KEEPING KIDS SAFE

Monika Kalicki, of Golf Mill Shopping Center, explains the type of information parents can record on a child-safety kit following a May 25 mall event commemorating National Missing Children's Day. PAGE 8 | JENNIFER JOHNSON-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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Mayor, trustees wrestle over village manager appointment

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

George Van Geem is now the “acting” village manager after trustees rejected Mayor Robert Callero’s reappointment of Van Geem as village manager at this month’s village board meeting.

The vote to not reappoint Van Geem was 4-2, with Trustee Joe LoVerde and Andrew Przybylo voting in favor of keeping Van Geem at Village Hall's top post.

As a result, Callero instead appointed Van Geem the acting village manager, as he had said he would if the former village manager’s reappointment were not approved.

Trustee Jim Hynes said at the meeting that Callero had indicated that he would continue to appoint Van Geem as the acting village manager as long as the mayor remained in office.

“I think the movement to dislodge Mr. Van Geem was unwarranted,” Przybylo said.

“His a very valued employee in the village of Niles,” Callero said, adding that many good things have been accomplished under Van Geem’s leadership.

After meeting with Van Geem on May 21, LoVerde said he changed his mind about Van Geem.

In January when we offered Mr. Van Geem the buyout I had supported it,” LoVerde said. “I had the opportunity to sit with him on Monday. We were very candid and honest with each other. I thought about it and made my decision to support him at the board meeting (May 22).”

Also at this month’s meeting trustees overrode a mayoral veto and now will be hiring an outside attorney to assist them with various issues such as determining whether the mayor can keep appointing Van Geem as acting village manager.

Trustee Chris Hanusiak said it was very important for officials to be able to seek outside legal counsel.

Hynes explained that five of the six trustees offered Van Geem a six-month package that included benefits.

Hynes said Van Geem rejected the offer, noting that the last two village managers received one-year severance packages and that he felt he should receive the same. The other two village managers received vehicles, as well.

Hynes explained that when trustees looked into the severance pay for the two village managers they could not find an ordinance approving the packages. Hanusiak told the lawyer will look into this issue, as well.

Przybylo said he asked the other trustees several times why they wanted Van Geem out of the top village position, and he has never received any answers.

Trustees did not give a reason at the May 22 board meeting. Phone calls to Callero and Van Geem were not immediately returned.

As he has stated in past meetings Callero believes board members are trying to usurp the mayor’s power.

Renovation Project

Library officials get peek at upgrade designs

Architects from Product Architecture presented some 3D images of what various areas of Niles Public Library will look like once a major upcoming renovation is completed.

Photos of the new children’s area and teen center were shown and discussed this month by the library board, as were the new vending area and a common area with a vent-less fireplace.

The fiction room was described as the “classic reading room.”

The architects also brought to the board meeting samples of rugs that will be installed across the library.

Costs of the renovation project were also discussed this month. The total cost for the project is estimated at $5.5 million.

Bids are expected to go out in September, said library officials, who explained that the whole project will be bid out to various contractors at one time.

By Tracy Gruen

Library Brief

New trustee appointed to fill board vacancy

Karen J. Dimond has been selected to fill a vacancy on the Niles Public Library Board of Trustees following the resignation of member Sam Puleo earlier this month.

Dimond was selected to serve the remainder of Puleo’s term during the May 24 meeting of the Niles Public Library Board.

The Library Board and Director Linda Weiss interviewed five interested candidates in executive session.

The candidates were Mary Marusek, who ran for the position of village trustee last year; Catherine Kaczanowski; Billy Van Cannon; Karen Dimond; and former Niles Public Library Trustee Maureen Polcyn.

Dimond will serve until May 2013 and will need to be elected in order to keep her position on the board.

Dimond will be sworn in at the regular Library Board meeting in June.

By Tracy Gruen
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Fun-seekers pool resources when economy dips

BY TRACY GRUEN

You don't have to go very far to feel like you're on a vacation. It can literally happen in your own backyard.

Norbert Pools is a family owned and operated business that has called Niles home since 1968. It originally opened as a nursery and garden center.

Still going strong, the store, located at 9141 N. Milwaukee Ave., is once again ready for summer. And, due to the poor economy of the past few years, a trend of people wanting to repair the pools they have at home, rather than take out-of-town trips, has developed.

That's good news for Norbert Pools.

