing something together.

After the ups and downs of our lives, being able to stand on a stage and love each other and love the audience, and love these great songs is a profound joy.”
School smarts pay off in ‘Phantom Tollbooth’

By Myrna Petlicki
Contributor

Milo makes a smart move when he journeys to the Kingdom of Wisdom in Devonshire Young Performers’ “The Phantom Tollbooth Jr.”

“I love, love, love the book,” said Jessica Sawyer, who directs 20 third-through-seventh-graders in the musical based on Norton Juster’s classic children’s novel. “I think it has a really good message for this age group.”

When the show begins, Milo is totally bored.

“He thinks everything is pointless, especially school,” Sawyer said. “Then he goes on a crazy adventure in this other world and, all of a sudden, he needs things like math and reading to save this world. He realizes all these things do have value and life is not as boring as he thought it was.”

Performances are 7 p.m. April 27, 3 and 7 p.m. April 28, and 3 p.m. April 29, at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Tickets are $9 to $11.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400, or visit skokieparks.org.

Fancy footwork

The speed and artistry of the skaters from the Park Ridge Park District’s skating programs will be highlighted at the 2012 Oakton Ice Show, “Double Loop Diner” at 7 p.m. Friday, 1:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Oakton Ice Arena, 2800 Oakton. If they are available, three Olympic medalist skaters will perform. Tickets are $8.

For details, call (847) 692-5127 or visit prparks.org.

A cut above the rest

Kids age 8 and older and adults will learn the art of paper cutting, and make cornucopias and other items during Victorian Paper Crafts, 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Skokie Heritage Museum, 8031 Floral Ave. The cost is $6 for residents, $7 for nonresidents.

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

Who’s there?

An aviator who crashes in the desert finds a strange companion in Rick Cummins and John Scoullar’s adaptation of “The Little Prince,” Antoine de Saint-Exupery’s classic tale. Performances are at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Josephine Louis Theater, Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Tickets are $10 to $25.

For details, call (847) 491-7282 or visit tic.northwestern.edu.

Pick ‘em

Families have fun when the Boogers are on-stage, so don’t miss their Kids Concert Series at the Mette performance, 10 a.m. Saturday at the Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave. The group performs original rock ‘n’ roll for kids. Tickets are $10 in advance, $12 at the door.

For details, call (847) 251-7424 or visit wilmettebeshire.com.
MOVIE REVIEW

**THINK LIKE A MAN**  
* * 1/2

There's not really a lot of deep thought going on about male/female relationships or anything else in "Think Like a Man," a reasonably entertaining romantic comedy aimed at women (though it was written and directed by men), as it basically defaults to a battle-of-the-sexes scenario.

It's a sneaky, double-dealing, ideological sort of warfare, more along the lines of espionage than full-tilt combat, but it still reduces romantic relationships to the same old no-rules, winner-take-all, struggle-for-dominance mindset, which is kind of a shame. New ideas would be welcome. "Think Like a Man" underscores sexist cliches about both men and women and seems to take it for granted that they should exist in armed camps on opposite sides of the gender divide. It's a comedy, though, fortunately, so the losers (the men, of course) are happy to lay down their arms in the interest of true love and everyone lives happily ever after.

At least until the rematch in divorce court.

One odd thing about "Think Like a Man" is that it was executive-produced and co-written by comedian-radio personality-game show host Steve Harvey, based on his own best-selling book of apparently more-or-less serious relationship advice: *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*. The idea of the book being that women will never win in the game of love until they can learn to think like ... their opponents.

In one sense, the film is a feature-length infomercial for the book. Harvey appears intermittently, either dispensing romantic advice in talk-show interviews or in filmed inserts between scenes, giving the inside scoop on the male animal: "We're kind of like dogs; put us and we'll be loyal to you forever."

In another, it's a fully functional romance in which career woman Lauren (Taraji P. Henson), single mom Candace (Regina Hall), frequently dumped Mya (Meagan Good) and frustrated fiancee Kristen (Gabrielle Union) use the secrets in Harvey's book to manipulate the men in their lives. Which works fine until non-committer Jeremy (Jerry Ferrara), dreamer Dominic (Michael Ealy), player Zeke (Romany Malco) and mama's boy Michael (Terrence Jenkins) find out about the book and turn the tables — for awhile, anyway. All this with happily divorced (or is he?) Cedric (comic Kevin Hart) providing outraged color commentary from the sidelines.

"Think Like a Man" is at its best in those moments when the demands of promoting Harvey's book (with dramatized case studies such as "The Mama's Boy vs. the Single Mom" and "The Non-Committer vs. the Woman Who Wants a Ring") slip into the background and the likable cast can relax and let chemistry take over and make the most of the film's snappy-patter script (co-written by the male co-authors of last year's "Friends With Benefits"). Director Tim Story scored his biggest hits with the "Fantastic Four" and its 2007 sequel, but "Think Like a Man" has much more in common with his best, 2002's "Barbershop," with its warm ensemble somehow accommodating dialogue that sounded like standup comedy.

"Think Like a Man" is nowhere near as good as "Barbershop," but it is frequently funny, especially when it's taking potshots at Tyler Perry movies. And it's nice that, while the lion's share of the laugh lines go to Hart (who's quite good as the apoplectic Cedric), Harvey gives most of the characters a few nice zingers — including the women.

In fact, Jennifer Lewis, who plays the formidable mother of mama's boy Michael, may get in the best shot when she hears about Harvey's book and is mightily unimpressed. "Oh yeah," she sniffs. "He's that big-head boy who's on "Family Feud."

A 'Think'-less job

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

Meagan Good, La La Anthony and Romany Malco are featured in "Think Like a Man," a film adapted from Steve Harvey's book.
FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY

CHIMPANZEE
Rated: G
Stars: Tim Allen
A 3-year-old chimp separated from his troop is adopted by a full-grown male in this Disney Nature documentary. Film and sitcom star Allen narrates.

THE LUCKY ONE
Rated: PG-13 for some sexuality and violence
Stars: Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling, Blythe Danner
After three tours in Iraq, a marine (Efron) travels to North Carolina in search of the young woman he believes was his good-luck charm. Scott Hicks ("Shine," "Snow Falling on Cedars") directed the romance.

THINK LIKE A MAN
Rated: PG-13 for sexual content, some crude humor and brief drug use
Stars: Chris Brown, Kevin Hart, Gabrielle Union
After reading comedian Steve Harvey's relationship advice book, four women change their game plan with the men in their lives. Tim Story ("Fantastic Four," "Barbershop") directed.

STILL PLAYING

AMERICAN REUNION
Rated: R for crude and sexual content throughout, nudity, language, drug use and some drug material
Stars: Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott
While creative dividends have diminished steadily in the "American Pie" franchise, box office returns have not - hence this predictable but charming entry. Fortunately, Eugene Levy is still around to make things work.

BULLY
Rated: PG-13
Stars: Alex Libby, Kelby Johnson, J'Maya Jackson
This controversial, activist documentary sets aside balanced, even-handed objectivity for an uncomfortably personal view of how it feels to be bullied, and the devastating effect it can have on the lives of young people and their families. Emmy-winning director Lee Hirsch ("Amandla!") examines the stories of five bullied kids (two driven to suicide), including shocking footage of a 12-year-old being beaten and ridiculed on the daily bus ride to school.

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS
Rated: R for strong bloody horror violence and gore, language, drug use and some nudity/nudity
Stars: Anna Hutchison, Chris Hemsworth, Kristen Connolly
This knowing, frequently brilliant, thoroughly entertaining meta-parody of horror-movie tropes from debut director Drew Goddard and co-writer Joss Whedon ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer") dazzles with the sheer ambition of its conceit. Five teens visit a spooky cabin in the woods for a little illicit fun - and run into something far, far worse than just your run-of-the-mill dismembering monsters. A must-see for genre fans with strong stomachs who appreciate a good, deconstruction laugh.

CASA DE MI PADRE
Rated: R 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.

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 proficient 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 teenagers can survive. As likely to satisfy fans as it is to sweep along newcomers.

TITANIC
Rated: PG-13 for disaster-related peril and violence, nudity, sensuality and brief language
Stars: Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet
Writer-director James Cameron's Oscar-winning, record-setting box-office smash rises from the depths for another fateful voyage: this time in 3-D.

21 JUMP STREET
Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, drug material, teen drinking and some violence
Stars: Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
This at-times-inspired parody of the late-'80s TV show that launched Johnny Depp is considerably better than you might expect - despite being rude, politically incorrect and insanely violent. The directors of "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" make the most of the surprising chemistry between Hill and Tatum as mismatched undercover partners.

### 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) 258-7258

#### Damselfly in Distress (PG-13)

Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-8-10:10; Mon-Thu 3-5:30-8

#### Deep Blue Sea (R)

Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50; Mon-Thu 2:50-5:20-7:50

#### Lady (NR)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2-15-5:10-8:10; Mon-Thu 2:15-5:10-8:10

#### Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG-13)

Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:40-8:15; Mon-Thu 2:40-5:40-8:15

#### The Footnote (PG)

Fri-Sun 12:30-5:30-7:30; Mon-Thu 2:30-5:30

#### Norridge

**4250 Harlem Ave., Norridge**

(888) 262-4368

#### The Lucky One (PG-13)

Fri 2:30-5:45-8:15-10:10; Sat 11:45-2:30-5:45-8:15; Sun 11:45-2:30-5:45-8:15; Mon-Thu 5:45-8:15

#### Think Like a Man (PG-13)

Fri 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20; Sat 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20; Sun 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20; Mon-Thu 4:50-7:30

#### The Cabin in the Woods (R)


#### The Three Stooges (PG)


#### American Reunion (R)

Fri 1:35-4:05-6:35-9:10; Sat 11:05-1:35-4:05-6:35-9:10; Sun 11:05-1:35-4:05-6:35; Mon-Thu 4:05-6:35

#### Mirror Mirror (PG)

Fri 1:30-4:00-7:30; Sat 11:50-2:50-5:50-8:50-11:50; Sun 11:50-2:50-5:50-8:50-11:50

#### Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax (PG)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2:05-4:25-7:05-9:20; Mon-Wed 11:30-2:05-4:25-7:05-9:20

#### The Five-Year Engagement (R)

Fri 11:45-2:40-5:45-8:45-11:45; Sat 11:45-2:40-5:45-8:45-11:45; Sun 11:45-2:40-5:45-8:45-11:45

#### The Hunger Games in 3-D (PG-13)

Fri 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10; Sat 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10; Sun 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10

#### The Hunger Games in D-Box (PG-13)

Fri 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10; Sat 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10; Sun 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10

#### The Three Stooges (PG)

Fri 12:40-3:50-6:30-9:10; Sat 11:30-2:50-5:30-8:10; Sun 11:30-2:50-5:30-8:10; Mon-Thu 2:50-5:30-8:10

#### The Cabin in the Woods (R)

Fri 11:45-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30; Sat 11:45-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30; Sun 11:45-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30

#### The Pirates! Band of Misfits in 3-D (PG)

Fri-Sun 11:45-2:45-5:45-8:45-11:45; Mon-Wed 11:45-2:45-5:45-8:45-11:45

#### The Five-Year Engagement in 3-D (PG)

Fri-Sun 11:45-2:45-5:45-8:45-11:45; Mon-Wed 11:45-2:45-5:45-8:45-11:45

#### Titanic in 3-D (PG-13)

Fri-Sun 11:45-2:45-5:45-8:45-11:45; Mon-Wed 11:45-2:45-5:45-8:45-11:45

#### The Hunger Games (PG-13)

Fri, Sat 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10; Sun 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10

#### The Hunger Games (PG)

Fri, Sat 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10; Sun 11:20-2:10-5:10-8:10

#### The Lucky One (PG-13)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30

#### The Lucky One (PG-13)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30

#### Think Like a Man (PG-13)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30

#### Think Like a Man (PG-13)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30

#### The Three Stooges (PG)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30

#### The Three Stooges (PG)

Fri-Sun 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:30

#### Safe (R)

Sat 12:01 a.m.

#### The Five-Year Engagement (R)

Sat 12:01 a.m.

#### The Five-Year Engagement (R)

Sat 12:01 a.m.

#### Safe (R)

Sat 12:01 a.m.

#### The Five-Year Engagement (R)

Sat 12:01 a.m.