"I have noticed a lot more people who have pools and haven't used them in years are opening them up," said manager Robert Hack. "People are doing stay-cations."

The store sells pools of various sizes and shapes, as well as spas, billiards, patio furniture, darts, pool tables, bar stools, outdoor decorations and more.

Hack said customers can find just about "anything that's fun" for both outdoor and indoor activities.

"We try to stand by quality products," said Hack, adding that he wants to provide competitive prices as well.

So, what is this family business' secret to lasting so many years?

"We're very customer-service oriented," Hack replied. "That's the reason we've been here that long."

Location hasn't hurt either. Hack said the store's address along Milwaukee Avenue is perfect because of the large volume of traffic that passes by daily.

"People are driving to and from the mall all the time," said Hack. He added that the fountain of water in front of the store also attracts people who are driving by.

With summer just around the corner, Hack said the store has just started to get pretty busy again.

Pools sold at Norbert vary in sizes and include the 12-foot round, 28-foot round, oval pools and everything in-between. Norbert Pools carries name-brand pools and sells supplies like pool toys, chemicals and other accessories that may be needed in order for families to have a fun, cool summer right in their own backyards.

The store includes a service department that handles repairs on pumps, filter systems and more. This department is currently very busy due to the growing number of customers who are fixing up their swimming pools.

And though summer is definitely the busiest time of year at Norbert Pools, the store still makes a splash in the winter.

During the holiday season, the showroom is transformed into a winter wonderland, featuring a large selection of festive and colorful pre-lit, artificial Christmas trees ranging from four-feet to 9-feet tall.

There are about 15 to 20 employees at Norbert Pools, depending on the time of year.

Norbert Pools employee Ryan Fitzsimmons conducts a chemical analysis of pool water at the store May 23. For no cost customers can bring in a sample of their pool's water to find out what chemicals they need to keep it clean. By TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Norbert Pools in Niles specializes in outdoor pools, including their main blow-up pools. They also sell accessories like pool toys, chemicals and other supplies that may be needed in order for families to have a fun, cool summer right in their own backyards.

By TAMARA BELL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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YOU JUST NEVER KNOW

Parents prepared for unexpected on Missing Children's Day

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

At 2 years old, Julia naturally wants to be just like her brother, John, 5.

She follows him on the playground like a shadow. She looks for him when he's away. None of this is a problem except when she wanders from the watchful eye of caretaker Ewa Godzisz.

And that is exactly what the blond, pigtailed toddler with a toothy smile was doing on a quiet Friday morning while she and Godzisz spent time at the Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles.

Julia went up and down a slide in a children's area before realizing she wanted to be with John. So, in the middle of play, she stopped and simply began walking aimlessly into the mall in search of her brother, who was at preschool at the time.

"Julia! Julia!" Godzisz called before rushing to stop the runaway child.

"I know she can't go outside from here but I'm always trying to keep an eye on her," she said.

Godzisz has babysat the Des Plaines siblings since the eldest was two months old. John had always been obedient and stays close to her side. His sister, on the other hand, likes to explore.

Keeping tabs on both of them is difficult, Godzisz said, but she's always watching.

"I have to have eyes around my head," she said.

Thankfully, Godzisz has never run into a situation where one of the kids went missing.

Though a babysitter might pay extra attention to knowing the whereabouts of children under her watch, all parents and caretakers could stand to take extra precautions to prevent kids from disappearing, say Niles police.

During the past month the Niles Police Department partnered with Golf Mill Shopping Center to recognize National Missing Children's Day, which was May 25.

Police spent two afternoons fingerprinting kids and providing shoppers with child safety kits. It also helped Golf Mill to implement "Code Adam," a security response program to locating missing children.

Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene said it has become his and the department's goal this year to train other Niles businesses on the steps they should immediately take after a child is reporting missing.

This involves placing designated employees at business entrances while others sweep the area in search of the child. All staff get involved, Tornabene said, not just security. Police are called in if a child doesn't turn up after six or seven minutes, he said.

"It's more eyes and it's coordinated," he said. "The coordination definitely plays an important role."

Code Adam is already being used at the local Walmart, JC Penny and Home Depot, Tornabene said.

At Golf Mill, all staff participated in a training on the program a month ago. Under the new protocol, everyone from housekeeping staff to maintenance, from mall management to security, are expected mobilize to help ensure the safe return of a child.

On May 19 and May 20, the mall put its new plan into action to locate a missing toddler as well as a mentally-handicapped adult. Both were found in less than 5 minutes, said Monika Kalicki, the mall's marketing director.

"Instead of being reactive we've taken a stance of being proactive," she said. "Instead of relying on security we are all involved."

That is the same message Niles Police are sending to parents through participation in Take 25, a child-safety public awareness campaign created in 2007 by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The campaign encourages parents to take 25 minutes to talk to their children about safety and ways to prevent abduction.

According to a center analysis, a child escaped would-be abductors through his or her own actions in 54 percent of cases surveyed, which underscores the necessity of teaching both children and adults about precautions to keep kids safe.

"We want parents to realize that we know they're busy," Tornabene said. "But there are little procedures you can put into place that may result in a better chance of recovering a child before it becomes a problem."

One easy thing parents should do annually is get headshot photos of their children, Tornabene said. They should also maintain a lock of their child's hair for DNA purposes, he added, which oftentimes proves more useful to police than fingerprints.

To help parents, police were present at Golf Mill on May 25 to provide child-safety kits which allow parents to record their child's physical characteristics and other personal information which could help police if their child goes missing. Children were also fingerprinted for the kit.

In his two decades on the job Tornabene said he couldn't recall a situation in which a local child was abducted. The village has been fortunate in that respect, he said, but that doesn't mean it couldn't happen.

"You just never know," he said.
NILES looks to put new face on biz community

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Business owner and Niles resident Joe Walsh thinks the village's business community could use a facelift. And while he indicated image upgrades are needed in general, any effort should start with the anchor of Niles' business community, Golf Mill Shopping Center.

Walsh sees Niles as a major retail village and is strongly in favor of supporting business, but he doesn't feel all village trustees are necessarily on the same page.

"There's a mayor who's very pro-business," said Walsh, who feels upgrades are needed to Golf Mill in order to boost revenue. "And there are a few trustees who are extremely anti-business."

Walsh feels some trustees are more concerned with "political expediency than the long-term business health of the village."

A few months ago four trustees voted against approving the establishment of the special business district that would have involved a sales-tax increase of .25 percent.

Walsh agrees with a recent open letter from the Niles Chamber of Commerce that stated the chamber supported the failed business-district proposal by Golf Mill Shopping Center. Walsh said the special tax district would have been a smart business decision.

"Niles is a shopping-destination town and we should continue to capitalize on visitors and tourists spending their money here," the chamber letter stated. "Many of our business corridors look dated and need obvious improvements and upgrades. All of our retail areas are a reflection of our town, and currently many of them need a new look."

Walsh agreed aesthetic improvements are necessary at Golf Mill and at other shops in the village. "It starts by making the appearance better," he said.

Kalicki replied, "Golf Mill will need to fully evaluate future lease deals based on the economics of the deal in terms of tenant allowance costs, landlord work costs, financing, payback and added net value to the property."

Kalicki said the mall will always be open to partnering with the village of Niles in order to boost business, retail and revenue streams, as well as job creation for the community.

Trustee Joe Loverde said he hopes Golf Mill will bring back its proposal with more of a focus on the beautification of the mall as opposed to stormwater-maintenance issues, which some trustees feel is the responsibility of the mall.

Trustee Rosemary Palicki feels Niles is in the ideal location to attract young people, newlyweds and empty-nesters who enjoy Chicago's cultural, recreational and education opportunities, but are in search of more the affordable housing options Niles can provide.

"The problem is we are waiting to be discovered," Palicki said. "We need leadership to move us forward. We can't rest on past laurels and trying to maintain status quo. We need definite goals and a long-range plan for attaining those goals."

Palicki said Milwaukee Avenue is a work in progress that could be looked at from a broader perspective. She suggested looking at ways to encourage shopping at the neighborhood stores located along Milwaukee Avenue by providing parking that takes up less street space and also getting businesses with a residential component. She also recommends accessibility for bikes and pedestrians, and the continued beautification of Milwaukee Avenue.

The village recently approved its 2030 Comprehensive Plan that creates a vision for Niles in 20 years.

"But to enact a vision of this magnitude we need to start today," the chamber stated in its letter.
POLICE WEEK

Service honors sacrifices of 'unsung heroes'

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

For Anthony Loffredo, an eighth-grader at Park Ridge's Mary, Seat of Wisdom School, growing up watching his father serve the Chicago Police Department was an “inspiration.” But for a long time the teenager was largely unaware of just how dangerous his father's job could be.