#### Safe (R)

Sat 12:01 a.m.
**NEW ON VIDEO**

**This 'Mission' is indelible**

**BY BRUCE INGRAM**

*Film Critic*

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**ERNE KOVACS: THE ABC SPECIALS**

**★★★★**

Stars: Ernie Kovacs, Joe McKelas, Maggi Brown  
*This single-disc collection assembles the ABC-TV specials that Kovacs created during the 1961 TV season, including the show he had completed shortly before the car accident that took his life. All are included in Shout! Factory's excellent 2011 "Ernie Kovacs Collection," but this release serves as an excellent primer for anyone unfamiliar with the work of this pioneering comic genius, whose gently surreal sketches paid homage to much that was classic (including the silent comedy of Keaton and Chaplin), and foreshadowed much that was to come, from "Laugh-In" to "Monty Python's Flying Circus."*

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL**

**★★★½**

Rated: PG-13 for sequences of intense action and violence  
*Stars: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Paula Patton  
The fourth installment in the Cruise-driven "Mission: Impossible" series is the most solidly entertaining of the lot, thanks to the energy and inventiveness and (above all) the humor of super-talented animation director Brad Bird ("The Iron Giant," "The Incredibles") in his live-action debut. The plot's nothing special — another mad Russian who's stolen a batch of nuclear launch codes — but Bird keeps "Ghost Protocol" hurtling along and enormously fun throughout while running Cruise through some truly spectacular, death-defying stunts.*

**RECENT RELEASES**

**INTO THE ABYSS**

**★★★½**

Rated: PG-13 for mature thematic material and some disturbing images  
*Think like A Man* is a film that explores the dynamics of relationships and the struggles of modern men and women. It delves into themes of love, commitment, and the challenges that arise in intimate partnerships. The movie is known for its honest portrayal of the complexities of romantic relationships and its exploration of gender roles and expectations. The film stars several well-known actors, including Eric Bana, Taylor Swift, and Denzel Washington, who bring their unique talents to the screen in this thought-provoking drama.*

**THE IRON LADY**

**★★½**

Rated: PG-13 for some violent images and brief nudity  
*This biographical documentary examines the life and career 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."*

**ALSO NEW**

**BILL MOYERS CAPITOL CRIMES**

*This PBS documentary explores the life and career of the master spy, a leading agent of the CIA who ultimately turned against the agency and testified before Congress about its activities, from the perspective of his son.*

**SHAME**

*The life of a young man (Michael Fassbender) in New York City which has been carefully ordered to facilitate his sexual addiction, becomes unraveled when his wayward younger sister (Carrie Mulligan) comes to live with him. Steve McQueen ("Hunger") co-wrote and directed the drama. Rated NC-17 for some explicit sexual content.*

**FROZEN PLANET**

*This BBC/Discovery Channel co-production, four years in the making, explores the world's polar regions in a seven-part documentary series. Cinematography from the team that made "Planet Earth" includes footage taken beneath the sea ice and inside an erupting polar volcano.*

**THE MAN NOBODY KNEW: IN SEARCH OF MY FATHER, CIA SPYMASTER WILLIAM COLBY**

*This biographical documentary explores the life and career of the master spy, a leading agent of the CIA who ultimately turned against the agency and testified before Congress about its activities, from the perspective of his son.*

**NEX WEEK**

*After a long and illustrious career, Alec Guinness enjoyed one of his greatest successes in the 1979 Brit-TV mini-series "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," finally making its Blu-ray debut.*
Marc Yaffee show benefits Mitchell Museum

BY DAN PEARSON
Contributor

When he got in trouble as a kid, comedian Marc Yaffee recalls his parents joking that, "if you don't behave we're going to give you back to the Indians."

Today he comments, "Maybe I should have acted up sooner."

Adopted at birth by a Jewish-American father and a Mexican mother, it wasn't until he was 25 that Yaffee was contacted by his birth mother, and learned that he came from a mixed background that included Scotch-Irish, German, Aztec and Navajo bloodlines.

Proud of roots

"It was a positive step for me finding my roots and getting involved with folks from that background and culture," he said. "I'm kind of hard to pigeonhole but I'm proud to represent Native American stand-up."

He'll bring that comedy to a benefit performance for Evanston's Mitchell Museum of the American Indian on April 22 at Chicago's Heartland Cafe. Yaffee, 51, is one of the founders of the Pow Wow Comedy Jam. His solo DVDs include "Joke Signals" and "Locked and Loaded."

In 2009, Yaffee was featured in a Showtime comedy special "Goin' Native: American Indian Comedy Slam." That performance caught the attention of Kathleen McDonald, the executive director of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, who helped bring him on board for this benefit.

"We are trying to really reach out to more Native performers that work on a national scale. Comedy seemed like a good thing to do," said McDonald, an Evanston native. "Marc also talked about his mixed background and diversity and I think that will resonate with people across the board."

As will his humor, she noted. "There are a lot of really downer stories about the American Indian community, but if you get to know the people, a lot of them have an incredible sense of humor."

Yaffee said he always suspected he was part Indian. "It was validating to have an answer. I always had a compulsion to play the drums, but my mom wouldn't have them in the house," he said.

No luck

On the other hand, Yaffee said he has terrible luck gambling at Native casinos, and when he visits Navajo pueblos he doesn't get a discount on buying blankets or jewelry. "Never," he said. "They charge me double. They think I'm rich."

Yaffee says his stand-up comedy is "pretty down to earth. I basically call my comedy, A.D.D. comedy, because I'm jumping around from family to relationships to a little bit of politics and Native American issues and anything else that pops into my head."

One of Yaffee's routines describes his plans to launch the Teepee TV cable channel where the programming will include such fare as "Whose Land Is It Anyway?" and "Wheel of Misfortune."

"Slowly we are working on the Taking Back Manhattan Project," Yaffee added.

Yaffee said his performance at the Heartland Cafe will be "a smorgasbord of laughs," and plans to make it a good day for the museum and for his audience.

"I think laughter is a healing medicine," he said. "I know firsthand I can always use more laughter in my life and I think it's something we all need on a regular basis."

--

Marc Yaffee

Benefit for Evanston's Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
Heartland Cafe, 7000 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago 5 p.m. April 22
Tickets are $12; $10 for museum members
Reservations at (847) 475-1030 or email visitor.services@mitchellmuseum.org. More information at www.laughwithmarc.com
Merry ‘Pirates’ a high-energy treasure

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES

It’s not your high school Gilbert & Sullivan, nor like any other you’ve ever seen. Marriott Theatre’s production of “The Pirates of Penzance” is so full of laughs, songs, vigorous dances and glorious costumes that all past stagings, professional and amateur, pale by comparison.

Directed by Dominic Misstmi, the show starts with 10 pirates invading the stage in search of a glass of sherry. Yes, sherry, not rum! These are no ordinary pirates that becomes more and more obvious as the show goes on.

Matt Raftery’s athletic choreography suggests that when not looting ships at sea, this crew is working out below deck. They leap from nautical ladders, their Jack Sparrow-like Pirate King, Kevin Earley, swings in on a rope, and they jump and tear about Marriott’s square stage with unrivaled energy.

Like all G&S plots, this story is a satire, spoofing the Victorian notion of duty above all. Young Frederic has been apprenticed to pirates since he was a boy, but is to be released on his 21st birthday. His nurse, Ruth, is the only woman he has ever seen.

Before Frederic leaves the pirates, with whom he has bonded like brothers, Ruth confesses that she was, years ago, told to apprentice him to a pilot, but she mistakenly heard pirate. So his presence among them was one big mistake, and, in fact, when he is released he becomes duty-bound to curtail their nefarious activities.

Frederic is played by Omar Lopez Cepero, who is a hero straight from central casting — sweet-faced, with unrivaled energy. Like all G&S plots, this story is a satire, spoofing the Victorian notion of duty above all. Young Frederic has been apprenticed to pirates since he was a boy, but is to be released on his 21st birthday. His nurse, Ruth, is the only woman he has ever seen.

Before Frederic leaves the pirates, with whom he has bonded like brothers, Ruth confesses that she was, years ago, told to apprentice him to a pilot, but she mistakenly heard pirate. So his presence aboard a small rowboat — on wheels. There they encounter six of the seven lovely daughters of the Major General, who, in full bustle, are carrying pastel parasols and enjoying the salubrious sea breezes.

Then the seventh daughter, Mabel (Patricia Noonan) arrives. She and Frederic instantly fall in love and she grudgingly forgives him for his pirate past. In her song “Poor Wandering One,” Noonan exhibits a splendid soprano voice and hits all high notes and embellishments with aplomb.

Chicago’s own delightful Ross Lehman plays the Major General. Lehman wears a red coat, a kilt, and carries a red parasol, his shoes covered by impeccably white puttees. He’s a lovable dandy, and delivers “Modern Major General” with the required high speed and agility.

Lest the course of Mabel and Frederic’s love run too smooth, the pirates discover a loophole that will force...
Ross Lehman as the Major General, with the cast of "The Pirates of Penzance."

the dutiful young man to do his duty and remain their apprentice for another 63 years. Mabel, of course, vows she will be true to him until then.

There's plenty of confusion and comic mayhem as Frederic now finds himself on the wrong side of an attack he organized to put the pirates out of business. Trust me, you've never seen "Pirates" so wild and alive, as it merrily pokes fun at the Western world's conventions of family, love and most of all duty.

"The Hangover" and "Bridesmaids" level of hysterical!"

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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-$40. Call (773) 283-7071 or visit www.nexttheatre.org.

"The Cherry Orchard," presented by Piccolo Cabaret Theatre through May 5 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Curtain at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $25; $22 seniors; $15 students. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolotheatre.com.

"After the Revolution," presented by Next Theatre through May 13 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. $30-$40; $15-$20 for Young Adult (ages 25 and younger) and students. Call (647) 475-1675 or visit www.nexttheatre.org.

"The Cherry Orchard," presented by Piccolo Cabaret Theatre through May 5 at the Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston. Curtain at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $25; $22 seniors; $15 students. Call (847) 424-0089 or visit www.piccolotheatre.com.

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

"Figments," a farce that celebrates writer's block and the power of the imagination, will be presented by the Saint Sebastian Players April 27-May 20 at St. Bonaventure, 1625 W. Divisadero, Chicago. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $15; $10 for students; $7 for children younger than 12 and senior citizens. Call (773) 404-7922 or visit www.saintsebastianplayers.org.

"The Light in the Piazza" will be presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre through May 20 at the No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood, Chicago. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $15; $10 for students; $7 for children younger than 12 and senior citizens. Call (773) 404-7922 or visit www.saintsebastianplayers.org.

"The Rest Unknown: how to live and how to die," through May 8 at 5346 W. Lawrence, Chicago. Genesis Ensemble, a Chicago theater and performance company, has taken over three empty storefronts in Jefferson Park to lead an interactive tour of art and performance inspired by Maira Kalman's book, The Principles of Uncertainty. Space is limited to 12 people per tour. Tickets should be booked in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/224711. For information, visit www.genesisensemble.org.

CLASSICAL

Bach Week Festival, featuring the Bach Week Festival Orchestra, Chorus and soloists, will be presented by the Saint Sebastian Players April 27-May 20 at Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $25; $15 for previews, at 7:30 p.m. April 21, 22, 24 and 25. Call (847) 866-8049 or visit www.piventhemlre.org.

"My Dead Irish Mother," presented as part of Words and Music, a concert reading series of new musicals in progress, 7:30 p.m. April 23 at Light Opera Works Second Stage, 1420 Maple (at Lake), Evanston. $15. Call (847) 920-5360.

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SEE 60, PAGE 186
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—Hedy Weiss, Chicago Sun-Times

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TIME STANDS STILL
By Pulitzer Prize-winner Donald Margulies
Directed by ensemble member Austin Pendleton

After barely surviving a bomb blast in Iraq, photojournalist Sarah Goodwin finds herself caught in a tug of war between her career and the quiet of domestic life. In a script The New York Times says “crackles with bright wit and intelligence,” this Broadway-hit play provides a poignant and thought-provoking look at love, loss and acceptance in a story of four characters finding their way.

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Center stage suits Chicago Philharmonic musicians

By Dorothy Andries
Contributor

A maestro who conducts for the Joffrey Ballet, an orchestra with members from the Lyric Opera orchestra and a soloist who is Lyric's concertmaster will all have a chance to get out of the pit Sunday evening.

Scott Speck, who for the last three years has conducted the Chicago Sinfonietta for Joffrey performances at the Auditorium Theatre, will lead the Chicago Philharmonic at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall on Northwestern University's Evanston campus.

One soloist, Robert Hanford of Evanston, is concertmaster of the Lyric Orchestra that plays at the Civic Opera House.

'There is a pool of my fellow musicians from Lyric in this orchestra,' Hanford said. 'It is good for us to come up and sit on the stage for a change.'

Scott Speck

Two soloists

The program includes Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and the composer's overture to "Fidelio," his only opera. Hanford will be soloist in Camille St. Saens' "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso," and Rex Martin, principal tuba in the Chicago Philharmonic, will solo in Ralph Vaughan Williams' Tuba Concerto.