"It never occurred to me that my dad could come home injured — or not at all — because the good guys always won," Loffredo told a crowd of police officers, elected officials, local clergy and residents who gathered outside Park Ridge City Hall May 14 for a memorial ceremony in honor of fallen police officers.

Loffredo was the featured speaker at the event, which was held in recognition of National Police Week and hosted by the Park Ridge Police Chaplains Association. The ceremony honored local police officers killed in the line of duty and the three Chicago police officers who died last year.

"Courageous. Trustworthy. Faithful. Dedicated. Admireable. Those are the words that come to mind when I think of those who protect and serve," the teenager said.

The Rev. James McCracken, senior pastor of Park Ridge Presbyterian Church and a Park Ridge Police Department chaplain, gave the invocation during the ceremony, asking that the memories of fallen police officers "stand forever."

"It doesn't matter what type of shield they wore as long as they served with dignity, pride and honor," McCracken said.

Also on hand to make remarks was State Sen. Dan Kotowski, who stated that while police officers are often not publicly applauded for their work they are "unsung heroes" who make the people they serve feel honored, grateful and blessed.

Police Chaplain Perry Fisher read the names of officers who died in the line of duty during the history of five local departments. They included Officer Steven Zourkas, of the Niles Police Department; Officer Barry Shalin, of the Morton Grove Police Department; Officer James Joke, of the Des Plaines Police Department; Illinois State Police Trooper Erin Sweeney Hehl; and Cook County Sheriff's Police Officers William Pottow and Leonard Hurwitz.

Chicago Police Officers Kevin Robinson, Paul Nauden and Clifton Lewis, who died last year, were also honored.

"Taps" was performed by student Alex Campbell; a group of Maine South High School sing for the National Anthem; and Maine South High School choir performed "American the Beautiful."

The ceremony also featured the Park Ridge Police Department's Honor Guard and attendance by representatives of Park Ridge and other area police departments.

Members of the Park Ridge Police Department Honor Guard join other officers during a May 14 memorial for fallen officers outside Park Ridge City Hall. JENNIFER JOHNSON - SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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Emerson Middle School seventh-graders Grace Janes, left, Peyton Turner, Lisa Tryemka, Haley Mech and Liv Conklin walk 6 miles around the Niles school in costume May 24 to raise money for a South African school in need of clean water. | RYAN PAGELOW-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

EDUCATION IN FOCUS

Walking for water

Youngsters put studies to action to get African children clean water

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Grace Janes has been doing extra chores around the house — and it's not so she can have more money to hang out with her friends.

Janes, a seventh-grader at Emerson Middle School in Niles, is enthusiastically dedicated to raising money to help kids in South Africa have clean water at their school. She was one of 101 seventh-graders from Emerson who participated in a May 24 walkathon to raise money for H2O for Life, a nonprofit organization that partners schools in the United States with schools in developing countries in order to support water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

The dedicated Emerson walkers exceeded their goal of raising at least $2,250. H2O for Life will pay the remaining half of the cost to make clean water a reality for children at one South African school.

Wearing a bright orange wig, Janes, who performed extra chores at home in order to donate additional money to the cause, walked around Emerson with a group of classmates who were also wearing wigs and colorful outfits.

A stereo was set up and lively music was playing as the students talked to their friends and had a good time, all for a good cause.

"I think it is really important," Janes said of the fundraiser as she continued to walk with her friends. "It's going to change their lives."

Peyton Turner joined other students who walked with bottles of water in their backpacks to symbolize how children in impoverished areas of Africa have to walk three or more miles every day just to get water for their homes.

"It's really dirty there," said Turner, adding that students have also sold wristbands to raise money for the cause. In addition, teachers have been volunteering to do fun things like shave their heads for donations.

"It's a small part to help the people in Africa," said Nick Bavaro, as he made laps around Emerson. "This is a great experience. It teaches people about water and how fortunate we are."

Bavaro explained that he and his friends were wearing black because it symbolizes the hot walk that the students in Africa have to make each day just to get clean water. He also dyed his hair blue to symbolize the water issue.

Doug Florence, a seventh-grade social studies teacher, enjoyed seeing the students out participating in such an important cause.

"Water is something that we take for granted," said Florence, who believes the students have become more aware of this important issue in Africa as a result of the walkathon.

The seventh-graders are learning about Africa in social studies and about clean water in science. They recently took a field trip to the Chicago River in order to do a water analysis.

Florence said the school may do this fundraiser again with future groups of seventh-graders.
From Maine South kid to Jersey Boy

Nick Cosgrove, star of 'Jersey Boys' advises aspiring actors

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Nick Cosgrove's entry into the world of musical theater began on stage — and in the classroom — at Maine South High School.

Six years after graduation the Park Ridge native is putting the skills he learned as a teenager into his career as a professional actor.

Cosgrove is now starring as Frankie Valli in a national touring company's production of "Jersey Boys." Cosgrove's twice-weekly performances in the award-winning musical are taking place through June 3 at Bank of America Theatre in downtown Chicago.

It was "Jersey Boys," which Cosgrove first saw at age 17, that cemented his desire to become an actor, and he calls playing Frankie Valli — whom he hopes to meet in person next week — his "dream role."

"I'm playing my dream role in my dream show. How lucky can you get?" he asked with a laugh.

While in town Cosgrove made a stop at the place where his dreams of becoming an actor took root: his old high school. On May 21 Cosgrove engaged a group of current theater and music students in more than 90 minutes of conversation, sharing memories of his performances on the auditorium stage, his professional work since graduating from Carnegie Mellon University, and his advice for hopeful actors in the audience. He then earned cheers and applause for his performance of "Lost in the Wilderness" from the musical, "Children of Eden."

Cosgrove says his mentors from Maine South include drama teacher and theater director John Muszynski, former band director and current Maine East Principal Michael Pressler, retired choir director David Danckwart and drama teacher Lauri McCloughan.

"Those four teachers just impacted me and my love for theater so much," Cosgrove said.

When the actor first stepped onto Maine South's Clyde K. Watson Auditorium stage in 1997 he wasn't even in high school yet. The school's production of "Will Rogers Follies" required children to fill some of the roles. Cosgrove auditioned — singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" for Danckwart — and got a part. He returned in following years to perform alongside the high school actors in productions of "The Music Man," "Sound of Music.""

"It was just really fun to know all the teachers and be a part of the theater program before I even got to Maine South," Cosgrove shared.

A young Cosgrove also sang as a cantor at his parish, Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church in Niles.

"I was so short I couldn't reach the podium," he confessed.

When finally a Maine South student Cosgrove became part of the fiber of the Fine Arts department, performing in choir, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and all of the school plays and spring musicals, including "Titanic," "Little Shop of Horrors" and "The Secret Garden."

"It really became family," he said of the Fine Arts Department. "My teachers became almost like parents, or aunts and uncles — they were that close to me."

Cosgrove identifies David Danckwart as one of his most significant mentors. Danckwart's musical-theory class, Cosgrove says, helped to build the foundation for his professional career.

"If I didn't have the music theory and the musical background that I had from Maine South and David Danckwart, I wouldn't be the musician I am today," Cosgrove said.

Danckwart, who was personally invited by Cosgrove to see "Jersey Boys," was present for the actor's May 21 appearance at Maine South and modestly down-played the credit Cosgrove had given him.

"I don't feel I really deserve that," said Danckwart, who retired in 2006. "When you're teaching, you're doing the job. Just to be credited with anything from someone who is so talented is just amazing. I'm very humbled by that."

"It's not an easy career to go into," he acknowledged. "Have you to have a thick skin. You're going to be told 'no' a lot and you have to be willing to go into every audition and say, 'I know that I prepared this material to the best of my ability and I know I'm talented.'"

Maine South alum and professional actor Nick Cosgrove talks to theater and music students May 21 about how his parents only allowed him to listen to "oldies" music as a child. | ROB DICKER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
POLICE BLOTTER

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

BURGLARY

A 41-year-old Arlington Heights man told police someone entered his locked vehicle on May 23 in a parking lot on the 8200 block of Golf Road. The victim told police the offender took a black bag containing an iPod and iPad, and personal documents. The value of the loss was estimated at $1250.

FRAUD

A 69-year-old Niles woman told police May 22 that an unknown suspect used her credit-card information to make three purchases in the amount of $66 on March 8 at a retail store on the 8500 block of Golf Road.

Steven Thomas, 45, of the 6300 block of Touhy Avenue, was arrested May 19 and charged with battery at a hotel on the same block. The victim, a 42-year-old taxi driver, reported that the suspect was a passenger, and was upset when the complainant advised him of the fare, a fuel surcharge and taxes. An argument reportedly escalated into a physical altercation, at which time the suspect allegedly grabbed the victim by the throat and squeezed his neck.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

A vehicle in the Golf Mill mall parking lot was scratched with a sharp object May 21, police said.