Speck grew up in Boston, graduated from Yale University and was a Fulbright Scholar for two years in Berlin. "During that time I joined the chorus of the Berlin Philharmonic," he said. "We were conducted by Herbert von Karajan, and I became aware of how important it was for ensembles to breathe together, to perform as one. That experience was one of
the biggest and most lasting influences in my life.”
Certainly breathing together is crucial in choral work, but it is also one of the most powerful aspects of a chamber music concert. “Those groups play like an organism, as if they were one unit and it makes the performance so exciting,” he said.
“I try to accomplish that same sense of intimacy and unity when I conduct an orchestra,” he continued. “I want the players to watch me, of course, but I want them to be looking at each other also, aware of what is happening.
“Just as a male dancer partners the ballerina, holding her waist lightly, helping her spin, making her look good,” he said, drawing on his Joffrey experience, “so the orchestra should give active but subtle accompaniment to the soloists. All the eyes should be on the soloist, but we should be there, assisting him or her.”
That requires a degree of attentiveness Speck calls “being on the edge.”

Chicago Philharmonic

‘SPECKTACULAR BEETHOVEN’

The Chicago Philharmonic, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston
7 p.m. April 22
$20-$75
Visit www.chicagophilharmonic.org or call (847) 866-6888

Iron man
Each summer he spends two weeks at the Birch Creek Music Festival in Wisconsin’s Door County and four weeks at the Aspen Music Festival in the Colorado Rockies.
And Hanford has possibly one of the most interesting hobbies of any musician. “I have a forge in my back yard in Evanston,” he said, “so I spend two weeks every summer studying with a blacksmith.”
This endeavor is not unrelated to his life as a professional musician. “I enjoy it, but it is also very good for keeping up the strength in my arms,” he said.
Order your tickets TODAY to experience the story of Grammy Award winner Marvin Gaye. Previews start May 11, show opens May 20. Reserve tickets by phone at 773.769.4451, through TICKETMASTER, or online at blackensemble.org.

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CANTOR AND KLEZMER

A Yom Ha’atzmaut concert, featuring Chazan Alberto Mizrahi, cantor at Chicago’s Anshe Emeth Synagogue, will be accompanied by musicians from the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, takes place at 7:30 p.m. April 25 at Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A.G. Beth Israel, 7117 N. Crawford Ave., Lincolnwood. Tickets are $25; $15 for youth under 18 and under. Call (847) 676-0491 or see ljcong.org.


The Lakeside Singers will present “The Fabulous ’60s” at 8 p.m. April 20 in Nichols Concert Hall at The Music Institute of Chicago, 1690 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The classical first half of the concert will feature music by Tchaikovsky’s 18-B 18th, Brahms and Verdi (1880). The final feature popular music from the 1960s. $40; $20 for students; $10 for children under 12. Visit www.lakesidesingers.com.

Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave. in Rogers Park. (847) 885-4544. www.maynestage.com. April 20-21, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.: Cabaret vocalist presents “Judy at Carnegie Hall.” $30 general admission; $35 reserved. April 22, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.: An Intimate Evening with Eddie Palmieri Quartet (salsa and Latin jazz). $40-$68. April 26, 9 p.m.: Alternative him-hop duo The Knux. $15.

Regeant Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 467-4000. www.regentchicago.org. May 4: Memorial to Martin Luther King Jr. with the Paul Vermel Young Artist Ensemble, “Pannonica,” and Mimi Peterson. $26; $13 for students and seniors; $14 for students and seniors.

ART GALLERIES


Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. (847) 674-1500. Through April 24: “Nickerson Room; $35 general admission; $22 for students and seniors; $10 for students.

Northwestern Illinois University, Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. (773) 442-6133. Through May 15: “40 Years of Excellence: A Gallery of Painting and Sculpture,” featuring work by and for the arts.


Auditions & Opportunities

Artists and craft artists are invited to participate in the 2012 InterContinental Chicago O’Hare Art & Crafts Adventure, presented by the American Society of Artists from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 1-2 at the InterContinental Chicago O’Hare, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. (847) 544-5300. Friday Nights
Art, antiques for outdoors at Botanic Garden

BY MEREDITH MORRIS
Contributor

Longer-lasting than our passion for antiques? Our love of natural beauty. These two old flames will intertwine the weekend of April 20-22, when the Chicago Botanic Garden hosts its Antiques & Garden Fair — a marriage of the Garden’s spring blooms and a rich array of classical and contemporary garden furnishings, botanical art and home and garden design.

Held indoors and regardless of the weather, the fair will feature more than 120 exhibitors of treasures in every price range.

“The gardens are great this time of year. Visitors to the fair will be inspired by what they see to try new things at home,” said Judy Zombo, Chicago Botanic Garden Director of Visitor Programs, who explained that exhibitors’ displays are required to be usable in a garden, reflect a garden or be botanically informed.

Fine displays

“I love seeing the unique items and how people display them,” she said. “It’s fun to see how they all come together and transform the space into something so incredibly beautiful.”

Celebrating its 12th year, the fair originated with a vision held by women on the Garden’s Board of Directors who had experienced similar events on the East Coast, Zombo said. “The big thing there is repurposing a piece to use in a garden or a sunroom. That’s the connection of the antiques to the garden. We don’t just want pretty things,” she said.

This year’s fair is expected to draw more than 8,000 visitors who, in addition to perusing antiques and other objects, will be able to enjoy five display gardens installed indoors by local landscape companies and designers interpreting the 2012 theme, “Around the Garden Table.”

There will also be two special lectures by world-renowned speakers: interior designer David Easton, recently honored by a Lifetime Achievement award at London’s Design & Decoration Awards, and David Howard, former head gardener at Highgrove for H.H.R. The Prince of Wales. Events will be capped by flower-arranging demonstrations.

Unique setting

“It’s a beautiful show because of the magical setting of the garden,” said Anne Loucks, of Anne Loucks Gallery in Glencoe, who will have botanically focused photographs and floral paintings on display. “To be part of a show in such an inspiring location is wonderful for both the visitors and the dealers. I also love being in this show because it supports the Garden, which is such a beautiful place.”

Another dealer, Mindy Baschngn, one of two dealers participating in the show from The Find antiques in Chicago and Highwood, also describes the pleasure of simply being there — as a visitor as well as an exhibitor.

“I haven’t been in the business all that long, about 10 years. Before I was in the business, the Chicago Botanic Garden show was the top of the top,” she said. “It was such a great, fun show. It still is. I tell people even if they buy nothing, it’s fun just to look around. It’s such an experience to see what’s there.

The Find will display an eclectic mix of unusual, vintage-style items that can be used outside, Baschngn said, such as big planters made of pottery and even a giant tree stump, chairs and tables. It will also have floral paintings.

An Indoor garden created by Bill Heffernan illustrates the garden theme this year, “Around the Garden Table.” PHOTO BY ROBIN CARLSON, CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
In a high-risk world of quick profits and borrowed luxury, Timon is a god among men. But can this titan survive when the tides of fortune turn?

—from The New York Times

Ian McDiarmid is a celebrated "storyteller who knows how to hold a stage unconditionally."

—The New York Times
Cancun, Mexico

Cancun, Mexico, is located on the eastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula. Cancun’s Hotel Zone, framed on one side by the lagoon and by the Caribbean Sea on the other, is a treasure trove of excitement and activity. As Mexico’s most-visited destination, Cancun was created to be a vacationer’s paradise.

Cancun’s beaches are famed for their sugary white sand and unbelievably turquoise waters. Natural reefs nearby offer excellent snorkeling and diving opportunities, while the wide beaches provide a place to relax and soak up the sun.

When the sun goes down, the fun doesn’t stop in Cancun. The nightlife in this popular city is world-renowned and offers an atmosphere for any traveler, from the famous Margaritaville to resorts, nightclubs and so much more.

For a day on the town, Funjetters can take in Cancun’s many shops, boutiques and restaurants. And with many nearby attractions and Mayan ruins, travelers can spend the day exploring Mexico’s past, its wildlife and the welcoming nature of its people. Cancun also serves as a home base for excursions to the popular island of Cozumel or the bustling activity of Playa del Carmen’s famous 5th Avenue.

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2 Crocodile Dundee
3 "The Hurt"
9 Parisian, presently
20 Zoe Zao's sister
21 Mead subject
22 Misty
29 Statistical loci
31 Fasten a
33 Snow
41 Pageant prop
43 Word with farm or frog
46 Casa-blanca character
47 "Skoker"...
52 "Gabaret"
53 Medical grp.
57 "Cana
60 "Misty"
62 Sudden decline
66 Barcelona Oakley's birthplace
67 Turns soft
70 "Cana
72 Vessel
75 Like May
76 Utah city
78 Napa Valley Scand.
79 Porthos' pal
80 "Cana
82 Neighbors of 130 Faxed
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92 "Cana
93 "Cana
94 "Cana
95 Magna
96 97 "Cana
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99 "Cana

WEATHER OR NOT

Aries (March 21 to April 19) Temper your typical Aries urge to charge into a situation and demand answers. Instead, let the Lamb's gentler self emerge to deal with a problem that requires delicacy.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) You are aware of what's going on, so continue to stand by your earlier decision, no matter how persuasive the counter-arguments might be. Money pressures soon will ease.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) By all means, have fun and enjoy your newly expanded social life. But don't forget that some people are depending on you to keep promises that are very important to them.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) You need to wait patiently for an answer to a workplace problem and not push for a decision. Remember: Time is on your side. A financial matter needs closer attention.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) You now have information that can influence that decision you planned to make. But the clever Cat will consult a trusted friend or family member before making a major move.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Good news: You're finding that more doors are opening for you to show what you can do, and you don't even have to knock very hard to get the attention you're seeking.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Your gift for creating order out of chaos will help you deal with a sudden rush of responsibilities that would threaten someone less able to balance his or her priorities.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) Congratulations. Your energy levels are coming right back up to normal — just in time to help you tackle some worthwhile challenges and make some important choices.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) The sage Sagittarian should demand a full explanation of inconsistencies that might be cropping up in what seemed to be a straightforward deal.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) A conflict between obligations to family and to the job can create stressful problems. Best advice: Balance your dual priorities so that one doesn't outweigh the other.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Don't guess, speculate or gossip about that so-called "mystery" situation at the workplace. Bide your time. An explanation will be forthcoming very soon.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Boredom might be creeping in and causing you to lose interest in a repeat project. Deal with it by flipping over your usual routine and finding a new way to do an old task.

Born This Week: You can warm the coldest heart with your lyrical voice and bright smile.

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Sign a guest book, share memories and send flowers, gifts and charitable contributions online. Visit legacy.pioneerlocal.com for a complete list of Death Notices and In Memoriams.
After the Interview: Four Ways to Follow Up
By Margaret Steen, for Yahoo! HotJobs

You had your interview, and the way it ended left you hopeful. Now comes what is often the most agonizing part of the job hunt: waiting for the hiring manager to call. But you still have some control over the process. Experts offer the following advice on maximizing your chances for success:

**Send Thank-You Notes**

Don’t stress too much over whether your interview thank-you letter is emailed or handwritten. The most important thing is to send it.

“Even if you think you’ve got it in the bag, there are people who expect that letter,” says Laura DeCarlo, president of Career Directors International, a global professional association of resume writers and career coaches.

The kind of note to send depends on the situation. Peggy McKee, founder of Career Confidential, prefers thank-you emails sent within a day of the interview. “A quick follow-up indicates interest,” McKee says.

But consider the company culture when following up. Sometimes a mailed letter will be more appropriate — for instance, if the company is an old-fashioned, traditional one. But if you’re applying for something like a social media marketing position, then email your follow-up note.

Your post-interview thank-you letter should be a typical sales letter with three parts, DeCarlo says: Thank the interviewer. Reiterate why you’re a good fit. Close by saying you’re looking forward to the next step. Even if you send the note by mail, you may prefer to type it so you have room to make your case.

**Break Through the Silence**

The interviewer said she’d let you know by Tuesday if you made it to the next round of interviews. It’s now Thursday, and you haven’t heard anything. What’s going on? It’s possible you didn’t make the cut. But it’s equally likely that the interviewer just got busy.

**Go Into Recovery Mode**

Perhaps you feel that you didn’t make the best impression in the interview. The follow-up is your chance to recover.

“Tell them you’re going to provide them with additional resources,” McKee says. If you can send documentation of your abilities — or even get references to send notes on your behalf — do so. But if your reason for thinking you blew the interview is something minor, like spilling your coffee, ignore it. “If you draw attention to your embarrassment about little things, it might lead the person to think you’re too insecure,” DeCarlo explains.

**Bounce Back from Rejection**

When you hear from an interviewer but the news is bad, what should you do?

First, “thank the person for letting you know,” DeCarlo says. Then ask if the Interviewer would be willing to give you any feedback that you could use for future interviews. The answer will likely be no, but it shows you’re interested in improving.

Then keep networking with the interviewer, perhaps by forwarding occasional, well-chosen articles related to your industry, for example, or by joining a group on LinkedIn.
MOTOR GROVE, 8837 Nashville Ave., green, 4:30-5:30 4/14, 10-4 pm. Furniture, cloth, toys, toys. Miele, steel top, full size, everything must go.

NAPERVILLE: Special Estate Auction. High End Appliance Only. 312-947-6833.

DES KEL, 1221 Hazel Dr., on Sunday, 4/15, 8 am-4 pm. Custom made orignal custom furniture, tables, chairs, antiques, artifacts, MCM, Brazil, Mexican, French, solid silver, china. 


ROCKFORD, 15 North 4th, on Saturday, 4/14, 8 am-4 pm. Bring knick knacks and Unique items.

PARK RIDGE: Estate Sale at 810. 9 am-4 pm. Lots of tools, furniture, home decor, and miscellaneous.

GLENDALE HILL: 1810 E. Evergreen Ave., on Saturday, 4/14, 9 am-4 pm. Estate Sale. 847-527-5070.

LADY THOMPSON, 108 S. Maine St., on Sunday, 4/15, 8 am-4 pm. Estate Sale. 214-739-0109.

CHICAGO SOUTH SIDE: Estate Sale at 1421 W. 83rd St. 9 am-4 pm. Estate Sale. 773-732-3958.

CHICAGO WEST SIDE: Estate Sale at 3823 S. Western Ave. 9 am-4 pm. Estate Sale. 773-566-0636.

WORTH: Estate Sale at 42 W. Chicago St. 8 am-4 pm. Estate Sale. 708-302-1405.

CHICAGO NORTH CENTER: Estate Sale at 800 W. Madison Ave. 9 am-4 pm. Estate Sale. 773-527-0808.

CHICAGO NORTHWEST SIDE: Estate Sale at 423 W. Webster Ave. 8 am-4 pm. Estate Sale. 773-527-0808.
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The notice states that the mortgaged real estate is a condominium unit located at 7820 Kenneth Ave, Chicago, Illinois. The sale is for the purpose of foreclosing a mortgage loan held by PHH Mortgage Corporation. The property is subject to a judgment of foreclosure, and the sale will be conducted under the supervision of a judge.

The sale terms include a 25% down payment of the highest bid, and the purchaser will receive a certificate of title. The Notice of Sale states that the property will be sold "as is" and "where is," and that the purchaser assumes all risks.

Prospective bidders are advised to contact Pierce & Associates, 312-664-5500, for information and to refer to File Number 10 CH 43363. The sale is scheduled to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, at the Cook County Courthouse, First Floor, Skokie, Illinois.
The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and the Doings with advertising of a national appeal.

To advertise in this section, please call ICAN directly at (217) 241-1700.

Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
NOTICE OF SALE

11 CH 29622

Defendants,

SUM OF $182,550.73; UNKNOWN AS DOCUMENT NUMBER MYKHAYLO SKOBEL RECORDED OF AMERICA. BY $1,378,000.00; UNITED STATES MORTGAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF $69,500.00; 0513346037 ON MAY 13, 2005, DOCUMENT NUMBER FSB BY REASON OF A MORTGAGE, the property described as follows:

The mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser of the unit will have no further recourse against the mortgagee.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and will be sold at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount owed by the borrower to the mortgagee.

The purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser of the unit will have no further recourse against the mortgagee.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and will be sold at the rate of $1 for each $1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount owed by the borrower to the mortgagee.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The requirements of Section 4.8 of the Probate Code of the State of Illinois concerning notice shall be observed regarding the following:

- Section 16 - Definitions (Preliminary Notice)
- Section 7, Table 2 - Who Must Make Notice
- Section 8.3, Table 4 - Who Must Make Notice
- Section 9.5, Table 6 - Who Must Make Notice

Section 9.5, Table 6 - Notice to the representatives of the nature of the claim or other relief sought.

Claims must be filed on or before October 19, 2012 (being 36 days after publication of this notice). Failure to do so will result in the claims being barred. Every claim must be in writing and state sufficient information to notify the representative of the nature of the claim or other relief sought.

Claims must be filed with the Probate Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 340 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604, or with the representative, in care of John D. Said, AICP, Community and Economic Development Director, Village of Morton Grove, Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center, 6160 Capuolina Avenue, Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The Hearing may be adjourned by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove. The Hearing will be held at the Morton Grove Village Hall, 6160 Capuolina Avenue, Morton Grove, Illinois 60053. The Hearing will be open to the public.

- Notice of Public Hearing

- Legal Notice of Public Hearing

- Probate Notice

- Public Notice

- Probate of Letters of Office

- Probate of Will

- Proof of Claim

- Substitute Publisher Notice
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, that Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., will conduct a sale at Public Storage, Property #3445, 420 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60642 773-784-8410. In the matters of: B054 Elbert Levant #20620/4430 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60641-2017. The sales will be at the Public Storage Facility located at N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60641. The sales are conducted by competitive bidding on April 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. on the premises where the property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage, Property #3445, 420 W. Lake St., Chicago, IL 60642.

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You can park, but you can't hide

PARK RIDGE, APRIL 2 — Third Ward Alderman Jim Smith, explaining his minority vote against a car-mounted license-plate-recognition camera that easily identifies residents’ cars for booting, said “The Sheriff of Nottingham is not a good model of good government.”

As long as we’re here, let’s arrest everybody

HINSDALE, MARCH 30 — Police converged on a house in the 600 block of South Bodin Street, having been told by a neighbor it was being burglarized. It wasn’t. But they busted everyone in sight anyway — a teenage resident and his guests, six Loyola University students, all for underage drinking.

Graffiti of the geek uprising

WILMETTE, MARCH 4 — An employee of Treasure Island, 911 Ridge Road, told police someone sneaked behind the store and painted a Rubik’s cube on a fence.

He died for our Sunday school

DEERFIELD, APRIL 1 — At a Palm Sunday event for children at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church, young Joe was quoted as asking what was so good about Good Friday, considering Jesus’ crucifixion and all.

Michael Jordan: The Anatoly Karpov of hoops

OAK BROOK, APRIL 2 — The appearance of 12-time world champion Anatoly Karpov at the Intercontinental Scholastic Team Championship inspired the event organizer to call Karpov “The Michael Jordan of chess.”

Welcome to Evanston: 150 Years of Saying No

Evanston, April 2 — Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl suggested that the City Council consider signs at the entries to the city marking next year’s 150th anniversary. Right now, “we have ‘Welcome to Evanston. Don’t use cell phones, no truck routes allowed’ — all the things you can’t do.”

Why cab companies don't shop at the dealer

PARK RIDGE, MARCH 16 — At 3:10 a.m., a sleeping driver with no insurance and no driver’s license plowed her car into a taxi cab at a stoplight at Dempster Street and Luther Lane.

Smile, you’re on commode camera

NILES, MARCH 22 — Police officers headed over to the home of a Keeney Street man, 21, to arrest him for scratching gang graffiti in the men’s room of the lobby of the Niles Police Department.

Fido may be a little clumsy

HINSDALE, APRIL 1 — A barking dog awakened a Bonnie Brue Road homeowner at 2:30 a.m. The resident reported that a lamp and a picture frame had been knocked over, but there were no signs of forced entry.

April Fool — this is not a reality show

NORTHBROOK, APRIL 1 — An Evanston woman, 28, allegedly topped off an evening of marijuana and boozing with a sojourn to the Landmark Inn, 1592 Sherman Road. There, she took her pal’s insulin pump and house keys and refused to give them back. When officers arrived, she told them they were “fake cops” and nothing else was real, either. She then kicked one officer and shoved another; they maintained in a report of her arrest they put her in a real lockup.

The things we lose for love

DEERFIELD, MARCH 24 — A Highland Park woman, 29, returned to her car after shopping at Deerfield Mall, but her little girl didn’t want to go. So she took her for a calming walk around the parking lot, without first going back around to close her car door again. When she got back to the car, she had no purse, no iPhone, Blackberry, credit cards and gift cards. But the kid felt better.
OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Oakton gala
Enjoy dinner, dancing and diversions at "Perchance to Dream" on April 21 to honor Oakton President Margaret B. Lee and celebrate the Oakton Educational Foundation's 35th anniversary.

The spring benefit for Oakton's Student Scholarship Fund includes a lively cocktail hour, three-course meal, music by the Bradley Young Orchestra and entertainment by Shakespearean actors. The gala begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Metropolis Ballroom, 6 S. Vail St., Arlington Heights.

Established in 1977, the Educational Foundation has benefited thousands of students, faculty and staff by supporting College initiatives not met by public funds. Tickets are $150. Call (847) 635-1893 to reserve a ticket.

Register for fall classes
Fall semester registration is now under way at Oakton. Classes start Aug. 20.

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

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

For more information about classes, call (847) 635-1414 (Des Plaines), or (847) 635-1400 (Skokie).

Celebrate art and activism
The all-day symposium, "Creating Justice," to be held April 21, explores the diverse ways activism engages the arts, and the way art transforms communities - and the world. The event will be held at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Schedule of events include:

- 10:15 a.m. - Keynote address by New York-based Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble. The group produces politically charged, original works that deal with socially relevant issues.
- 11:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. - Take in workshops and panels on dance, music and poetry.
- 6:9 p.m. - Enjoy global food fair.
- 7 p.m. - Catch a live performance by Ugoci and Afro Soul Effect. The band is fronted by Nigerian lead singer Ugoci Nwaogwugwu. Musicians also include Shawn Wallace (keyboards/vocals), Deshon Newman (percussion), Jeff Harris (bass) and Justin Boyd (drums).

Creating Justice is sponsored by Oakton's Humanities and Philosophy and Performing Arts Departments, and the Peace and Social Justice and Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Tickets are $20. Register at www.oakton.edu/creatingjustice.

Popular Emeritus 'Passport' series
Passport to the World, a series of popular lectures offered by the Emeritus Program at Oakton, lands at Northbrook's Covenant Village, starting April 24.

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

Other lectures include "Operation Freedom: The Berlin Airlift" (May 1), "The Democratization of Arabs?" (May 8) and "Did Marx Foretell Today's Economic Crisis?" (May 15).

Featured lectures meet 1-2:15 p.m. Tuesdays at Covenant Village, 2625 Techny Road, Northbrook.

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

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

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

Adult Education classes
The following adult education classes are offered through the Oakton Alliance for Lifelong Learning.

Qigong: The Ultimate Anti-Aging Exercise (PED D15-01)
Great for any age or fitness level, qigong offers many benefits including improved mental concentration and a strengthened immune system. Five-week course meets 3-30-4:15 p.m. Wednesdays starting April 25. Course fee is $70.

Facebook: Getting Started (DATE13-02) - Find out how to create a Facebook account. Learn about friend etiquette, groups, fan pages, sharing links, privacy, and more. Session meets 7-9 p.m. April 26. Course fee is $20.

Basic Blues Harmonica (MUS C14-02) - Even if you have never played an instrument before, this class is an easy and fun way to get started. Two-week course meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturdays starting April 28. Course fee is $69.

Reiki I Certification (PSY B7-04) - Tap into the healing energy of the universe to re-establish balance and harmony so that the body's natural ability to heal itself is activated. Course meets 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. April 29. Course fee is $150.

Courses meet at Oakton's Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave.

All registrants will be charged an $8 nonrefundable processing fee at the time of registration. For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, including registration and fee information, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888, press 3.
West debate wins championship

Niles West Debate competed at the 2012 Great Midwestern Novice and JV Championships hosted by Iowa City West High School March 30 through April 1. The Niles West team of Nathan Anderson and Miranda Kang advanced to the final round and defeated Glenbrook North for the championship. Anderson and Kang finished their first year on the Niles West debate team as one of the most successful novice teams in the country. Their top finishes include the Quarterfinals at the Glenbrooks tournament, Quarterfinals at Novice Nationals and they were crowned State and Midwest Champions.

Forty-nine teams competed in the novice division. Niles West sent six teams. Miranda Kang and Nathan Anderson were the top seed entering elimination rounds. They only lost one ballot the entire tournament and won the championship. Alvin Alex and Tahir Meeks were 5-1 in the preliminary rounds and the sixth seed entering elimination rounds, making it to the Quarterfinals. Walter Lindwall and Julia Sarata were 4-2 in the preliminary rounds and were the 15th seed entering elimination rounds, losing in the Octafinals. Michelle Sproat and Nick Charles were 19th place and Janat Ahmed and Gershon Chan were 24th place. Out of 98 debaters, Kang was third speaker, Anderson was seventh speaker, Chan was 18th speaker, Meeks was 19th speaker and James McElian was 24th speaker.