THREAT

A 46-year-old Niles woman said that between May 19 and May 21 she was threatened by her sister, who allegedly stated that she would send someone to her house on the 9300 block of Washington to hurt her.

DUI

Tomy Joseph, of 8311 Olcott, was arrested May 20 on the 8800 block of Olcott and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and reckless driving. He has a June 8 court date.

THEFT

A suspect, a 52-year-old Chicago man, allegedly was observed May 19 taking materials from an electrical construction area at the northeast corner of the 7900 block of Milwau- kee Avenue. The named suspect was approached by the complainant but reportedly walked away from the area and into a grocery store.

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.

ROBBERY

A man told police that on the night of May 23 a man known to him approached on the 9400 block of Potter Road and asked for money. When he refused, the suspect allegedly attempted to remove the victim's backpack from his shoulder and a struggle ensued. The victim told police he was punched in the mouth and his cell phone was stolen by the man who then fled.

BATTERY

Jose Herrera, 23, of the 8800 block of Dee Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with domestic battery May 13 after police responded to a call from his residence. A woman living in the apartment told police that she had asked Herrera to go Mother's Day shopping with her and when he refused she told him she was ending their relationship. Herrera then allegedly grabbed her hair and struck her in the face.

Jin Song, 71, of the 9400 block of Bay Colony Drive, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with domestic battery May 11 after he allegedly struck a family member in the head and face inside their residence.

A resident of the 10000 block of Potter Road told police May 18 that her husband had pushed her down, causing an abrasion on her cheek. According to police the woman was extremely intoxicated, and paramedics and investigators determined her account of what had occurred did not match her injuries.

DRUG POSSESSION

Joshua Dartez, 22, of the 8800 block of Greenwood Avenue, Niles, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia following a May 12 traffic stop on the 8900 block of Potter Road.

Evan Zerwanda, 26, of the 1900 block of Lee Street, Des Plaines, was charged with possession of marijuana May 16.

According to police an officer approached Zerwanda's vehicle after it was seen occupied and parked at 12:55 a.m. behind Mark Twain School, 9401 Hamlin Ave., with the lights off. Police said Zerwanda was found to be in possession of a bag containing suspected marijuana.

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“David and I love to entertain and our home was desperately in need of more room. We never thought our old tired basement was the answer. Our neighbor told us about Revive. We called and their designer listened to us and came up with a couple of options, both surprisingly well within our budget.

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1866 Mannheim Road: Margaret C Myers, $412,000, April 24