Thirty-five teams competed in the junior varsity division. Emma Lazar and Vinay Patel went 4-2 in the preliminary rounds were the sixth seed entering elimination rounds. They made it to the semi-finals of the tournament. Theo Noparstak and Jonass Placitis went 4-2 in the preliminary rounds and were the fifth seed entering elimination rounds. They lost in the Quarterfinals. Ari Hoffman and Sana Khan went 4-2 but failed to advance to the elimination rounds. Out of 70 debaters, Noparstak was fourth speaker, Placitis was fifth speaker and Lazar was ninth speaker. Breanna Brill, Kris Trivedi, Jessie Amgalanjargal, Lia Isono, Alyssa Guzman and Nashah Alam all competed well.

The Head Debate Coach is Eric Oddo. Assistant coaches are Kevin Bancroft, Matt Fahrenbacher, Val McIntosh and Kim Pressling.

Students chosen for NJSHS

The Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium was held at Loyola University on March 31. Niles North High School senior Emmanuelle Asrow finished in the top two and was awarded a $1,500 scholarship. She will present her research "The Correlation Between pTau, A-D-38, -40 and -42 Protein Levels and Alzheimer's Disease" at the 50th National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium held in Washington, D.C. Niles West High School senior Brinda Shah won fourth place overall in the competition for her project "Gait Differences of Female Track Runners with and without Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome" and will also travel to the national symposium.

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Program promotes original research and experimentation in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics at the high school level and publicly recognizes students for outstanding achievement.

West debaters place 2nd at JV Nationals

Niles West Debate competed at the 2012 First and Second Year Championships hosted by Woodward Academy in College Park, GA. The team of Theo Noparstak and Jonass Placitis advanced to the championship round before losing on a 5-0 decision to a team from Westminster Schools, an elite private high school from Atlanta and a debate powerhouse.

Niles West sent four teams to compete in the first year division, in which 79 teams from across the country competed. Miranda Kang and Nathan Anderson were 5-1 in the preliminary rounds and were the eighth seed entering elimination rounds. They debated the number one seed in the Quarterfinals, and lost on a close 2-1 decision. Alvin Alex and Michelle Sproat and Janat Ahmed and Nick Charles both had 3-3 records.

Niles West sent four teams to compete in the second year division, composed of 59 teams from across the country. Theo Noparstak and Jonass Placitis were 4-2 in the preliminary rounds and were the seventh seed. They made it to the championship round of the tournament. Out of 118 debaters, Noparstak was the third speaker, Placitis was the seventh speaker and Emma Lazar was the 13th speaker. Lazar and Vinay Patel and Breanna Brill and Kris Trivedi both went 3-3. Jessie Amgalanjargal and Lia Isono were 2-4.

The Head Debate Coach is Eric Oddo. Assistant coaches are Kevin Bancroft, Matt Fahrenbacher, Val McIntosh and Kim Pressling.

West places in state poetry contest

Niles West High School senior Sam Chao placed among the top five Poetry Out Loud finalists in the statewide competition held on March 29. Nearly 6,000 students from across the state competed. Judges evaluated student performances on criteria including voice and articulation, physical presence, evidence of understanding, dramatic appropriateness, level of difficulty and accuracy. Chao won second place in the regional competition held Feb. 21. In 2010, Chao won the regional competition and also competed at state. Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offer-
were selected for the second round. Niles North ranked in the top 14 percent of all submissions. The team included: Robby Moss, Naomi Gendler, Josh Lipschultz, Joane Joseph and Elan Ness-Cohn. The students are enrolled in Advanced Placement Calculus BC.

West's titanic expert Serafini, featured on DVD
She was deemed unsinkable, yet her maiden voyage marked one of the deadliest peacetime maritime disasters in history. A century later, questions still remain about what caused her demise. April 15 marked the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and Niles West students learned many details about the disaster with an expert — Niles West's own Anthony Serafini.

Serafini, a science teacher at Niles West is featured in the new documentary, "The Titanic Disaster," by Southport Video Productions. Recently, he spoke with students in the school's Information Resource Center about the disaster, showed portions of the documentary and answered questions.

Serafini's Titanic interest was whetted by a cruise out to the wreck site in 1996. He met a few Titanic survivors and from there his interest grew. He said, "I met Millvina Dean, who was the youngest survivor of the whole tragedy in St. Petersburg, Fla. She was an absolute sweetheart. She was six months old at the time of the tragedy."

Serafini was a part of the Titanic exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, and considered by many to be an expert, because all the questions that visitors had about the exhibit, were referred to him. He said that he was contacted in November 2010 by the production company to be interviewed for the documentary.

The public's fascination with the Titanic tragedy is still very much in evidence today. Serafini said, "I think of the way that people behaved and acted onboard the ship and how there's such chivalry." He said, "This has always struck a chord with me."

CAMPUS NEWS
Sanford-Brown to offer dental hygiene
Sanford-Brown College, 4930 Oakton St., Skokie, is now offering a new program for the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Dental Hygiene. To prepare students for a career in dental hygiene, and to help meet the needs of the underserved population without dental care, the school will also offer a free dental clinic.

Applications for the April 23 start date are now being accepted. Students can apply online at www.sanfordbrown.edu/Skokie, or in person at the campus.

"With the growing need for preventive oral care and the flexibility a career in dental hygiene may provide, the Dental Hygiene program is an incredible opportunity to pursue a career in the dental field," said Shirley M. Beaver, RDH, Dental Hygiene Program Director. "Our goal is to build a foundation that will help students pursue opportunities with the knowledge and clinical experience they need to succeed."

To learn more about the program call (847) 983-1200 or go to www.sanfordbrown.edu/Skokie.

Musur placed on dean's list
Alison Musur, of Morton Grove, has been placed on the North Central College dean's list of scholars for the 2012 winter term.

To be eligible for the dean's list undergraduate students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.6 for the term and be enrolled as full-time students. Part-time students are recognized at the end of each academic year if they meet the same criterion and have completed at least eight credit hours, the equivalent of one term as a full-time student.
She's all about food allergies. Kelly Rudnicki, the self-proclaimed “Food Allergy Mama,” is at it again. The former Wilmette resident earlier this month submitted her manuscript for her third cookbook, which features more of her food allergen-free recipes.

Unlike her first two cookbooks, Vegan Baking Classics (Surry Books, 2010) and The Food Allergy Mama’s Baking Book (Surry, 2009), which debuted her allergen-free recipes for baked treats like Zucchini Bread and Chocolate Chip Pancakes, Rudnicki’s forthcoming collection will highlight savory foods.

The Food Allergy Mama’s Fast and Easy Favorite Family Meals is set for publication in late winter 2013, and Rudnicki recently shared one of the recipes, Dairy- and Egg-free Turkey Meatballs, with Pioneer Press.

Easy food

“I want easy, no-big-deal type recipes, and this one fits the bill,” Rudnicki said. “It is so easy, yet healthy and delicious. I can make this entire dinner, start to finish, in less than 30 minutes, with all five of my kids around me. In other words, it doesn’t get any easier than this, and your family will love it.”

For the meatballs, she uses dark meat ground turkey. “The lean stuff tastes dry,” she said. She bakes the meatballs to reduce fat. Baking them transforms into allergen-free meatballs to reduce fat. Baking them tastes dry,” she said. She bakes the meat ground turkey. “The lean stuff and your family will love it.”

What leftovers there are she transforms into allergen-free meatball sub sandwiches. “My personal favorites,” Rudnicki said.

Rudnicki’s recipe for allergen-free Pesto Pasta with Green Beans and Potatoes will also be in the upcoming cookbook. “I was shocked by how much it tastes like traditional pesto pasta,” Rudnicki said.

Her recipe calls for dairy-free vegan Parmesan cheese, dairy-free margarine and gluten-free pasta. It excludes one of the more common food allergens, pine nuts. “You don’t need pine nuts to give pesto that incredible pesto flavor,” she said. “I used to make pesto pasta all the time; it was my husband’s favorite pasta sauce.”

All of Rudnicki’s traditional recipes, many of which are from her childhood, required some revamping after one of their five children was diagnosed with allergies to foods including dairy, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts and legumes.

Cut allergens

She created recipes for traditional favorites without nuts, eggs, dairy or other more common food allergens. For instance, to avoid the problems caused by cow’s milk, Rudnicki uses soy or rice milk and dairy-free margarine. When needed, she even makes her own dairy-free “butter-milk” by mixing 1/4 cup soy or rice milk with 1 teaspoon white vinegar.

Her goal is always to combine the best taste with the most nutrition possible in foods all kids (and adults) can enjoy.

“I develop recipes that can stand up to their original versions,” she said. “Children with food allergies no longer have to be excluded while their friends eat scrumptious foods. I wanted my kids to know what macaroni and cheese from the box tastes like — without all the unhealthy ingredients.”

Not only does she make all of the meals at home for her family, which she says “rarely eats out,” Rudnicki shares her recipes through her cookbooks and a blog so that others can be inspired.

Dairy- and Egg-free Spaghetti and Turkey Meatballs

(From Kelly Rudnicki)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees and line baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl, combine meatball ingredients until mixed together. Use your hands to roll mixture into 1-inch balls and place on parchment paper. Bake for 15 minutes or until no longer pink.

Meanwhile, heat a large Dutch oven or heavy pot over medium high heat for about one minute. Add olive oil and grate onion and/or veggies directly into pot. Add seasonings and salt and pepper to taste and sauté for about five minutes, or until onions are translucent. Add canned tomatoes and tomato sauce and simmer on low heat for 15 minutes (during the time the meatballs cook).

Heat a big pot of water to boiling and cook pasta according to package directions. Add cooked meatballs to sauce and simmer for five additional minutes. Drain pasta and pour into a big bowl, adding meatball/sauce mixture to spaghetti.

For more information about Rudnicki’s dairy-, egg- and nut-free recipes, visit www.FoodAllergyMama.com.
RESURRECTION

Resurrection College Prep High School has created a program to address the needs of transfer students — The Transfer Connection.

Started in January 2011, the Transfer Connection is a group of students whose purpose is twofold: to develop a bond among students who have transferred into Resurrection from another school at some point during their high school career; and to make certain that new transfer students feel at home at Resurrection.

Current Resurrection students who are part of the Transfer Connection are called “transfer connectors.” Transfer connectors share ideas and strategies to assist new transfer students as they find academic and social success.

New transfer students are paired with a transfer connector to shadow on their first day as a new student at Resurrection. During the shadowing, transfer connectors help new transfer students feel welcome and comfortable in their new school.

Also, when new students transfer to Resurrection, all transfer connectors wear pink Transfer Connector T-shirts so that new transfer students can easily identify Transfer Connection members as they move through the halls and classrooms on campus. If the new transfer student has questions or needs the company of another friendly face, they know which girls have been in their shoes on their first day of transferring to another school.

As a group, the Transfer Connection members meet four times during the school year. Students discuss issues transfer students may face and how they as a group and as individuals can play an active role in assisting new students to make a smooth transition to a new school.

Resurrection College Prep High School, at 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, is the largest all-girls Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school on the North Side of Chicago. For more information call (773) 775-6616, ext. 129, or go to www.reshs.org.

ALL-SCHOOL REUNION PLANNED

Resurrection College Prep High School will celebrate an All-School Reunion Weekend April 21 and 22. All community members are welcome to participate in the Run for Res 5K Fun Run/Walk on April 21. The 5K will start at 9 a.m., beginning at Resurrection, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago, and the route will wind through the Edison Park neighborhood. All proceeds from the Run for Res 5K will benefit the students of Resurrection College Prep High School.

Advance registration fees are $20 per adult and $10 for students (ages 6-18) through April 18. Registration fees from April 19 through the morning of the event (in-person only) are $25 per adult and $15 per student; children age 5 and under are free. Walkers, runners and children are all welcome, and strollers and baby joggers are permitted. Runners will start the 5K ahead of walkers. Awards will take place at 10 a.m., and raffles will take place at 10:30 a.m. The route will reopen to traffic at 11 a.m., and walkers are welcome to complete the course on the sidewalks.

At 4 p.m. April 21, Resurrection will celebrate a Reunion Mass in the school chapel, followed by the Wall of Honor Inductions at 5 p.m. Notable alumnae will be honored with the Blessed Celine Award, awarded to alumnae who exemplify the life values of Blessed Celine, the foundress of the Sisters of the Resurrection. Recipients are accomplished in their fields of endeavor and work toward the advancement of women in society and act as positive Christian role models for young women. Alumnae will also be inducted into the Resurrection Athletic Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals from the Resurrection athletic community who have participated in sports or contributed to the Resurrection College Prep Athletic Program.

Alumnae and their guests are invited to attend the All-School Reunion Dinner from 6-9 p.m. April 21. Cost is $30 per person and includes appetizers, a full buffet dinner, dessert and soft drinks; $45 per person also includes beer and wine (age 21 and older event). Themed “Signature Cocktails” will also be available for $5 and the proceeds will benefit the Alumnae Association Scholarship Fund. Raffles and tours will take place throughout the evening.

On, April 22, there will be a Family Movie Day in the Little Theatre. Adults and children are invited to enjoy the 1939 classic movie, “The Wizard of Oz.” The movie will be an interactive film experience that includes audience participation. Movie-goers are encouraged to dress like their favorite characters from the movie and compete in the costume contest. Children can take photos with characters from the movie and everyone is welcome to participate in a sing-along. Activities will begin at 1 p.m., and the movie will begin at 2. Reservations are encouraged for the Wizard of Oz Family Movie Day and can be made by calling Stefanie Thorpe at (773) 775-6616, ext. 127, or at stthorpe@reshs.org. A donation of $5 is suggested and concessions and goodie-bags will be available for purchase. Tours of the school will also be available.

Visit www.reshs.org for more information or to register for events.

ST. PATRICK

Saint Patrick High School senior Daniel Potts Jr. has received Student of the Month honors for the second time during the 2011-12 school year. Potts was nominated for February by Business/Computer teacher Jerry Kehoe.

Potts is a four-year member of the Shamrock swimming team and is on the honor roll. He has narrowed his college prospects to a psychology major at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

He is the son of Dan and Ann Potts.
Do you take a prescription opioid pain medication and suffer from constipation?

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

You may be able to help with this research if you are:

- ages 18 to 84
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  - fewer than three bowel movements per week
  - hard/lumpy stools
  - straining
  - sensation of incomplete bowel movements

To find out more, contact:

Resurrection Pain Center
(773) 990-8934

WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS PUTTING AN END TO THE PAIN-OPIOID-CONSTIPATION CYCLE. Help us find better treatment options for patients with constipation due to prescription opioid pain medication.

Aaron Higashi, director of youth and family ministries at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, has started a group called Open Forum, allowing anyone in the community to submit anonymous questions about religion or theology.

PARK RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Forum vows open, objective discussion of faith

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

The topic of religion has the tendency to unravel an almost unending string of questions. Which teachings are right? Do non-Christians have the same shot at heaven as Christians? What does the Bible really say about hot-button topics like sexuality?

Aaron Higashi, director of Youth and Family Ministries at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, is tackling questions such as these when he launches Open Forum, a group dedicated to the discussion of religion, faith, philosophy and Presbyterian traditions.

Open Forum, identified on an informational flyer as “a radical new kind of community learning,” invites members of the community, religious and nonreligious, Christian and non-Christians, to submit questions anonymously and attend biweekly meetings where Higashi, a doctoral student in theology, provides answers and leads a discussion.

“I think this is a very unique opportunity — nobody else is doing this,” Higashi said. “This is really a chance to talk about something you would never get an opportunity to talk about elsewhere.”

Questions can be e-mailed to dyfmpcr@live.com or placed in a drop-box in the front lounge of Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 W. Crescent Ave. The first Open Forum was at 7 p.m. April 11 in the basement of the church. Questions can be about anything having to do with religion or philosophy, Higashi said, and submitters can remain completely anonymous.

“It’s a pretty broad net,” he said of the topics that will be explored. “I’m going to let people direct it with their questions and take it in the direction that people need.”

Higashi explained that the idea for the forum originated out of one of many conversations he was having with his best friend, who is an atheist.

“We’ve had several conversations over the years about faith and religion,” Higashi said. “After one day of talking he said, ‘I wish there was a place where I could go and ask questions and get unbiased answers.’”

Aware that many people do not have sources from which to obtain “good, solid answers” to questions about religion, or that they may be too embarrassed to ask, Higashi began formulating the concept of Open Forum.

“I think we only talk about these things in private. In general, politics and religion are things you aren’t supposed to talk about in polite conversation,” Higashi noted. “I wanted to open this up and bring it out into the light.”

Higashi stresses that Open Forum is not an attempt to convert participants to Christianity or even join his church.

“I hope people who attend have the opportunity to interact with people of other backgrounds and appreciate other faiths,” he said. “It’s an opportunity for people to learn.”

For information about attending an Open Forum, contact Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, (847) 663-4195.
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MORTON GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Teens combine right ingredients for fun at cooking class

Sixteen youngsters participated recently in the Morton Grove Public Library’s Getting Saucy teen cooking class.

The library keeps the classes small so everyone has a chance to work with the ingredients.

The next class will be at 6 p.m. April 26. Registration, which is required, begins April 19. To go to www.library.org or call (847) 965-4220 for more information.

Instructor Jill Wehrheim teaches youngsters to make trail mix with their favorite ingredients. JOE CYGANOWSKI FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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 60025. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern

The Center of Concern, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
- Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays – Income tax preparation, by appointment.
- Mondays, April 23 and 30 – Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Saturday, April 21 – Legal counseling, by appointment.
- Saturday, April 21 – Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).
- Homeowners desiring additional income, companionship, or the ability to remain in their homes may wish to consider the Center of Concern’s Shared Housing Program. Residents are matched with 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, program designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.
- Center counselors also are available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts. Illinois CareRx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen lottery assessment Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, offers a variety of classes for the adults in the horticulture,

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012

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,
available on former residents. Historical information is
neighboring and additional exploring research steps
and addresses, and society presentation, "Tell Me About
their home, the Norwood House, 5624 N. Newark
Park Historical Society will host its annual House History
and Renovator Resource Day, including those interested in learning more about in-
Ave., Chicago. The society established a location for
American Cancer Society. Call (847) 966-8145.
Proceeds go to the Village of St. John Brebeuf Ministry Center
Center, 8305 Harlem Ave. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m.
entrance is $15. Refreshments will be available at a nominal
must be 18 years of age to play.) Call (847) 966-8145.
Bingo license No. B04157.
The Niles Senior Center's 10
its 10th Annual Rummage Sale will be held from 9 a.m.
April 21. rain or shine, in the center, 999 Civic Center Drive. There will be more
40 stands on display. Two-dollar hot dog lunches will be available. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds go to the Village of
Niles Food Pantry and the American Cancer Society. Call (847) 588-8420 and ask for
Jaymi.
For area residents interested in learning more about their home, the Norwood Park Historical Society will host its annual House History and renovation Resource Day, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 28, at the Noble Seymour Crippen House, 5526 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, older 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," explaining 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 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:
Call (773) 631-6433 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie; Information: (847) 967-4800; reservations: (847) 967-4809, www.ihhsmuseum.org. Museum admission prices:
General Admission, $12; seniors (over 65), $8; students (ages 12-18), $8; children (ages 5-11), $6. Reservations required for programs.
Through June 17: Special Exhibition - Ours to Fight for: American Jews in the Second World War. Through their artifacts, letters, and photographs, the "Greatest Generation" tell the stories of what the war was like for all its participants, and for those in particular. Ours to Fight for brings to life the actions and feelings of these young men and women. Free with museum admission.
April 12, 2-3 p.m.: Meet Linda Pressman, author of Looking Up: A Memoir of Sisters, Survivors and Skokie, as she signs copies of her funny and tragic account of 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 - Yom HaShoah and Illinois Holocaust Museum's third anniversary.
Abraham Foxman, Holocaust survivor and national director of the Anti-Defamation League, will discuss "A 21st Century Challenge: Protecting the Memory and Meaning of the Holocaust." Foxman, whose life was saved by his Polish Catholic nanny, has devoted a lifetime to fighting anti-semitism, discrimination and prejudice. Free with museum admission; April 22, 3-4 p.m.: In cooperation with Chicago's Cantors, "Celebrating the Cantorial Arts of Europe," performed by cantors from Chicago-area congregations, the program will feature the music of Jewish communities that were destroyed in the Holocaust. Free. April 26,
6:30-8 p.m.: A moderated panel of veterans representing World War II, Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, will discuss the ways in which military service has changed in the last 60 years, the ways in which the war will never change, and how their sacrifices shape the world today. Free with museum admission.
April 29, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Ages 3 to 6 and their families are invited to reenact their favorite storybooks, complete with music, puppets, costumes and props, to understand their own feelings and the feelings of others. Children will learn appropriate social behavior by modeling examples presented in the stories through the guidance of educators and therapists. Free with museum admission.
The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County recently established a Battery Recycling Program for rechargeable and alkaline batteries, partnered with Interstate Batteries in Skokie to provide recycling at no cost to SWANCC communities. Common household batteries are no longer accepted at Illinois EPA-sponsored household chemical waste events and facilities due to their benign nature and high recycling costs. Batteries accepted in SWANCC's program: Alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D and 9V) and rechargeable (NiCd, NiMh, lithium ion, lithium polymer). Before dropping off rechargeable batteries, residents need to tape the contact points on each battery to ensure that the battery is locked into a plastic baggie to avoid sparking. Local drop-off sites include: Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900, 7 a.m.-4:45 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/batteryclecycling.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, 1151 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics
**Attention Gold Buyers:** See website for listing opportunities.
Scanners, computer monitors, computers - PCs and laptops, 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. The group will sing at the hospital from May until 6 p.m. in Sky High Sports Trampoline Fun Park, 64/2 W. Howard St., Niles. TKC’s “Spring Up for Service” will take place at 9:30 p.m. and include discounted jumping, service projects to benefit at-risk youth, and recognition of local school volunteers. At the event, participating school communities will be invited to TKC’s Honor Roll of Kindness for devoting hands, hearts and minds to service in the 2011-12 school year through Kindness Connections Days. Register for free fun and service at www.f Kn connection.org.

Like New Auto Spa, Inc., 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fund-raising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed can buy a gift card from the company and also ask for the Lutheran General discount. The discount 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 Aimee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8538, or Steve Radakovic at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9274, or visit www.likeneverwastoopam.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 not valid with an outside wash only or any other promotion/program.

Health
Free health screenings and yoga, zumba and cooking demonstrations will be offered at "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 9:30 a.m., a zumba demonstration (fitness program that combines Latin dance with aerobics) at 10:15 a.m., and a healthy cooking demonstration at 11:15 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.

Where do you think we go for local information?
Center, 8856 N. Milwaukee Ave., is offering free hearing evaluations. All who come in will receive a comprehensive audiologic evaluation. Call (847) 295-3344.

Pediatric developmental screening offered at no cost. LYNX Therapeutics, 9436 Ozzori 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.

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 Niles Ralph Prese. 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. Call (847) 390-0160.

The Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., is open to the public from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, tour 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 required.

Golf Mill Hearing Aid

631 N. Greenleaf Ave., Skokie, IL 60077

Call, (847) 673-4655.
is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.
The Niles Public Library will celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with a creative workshop for teens, a prize drawing and an “Earth Day, Every Day” display. Drawing tickets will be given to patrons at check-out through April 22. Prizes include canvas beach totes and fold-away pouch bags. Everyone who comes to the Niles Public Library on Earth Day will receive a recycled pen made from recycled water bottles. Be sure to check out the “Earth Day, Every Day” display in the Audiovisual department filled with information on where patrons can recycle their electronics, batteries, and more. At 2 p.m. April 22, teens can learn how to take recycled trash and turn it into treasure. They will take recycled trash and turn it into treasure. They will take recycled trash and turn it into treasure. They will take recycled trash and turn it into treasure.

To celebrate Earth Day, the Library will host three programs during Money Smart Week, April 21 to 28, to help consumers learn about money management and saving tips online. These programs are part of more than 500 free classes, seminars and activities promoting financial education that will take place during Money Smart Week Chicago. On April 24 from 1:30-4 p.m., the Citizens Utility Board will review home telephone bills and recommend ways to cut costs. On average, people save $200 per year by making simple changes. Patrons may bring a cell phone bill, but more specific advice will be given for a landline. Cub will review one bill per adult. On April 24 at 7 p.m., get introduced to the Morningstar Investment Research Center. Morningstar provides online financial information for stocks, funds and more. A representative will give an overview of its many options. Learn the basics of selling on eBay and Amazon on April 26 at 7 p.m. Jack Waddick, a certified eBay instructor, will explain the pros and cons of each website along with tips and tricks in this real-time demonstration. Registration is requested.

The Knights of Niels Chess Club for kindergarten 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 families with children ages 5 and up from 4-5 p.m. April 24; for kids ages 5 and up from 4-5 p.m. April 24; for families with children ages 5 and up from 4-5 p.m. April 24.

Families with babies, toddlers, preschoolers and kids can go to the library at 10 a.m. May 11. DJ Miss Cate will be spinning all the best tunes. No registration is required.

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. Songwriters are encouraged to bring original songs to play live and get feedback from others at the Niels Songwriters Group meeting at 7:30 p.m. April 19.

Drop by to try a variety of devices from Sony, Nook, Kindle, and iPad from 1-4 p.m. April 21 at the eBook and eReader Fair. Learn more about searching MyMediaMall's eBook collection and see a demonstration on downloading library books. No registration necessary.

Create Lego masterpieces with the new Lego Club for ages 5 and up from 4-5 p.m. April 21 and May 21. Come celebrate with stories and rhythms in English, Spanish, a craft, and delicious treats from 10:30-11:30 a.m. April 28 (Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros); for families with children ages 3 and up. See a free big-screen movie, “Puss in Boots,” at 2 p.m. April 21 and enjoy a movie treat.

Local teens and tweens can commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic by performing the voices of the crew, passengers, the iceberg, and even the ship’s rat in a Titanic Readers Theatre production on April 21. Parts will be chosen, rehearsed, practiced and performed in one afternoon: 1-3 p.m. practice and pizza break; 3:30 p.m. performance.

International Film Series — “Monsieur Ibrahim” will be screened from 2-4:30 p.m. April 26. An elderly Turkish widower befriends a lonely teenage boy in a working class section of Paris. (2003, rated R, French language with English subtitles).

Learn the basics of how to manage a busy work and personal life in the popular free companion to Gmail known as Google Calendar from 10 a.m. to noon April 28. Researcher Stephen Szabo presents his popular program, “Mind the Latest US Census for Genealogical Data,” updated and timed to the April 2 release of the 1940 U.S. Census from 2-3:30 p.m. April 29. This program includes information as where people lived five years before, the highest educational grade achieved and detailed income and occupation.

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

Book Buddies — Students entering eighth grade in the fall and adults can become Book Buddies. Buddies read or listen to children read once a week for an hour.

The Niles Public Library provides all materials and training.

The Niles Public Library

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 44

Don't Replace Sunken Concrete, RAISE IT!

SAVE 50% TO 75% OF REPLACEMENT COSTS

$25 OFF Your Scheduled Work with this coupon.

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 44
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.

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Jennifer Johnson

Business Reporting
Jennifer Johnson

Graphics
Lenore Krasner

In-Depth Reporting
Bill Dwyer

News Columns or Commentary
Irv Leavitt

Editorial Writing
Jennifer Clark

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

**Maine Township**
The vocal magic of “Mr. Sound Effects” joins the expanded variety of exhibits, programs, and entertainment that will be featured at Maine Township’s Senior Expo “Swing into Spring” from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 20 at the Golf Mill Shopping Center. Other highlights of the day include the Legacy Girls, who will perform their signature performance, an Andrews Sisters music revue, at 1 p.m. as well as bingo preceding the Expo from 9:10 a.m., sponsored by High Commissioner Robert Provenzano; a Zumba Gold demonstration from 11:11:30 a.m. by certified instructor Diane Garvey, who is a member of the Maine Streamer class; and two raffles, one at 10:45 a.m. and the second at 12:15 p.m. Displays will include senior housing, health, financial services, and other providers of products and services that benefit older Americans.

Call (847) 297-2510 or visit www.mainetownship.com. Potential exhibitors should call the Expo Office at (847) 698-5069. Maine Township’s FISH (Friends Indeed Serve and Help) is in need of volunteer drivers to provide residents free transportation to medical facilities in and near Maine Township. Volunteers may choose how much time they wish to devote. Requirements include a current driver’s license and proof of auto insurance. The program requires residents in need to be mobile, or be able to use a cane or walker. FISH also asks that appointments be set three or more days in advance. To become a volunteer driver call Ed Oken at (847) 696-0761. To schedule a ride or for information call FISH coordinator Gloria Stepek at (847) 297-2510, Ext. 238.

**Niles**
Niles Park District New 3’s Preschool is offered at Niles Park District for children who turned 3 between Sept. 1, 2010, and missing the deadline. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To call (847) 967-6633 to reserve a lesson time.

**Golf Maine**
Visit one of the Golf Maine Park District offices, Feldman Recreation Center, 8600 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), Niles; or Deer Park, at the corner of Deer and Emerson Roads, Des Plaines; or call (847) 297-3000; www.grmcpd.org.

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

Zumba is a Latin-inspired workout to get in shape. Ongoing classes are held at 5:15 p.m. Mondays or Tuesdays at Feldman (nine weeks). Park & Tag - Ages 3 years to adult. Ongoing classes year round. Dee and Feldman Parks.

The Painting Studio offers classes for adults: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 7-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at Feldman.

Tiny Tots Open Gym - Parents may drop in and supervise their 1-5 year-old any Wednesday or Thursday from 9:11:30 a.m. for a variety of gym activities at Deer Park.
Evans playing like Mr. Everything

BY ROB VALENTIN
Contributor

To say that Maine East's Cory Evans has been hot to start the 2012 baseball season would be like saying that Derrick Rose has a nice jump shot.

The senior righty has been brilliant on the mound with a 5-0 record and 1.60 ERA, while averaging a strikeout per inning pitched. He's been lights-out at the plate as well, hitting .533 with 13 RBI and 10 home runs. At the plate, Evans was 8-of-12 with three home runs and six RBI as the Blue Demons defeated Palatine 6-0 on April 10.

Evans, who pitched a lot during Little League, primarily played shortstop his first two years. But second-year head coach Ron Clark saw something special in Evans when he took over as head coach last season.

"I knew he was an athletic kid and anytime you have an athletic kid with a live arm you have an opportunity to be a good pitcher," Clark said. "I brought it to him and he said he'd give it a try. He has a knack for it. He's always had pretty solid mechanics.

"The thing he has going for him is that he has command. He can throw a few pitches and put it where it needs to be. He doesn't throw extremely hard but he throws hard enough to give teams problems."

At the plate, Evans was the team's top hitter last season but he's taken it to new heights this year. And again, he gives all the credit to coaching.

"(Gliffe) has helped break down our swings and improve them," Evans said. "Helping us get a better read off the ball and knowing where it's located and where you need to hit it. I'm more aggressive now and can pull the ball more now. But I can hit to any direction too."

Evans is planning on attending Oakton College, where he'll play baseball and study physical education.

Maine East entered the week with a record of 9-4, which is more than twice as many wins as they had all last season (4-20). Enduring that kind of season helped motivate Evans and his teammates.

"It's really exciting how much the team has improved over the offseason," Evans said. "The attitude has changed. We're more hopeful and we're trying our best in every game."

The Blue Demons opened CSL play last week with a 10-3 win over Waukegan. Seniors Andrew and Tyler Glowacki each went 3-for-4.

Maine East's Maria Protic launches a shot during nonconference action. The Blue Demons knocked off MSL opponents Palatine and Rolling Meadows last week. | BRIAN O'MAHONEY-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

HIGH-FIVES

Male
Baseball: Cory Evans (Sr.) — Improved to 5-0 after tossing a complete game to beat Waukegan 10-3 on April 10

Girls Water Polo: Medina Husejnovic (So.) — Through the first 10 games of the season, Husejnovic has scored 38 goals and has 27 assists and 55 steals

BIG NUMBERS

12 — Kills by Greg Siemienczuk in a Blue Demons' win last week

6 — Total hits by the Glowacki twins in a 10-3 win over Waukegan. Seniors Andrew and Tyler each went 3-for-4

CULTURE GRID

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH MAINE EAST SOFTBALL PLAYER JOWITA SZCZYPKA

Jowita Szczypka

What do you want to be when you grow up?
I want to be a nurse. I'm currently an NCT (Nurse Care Technician) at Lutheran General Hospital and I absolutely love it.

What's your favorite restaurant and what are you eating there?
Burrito house and I eat the supreme nachos. First of all it's cheap and it's delicious.

What's your least favorite school subject?
Math. I'm just really bad at it and it's boring

What's your favorite vacation spot?
California because my best friend lives there. I go there every other summer.

If you're at the mall, what stores do you have to check out?
I work at Ms. Fields so I'd probably go pick up some cookies. Then Body Central, Forever 21 and Vans.

SOUND BITES

"We've gotten off to a very positive start, probably the best in recent memory. The guys are excited about it and we're excited about our chances in conference."
RON CLARK, MAINE EAST BASEBALL COACH, AFTER HIS TEAM STARTED THE SEASON 9-4; THE BLUE DEMONS WERE 4-20 LAST SEASON

DON'T MISS

Thursday
Girls Water Polo: Glenbrook North @ Maine East, 6 p.m.

The Blue Demons are off to a good start, beating CSL foes Maine South, Evanston and Glenbrook South. Maine East will look to add some wins to their list.

Tuesday
Girls Soccer: Maine East @ Maine West, 6:30 p.m.
The District 207 rivals square off in a CSL North game in Des Plaines.
Senior Lendy leads inexperienced crew

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

The typical high-school athlete is not a star, his team's best player or a member of a championship team. He doesn’t play football or basketball in front of big crowds, cheerleaders and marching bands. Jared Lendy represents the majority. The affable senior does not play on Notre Dame’s boys tennis team for glory or victories. The inexperienced Dons play their home matches in relative obscurity at Northeast Park in Park Ridge.

Lendy simply likes to play the sport and enjoys being on the team.

"No matter if we win or lose, I always have a good time out there," he said. "It's just a fun game to play. I like the competition, and I like everyone on our team."

Lendy willingly shifts between singles or doubles with junior Matt Leone, who joined head coach Steve Jankowski with the school’s Italian Club last week on a trip to Italy.

"I'm not our best player, but I just like to try to get better," Lendy said. "My strength is up at the net, and my forehand and backhand are pretty good. I'm really working on my serve and hustling more on the court to try to get every point."

The only senior mainstay on a young team, Lendy sets a good example with an upbeat attitude and strong work ethic.

"Jared keep things fun and organized for his team," said JV coach Andy McCurley.

Lendy also can be found cheering for Notre Dame’s talented volleyball team, whose members include sophomore twin brothers Steve and Jake, and cousin Mark Nadolny.

The fun-loving senior also is an aspiring chef who created the YouTube video entitled, "Kitchen Life of Jared."

The Dons are rebuilding, and Lendy serves as either No. 1 or No. 2 doubles, with plenty of potential.

Junior David Dickson frequently wins No. 2 singles.

Senior Matthew Pfirrek and Walt Thomas, who pair up at either No. 1 or No. 2 doubles, also have plenty of potential.

Tom Holden, another junior, contributes in either singles or doubles.

Classmate Chris McCormick also has seen singles action.

Juniors Carl Carrabotta and Gabe Cunnanan, and seniors Sung Jin Seo and Suk Young Kim furnish doubles depth. Sophomore Joe Wilk has received some court time.

In ESCC action last week, Carmel blanked the Dons 8-0.

Doubles victories. The inexperienced boys tennis team for glory or victories. He doesn’t play on Notre Dame's team, but could be a force after he gains more varsity experience.

Junior David Dickson frequently wins No. 2 singles. Sophomore Tim Pfirrek and Walt Thomas, who pair up at either No. 1 or No. 2 doubles, also have plenty of potential. Tom Holden, another junior, contributes in either singles or doubles. Classmate Chris McCormick also has seen singles action.

Juniors Carl Carrabotta and Gabe Cunnanan, and seniors Sung Jin Seo and Suk Young Kim furnish doubles depth. Sophomore Joe Wilk has received some court time.

In ESCC action last week, Carmel blanked the Dons 8-0, including exhibition matches, and Joliet Catholic breezed 6-2.

Sophomores Tim Pfirrek and Walt Thomas, who pair up at either No. 1 or No. 2 doubles, also have plenty of potential. Tom Holden, another junior, contributes in either singles or doubles. Classmate Chris McCormick also has seen singles action.

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Sophomores Tim Pfirrek and Walt Thomas, who pair up at either No. 1 or No. 2 doubles, also have plenty of potential. Tom Holden, another junior, contributes in either singles or doubles. Classmate Chris McCormick also has seen singles action.

Juniors Carl Carrabotta and Gabe Cunnanan, and seniors Sung Jin Seo and Suk Young Kim furnish doubles depth. Sophomore Joe Wilk has received some court time.

In ESCC action last week, Carmel blanked the Dons 8-0, including exhibition matches, and Joliet Catholic breezed 6-2.
NILES NORTH QUICK HITS

The Vikings head to the Downers Grove North invite this weekend. (DAVID BANKS—FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA)

HIGH-FIVES

Male
Baseball: Dan Ammer (Jr.) — Hit a solo home run in the Vikings' 6-4 win over St. Patrick on April 9.

Female
Softball: Kristin Reichert (Jr.) — Went 4-for-4 with a home run and three RBI to fuel CSL North victory over Maine East on April 12.

BIG NUMBERS

7 — Consecutive CSL North titles won by the boys track and field team.

20 — Runs scored by the Niles North softball team against Maine East in a 20-3 victory on April 12.

CULTURE GRID

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH BASEBALL PLAYER ELLIOT MARK

Elliott Mark
Who is your favorite super hero?
Batman, mainly because he doesn't have any super powers. But he has the technology to fight crime.

What's your favorite TV show?
How I Met Your Mother. I really like the classic type of sitcom and the characters. Neil Patrick Harris is hilarious.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
A history teacher. I love history and it's my passion in school. I want to work with kids and just people in general. It's a pretty good living.

Besides playing sports, what do you like to do in your free time?
I like to play video games, hang out with friends and watch a lot of movies. But baseball takes up a lot of my time.

If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it?
I'd definitely play for college and maybe get a car. I'd like to bring my aunt and uncle back to this country because they moved to Costa Rica.

SOUND BITES

"I'm disappointed for our girls because they fought hard. I thought we were the better team for most of the game."
PAUL ELKINS, NILES NORTH GIRLS SOCCER COACH AFTER HIS TEAM DROPPED A 3-1 DECISION TO NILES WEST ON APRIL 11

DON'T MISS

Today
Baseball: Glenbrook North @ Niles North, 4:45 p.m.
The Vikings get a big test when they take on the Spartans in a CSL North matchup. Glenbrook North pitcher Peter Resnick tossed a no-hitter last week against Niles West.

Friday and Saturday
Boys Volleyball: Niles North @ Downers South Invitational, 8 a.m.
The Vikings head to the western suburbs for an intensely competitive tournament. The invite has hosted some of the state's top teams in the past, such as Wheaton Warrenville South and Maine South.
Rosenberg fits in well with new teammates

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

Niles West has shot out to a 14-2 record this season, largely because the Wolves both hit and pitch exceedingly well.

The same can be said about catcherpitcher Seth Rosenberg, who transferred from New Trier to Niles West this season.

"I like it," said Rosenberg, a junior, of hitting in the middle of such a powerful lineup. "I think, one-through-nine, we're strong. I don't think there's another team, one-through-nine, when we're on, that can best us. It's great to play baseball with these guys every day."

It's especially great if you're in the heart of the order, like Rosenberg has been this season.

Established varsity standouts Kyle Colletta, Kevin Ross and Jason Meger typically hit in the 2-3-4 slots, respectively. Rosenberg has been inserted into the all-important No. 5 spot by Niles West coach Garry Gustafson. He is usually followed by power-hitting Erik Stajnoff.

"He's a good addition because we lost some guys from last year and he's just as good as all of those kids," Meger said. "He's helping us out a lot, getting another bat in the lineup."

While Niles West has piled up victories this season, not each game has been a slugfest. The Wolves' pitching staff has been excellent throughout the season, and Rosenberg has been behind the plate to catch the majority of Niles West's games.

Rosenberg's work with the pitching staff began with bullpen sessions in the off-season, which allowed him to grow familiar and comfortable with the Wolves' pitchers. It also let Rosenberg integrate with the team and start learning more about his teammates before the beginning of the season.

"I love it," said Meger of pitching to Rosenberg. "I think he's a great catcher. I really like the way he calls pitches. He's really aggressive behind the plate. He has a lot of confidence in our pitchers, too. If someone's getting down, he'll get them back up. He's got the right attitude behind the plate and he's a great addition to our team."

All indications are, Rosenberg has blended in well with an established team. What started with bullpen sessions with pitchers in the off-season has now transformed into an appreciation for every day of baseball with Niles West this spring.

Notre Dame second baseman Ryan Czachor, who is batting a team-best .333, attempts to tag out Guerin Prep's Michael Marra. | DAN LUEDERT-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Dons adjusting to return of Connelly

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

Baseball is wonderful because it often makes no sense.

Notre Dame won six of its first nine games without senior shortstop Keenan Connelly, the Dons' best player, and then dropped seven of eight after he returned.

"We just haven't gotten the key hit with runners in scoring position lately," said Connelly, who is excited to be back on the diamond after a five-week bout of mononucleosis.

Connelly, the Dons' No. 3 hitter, is a lethal line-drive hitter, agile defender and stolen-base threat. He is a lethal line-drive hitter, agile defender and stolen-base threat. He is a lethal line-drive hitter, agile defender and stolen-base threat. He is a lethal line-drive hitter, agile defender and stolen-base threat.

"We haven't been capitalizing on opportunities at the plate. Our pitchers started to fall behind in counts. There was an adjustment period with roles changing after we got (Connelly and Stahmer) back. We looked a little lax after we started losing."

Senior second baseman Ryan Czachor is batting a team-high .333. Multi-talented junior center fielder Danny Hyde (321) is tops in hits (16) and RBI (12). Pieruccini has 10 steals to Hyde's nine. Senior workhorse catcher and leadoff man Matt Walsh (.275) and junior first baseman/DH Erick Zepeda (.282) also have been productive at the plate.

Hurlers Nick Fiorito, Tony Marcellino and freshman Adnan Satoro have had mixed results after strong starts. Zach Kozol (2.0. 2.40 ERA) has been stingy in five relief outings.

In an ESCC-opening doubleheader, visiting Joliet Catholic (12-3, 2-0) swept Notre Dame 4-1, 6-2 Saturday. The Dons collected only seven hits in the twinbill. Illinois-bound lefty Kevin DuChene tossed a two-hitter in the first game for the Hilltoppers. Fiorito pitched well in defeat. Czachor and Pieruccini singled in both games. Sean Pavel cracked an RBI single in the nightcap.

The Dons won't soon forget the one victory in their last nine outings, a wild 17-15 comeback triumph in 10 innings over Loyola on April 5. Notre Dame trailed 9-2 after five innings. Connelly collected two doubles, three walks and four runs scored. Pieruccini (.5 hits, 3 runs) stole four bases. Czachor and Zach Ryan delivered clutch RBI doubles.

In a busy stretch, Notre Dame plays Providence Saturday, Marist in a Sunday doubleheader and rival St. Patrick on Monday.
THIS WEEK

NILES NORTH

BASEBALL

Today
Hosts Glenbrook North, 4:45 p.m.
Saturday
Hosts Lane Tech (GH), 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday
At Maine West, 4:45 p.m.
Friday
Hosts John Cress Invite, 6:30 p.m.
Today
At Maine East, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
At Prospect Invite, 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday
At Highland Park, 4:30 p.m.
Friday
At Downers Grove South Invite, 5 p.m.
Saturday
At Downers Grove South Invite, 8 a.m.
Tuesday
Hosts Maine East, 5 p.m.
Today
At Pepsi Showdown, TBA
Today
At Pepsi Showdown, TBA
Monday
Hosts Glenbrook North, 7 p.m.
Sunday
At Deerfield, 7 p.m.
Today
At Maine West, 4:45 p.m.
Friday
At Lakes, 4:45 p.m.
Saturday
Hosts Lane Tech, 10 a.m.
Sunday
Hosts Glenbrook North, 4:45 p.m.
Friday
At Glenbrook South Titan Invite

NILES WEST

BASEBALL

Today
Hosts Evanston, 4:45 p.m.
Saturday
At Union Grove/York Div., 11 a.m.
Tuesday
At New Trier, 4:45 p.m.
Friday
At Glenbrook South Invite, 6:30 p.m.
Today
Hosts Glenbrook South, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday
At Willowbrook Invite, 8 a.m.
Friday
At Notre Dame Relays, 5 p.m.
Today
Hosts Waubonsie, 6 p.m.
Friday
At Downers Grove South Invite, 5 p.m.
Saturday
Hosts New Trier, 6 p.m.
Wednesday
At Evanston, 6 p.m.
Today
At New Trier, 6 p.m.
Today
At Riverside-Brookfield Invite, 9 a.m.
Today
Hosts Maine South, 6 p.m.
Today
Hosts Maine West, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Hosts Maine East, 6 p.m.
Today
At Waubonsie, 4:45 p.m.
Today
At Oswego Invitational, 9 a.m.
Friday
Hosts Triangular w/Tall, Walter Payton, 5 p.m./2 p.m.
Tuesday
At Glenbrook South, 4:45 p.m.

Vikes rely on Brand, band of freshmen

NIKCO THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012 | WWW.PIONEERLOCAL.COM

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

Following a long basketball season that didn't allow Brand any time to train with the Niles North girls soccer team, freshman Alyssa Brand entered into her first - and only - open gym.

Brand started playing with the other Vikings players and, seeing her skill level, a Niles North coach asked for her name.

Later, on the first day of soccer tryouts, Brand was asked another question.

"I didn't really know anybody; I did basketball, so I didn't do offseason (training)," Brand said. "The first day of tryouts, (a coach) asked me to try out with varsity. Then it kind of went from there."

Brand has been part of Niles North's varsity team ever since.

While being nervous her first few varsity practices, Brand quickly settled into her place as the team's starting central midfielder.

Niles North got off to a slow start this season - the Vikings began their year by going without a goal during a 0-4-1 stretch - yet it was Brand who ended the team's lengthy scoreless drought by scoring the first goal of the season.

"I think it was pretty apparent early in the preseason that Alyssa was one of our most talented players," Niles North coach Paul Elkins said. "It was a no-brainer to bring her up. We realized pretty much right away that we had someone who was capable of contributing right away at the varsity level."

Ask a freshman playing on varsity about what's the biggest difference from the lower levels and the answers are usually pretty similar. Varsity players are traditionally faster and stronger, which requires quicker decisions and sharper play.

Brand has experienced that difference this year, as have Myah Aharoni, Demetra Giris, Maddy Valente and Luci Valenzuela, who are all Niles North's other four freshmen on the varsity squad.

"All the freshmen have really stepped up and contributed," Elkins said. "We've kind of thrown them into the fire. For the most part they've adjusted really well. Alyssa, we put her right away at center midfield and said 'you're going to be our playmaker.' We've run a lot of stuff through her and she's really responded well."

While the physical, on-field differences require a significant adjustment, the social aspect of trying to fit in with a group of upperclassmen can be equally stressful for freshman girls.

But at the beginning of this season, Brand said the Vikings' older players were welcoming and almost instantly made her feel comfortable as a part of the team.

"All the older girls and stuff, everybody's really accepting," Brand said. "I just kind of went right into the mix. We're a close team, both on the field and off."

Since being shut out in the first five games of the season, the Vikings have won two matches. This season has been hard at times for Brand, who described the beginning of the year as, "frustrating at first because we were losing, and I don't think we were playing to our potential."

But through hard work in practice and the team's understanding that growing increasingly comfortable with varsity play, the Vikings have seen improvement. Elkins thinks the future is bright for his squad, and believes Brand's work ethic is something which sets her apart.

"I think she has a lot of skills as a soccer player, but more importantly her competitiveness is her No. 1 thing," said Elkins. "She's always looking for ways to improve, she's always working hard in practice, and the team's understanding that growing increasingly comfortable with varsity play, the Vikings have seen improvement. Elkins thinks the future is bright for his squad, and believes Brand's work ethic is something which sets her apart as a player."
Kleppin header continues Niles West surge

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

In setting his team’s schedule for the 2012 season, Niles West girls soccer coach Brett Clish chose an option which most coaches would avoid.

Clish scheduled the majority of Niles West’s most difficult opponents for the first week of the season. Niles West played Deerfield, Glenbrook North, New Trier and Maine South in its first four games, all resulting in losses. Scheduling such a demanding start to the season was a risky strategy.

The Wolves were outscored 18-4 during their first four games.

But once Niles West advanced into the second week of the season, it began winning. Since dropping its first four games, Niles West fashioned a 4-1-1 mark, including a come-from-behind, 3-1 victory over Niles North in one of the most important matches of the season.

“I think our tough schedule at the beginning of the season is starting to pay off now,” Clish said. “The girls do realize, (in) a lot of the harder (games), we did pretty well at the beginning with New Trier, Maine South, Deerfield, Glenbrook North. We’ve played a lot of tough ones already, and I purposely did do that to make sure that they are then ready to play some of the other teams.”

Although Niles West lost each of its first four games by at least two goals, it grew more comfortable playing with minimal possession. While some teams might get frustrated as time fades away without many scoring chances, Niles West showed the determination to keep pressing on.

Despite getting out-shot by Libertyville and Niles North, Niles West came through in the second half of both matches.

In last week’s match between district rivals, Niles North dominated possession and held the ball to such an extent that Niles West was only able to generate four shots in all.

But by playing strong defense, anchored by reigning all-conference player Nicole Ostro and aggressive goalkeeper Jackie Cardenas, Niles West overcame a first-half goal to win the match, when Molly Kleppin headed in a goal with less than four minutes remaining.

“I would say, in many conference games, and even cross-conference, we are used to the other team controlling a lot of the game,” Kleppin said. “We just kind of keep it back in defense and midfield, and keep it together.”

The Wolves — joyously congregating at midfield to accept the crosstown trophy—showed how much the victory meant.

“I feel confident that we’ll win most of our other games,” Cardenas said.

After playing to a scoreless draw against Evanston on Friday, Niles West will compete in its own tournament this weekend. The Wolves hope to continue applying positives while simultaneously ignoring the negatives of losing four matches to start the season.

“I think they are realizing that’s benefiting us,” Clish said. “Even though we had five losses in that span, competition-wise we were in most of the games, to an extent. That’s what’s helping.”
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