1233 Earl Ave.: Emil S Printz, $256,000, April 26

300 East Ave.: Us Bank na Trustee to Mark C Smith Mary D Smith, $288,500, April 24

1804 Glenview Road: John J Thomas Trust to Michael P Nash, $175,000, April 25

315 S Northwest Highway Unit 3: Pulte Home Corp to Margaret C Myers, $412,000, April 23

313 S Northwest Highway Unit 5: Pulte Home Corp to Rachael K Sklamberg, $436,500, April 26

Morton Grove

6411 Lincoln Ave. Unit 514: Trust to Olga Golarof, $170,000, April 25

7019 Palma Lane: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Miriam Brav Zarah Emry, $192,000, April 25

7710 Dempster St. Unit 411: Kane Trust to Maria Dzikranjan, $122,000, April 23

8300 Gross Point Road: Alan L Lange to Mi Kim Dang, $209,000, April 25

161.0 Sequoia Trail: Conrad Leftakes to John M Sisto, $1,675,000, April 26

1501 Brandon Road: Dean J Jill M Wu, $820,000, April 23

1804 Glenview Road: Laurence Rudnick to Corcoran Jennifer B Corcoran, $475,000, April 26

Morton Grove

44 Park Lane Unit 508: Northern Trust Co Trustee to John B Romanick Patricia A McNamara, $315,000, April 23

304: Brony Trust to Ryan V George, $88,000, April 26

827 W Seward St.: Smigiel Trust to Oscar Gudas Jr Lizzette Sutfin, $178,000, April 26

8719 Marmora Ave.: Elizabeth Hutlugren Elizabeth E Hutlugren, $168,000, April 26

8859 Marmora Ave.: Firstmerit Bank NatI to Sean K Patel Eleni and@bcrksonandsons.com

3117 E Thacker St. Apartment: Jester A Georganas, $340,000, April 23

8539 Marmora Ave.: Bank Na to Sean K Patel Eleni and@bcrksonandsons.com

5040 Warren St. Apt 302: Michael Carter to Kirk C Welke to Jonathan R M Chiovatero Craig Chiovatero, $375,000, April 26

10015 Lake Ave.: Truett Pulte Home Corp to Rachael K Sklamberg, $436,500, April 26

1200 N Hamlin Ave.: Marga Volpe to Laura Narbutas David L Lange to Mi Kim Dang, $208,000, April 25

9655 Woods Drive Unit 2008: Sa Reo Fund 900 Lic to Galina Hasan, $210,000, April 23

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Spacious Bungalow

2-story home features an octagonal bay window

5901 Capulina Ave., Morton Grove — $299,900

Constructed in 1929, this 2,878-square-foot Bungalow sits on a 0.09-acre lot. Highlights of the kitchen include tile flooring, a wraparound breakfast bar and three windows over the sink area. The living room delivers hardwood flooring, decorative trim and an octagonal bay window. Carpet lines the master bedroom, which features decorative trim, a ceiling fan and sliding-glass doors to a balcony. The lower level consists of wood-paneled walls, hanging lights and an abundance of storage space. This property provides a two-car garage and is situated three-fourths of a mile east of the Morton Grove Metra station.

Listing agent: Candace Kuzmarski, Coldwell Banker Residential, 847-977-4010, candace.kuzmarski@cbexchange.com

SOUND OFF

Q: How important is professional photography when listing at home?

A: Professional photography is extremely important when listing your home for sale. Virtually all buyers look at the listing online before they decide to make an appointment to see your home.

If you don’t have quality photos that show your home in its best light, the buyer may decide not to make an appointment to see it.

The goal of the photos should not be to sell your home, but rather to entice the buyer to make an appointment to see the home. Quality professional photography can make your home look better, and often larger, than it actually is, while amateur photographs can make your home look worse than it appears.

Your real estate agent should have a professional photographer photograph all of the rooms in your home. This is typically included in the total marketing package at no extra cost to the seller.

— Ed Watts, Jameson Sotheby’s International Realty, 312-751-0300, edwatts@edwatts.com

MARKET WATCH AS OF MONDAY

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Source: Chicago Block Shopper. Data tracks last 12 months of sales.
QUESTION OF THE WEEK
At Notre Dame College Prep in Niles we asked: What is the best vacation you’ve ever taken?

“Disney World. It’s been six or seven years ago. I’d like to go back. My favorite part was ‘It’s a Small World.’”
JUDY BYRNE, Morton Grove

“Our summer house in Michigan. It has beautiful weather and it is a great town.”
A.J. BOEHMER, Chicago

“Italy, four years ago. Stayed in Tuscany for two weeks and toured every other day.”
AUGIE GENOVESI, Des Plaines

“Orlando, Florida. I get to see my cousins and the rest of my family.”
JEFF GARGUL, Niles

“Orlando, Florida. Great place and great weather.”
NICK WASYLIW, Park Ridge

A picture is worth a thousand curse words

In every woman’s house is a gallery of photos — usually dozens of the children — from when they were toddlers and slogging a mud pie at a sibling, to the school play with missing front teeth.

Among these framed glossies might be one or two of Mom smiling next to her husband, pre-Grecian Formula.

Let’s face it, though: Once we women gain weight, no one can come near us with a camera. In my home, I set out land mines to ensure it, and taught the dog to bark when the kids open the drawer where the video camera’s stored.

My dirty secret is a muffin top that’s on its way to becoming a loaf of bread and no photographic evidence will ever surface.

Sure, some women never have problems posing for photos as they age. They also answer to the name of “Jane Fonda” and employ professional lighters, photographers and air-brushers. Those women are supermodel-trim and have never chewed on chocolate after an encounter with a PTA alpha mom.

One afternoon, my son approaches me with his cell-phone camera. I flee for the bedroom and lock the door.

“Mom, our English teacher wants us to write an autobiography school project’s done. Ever-crafty, he lures me from the bedroom by saying “Too bad your skin’s a little orange in this.”

I grab the poster, this dreaded family-tree project. I look at it and grimace.

He pasted down a recent shot of me hunched over another writer, a horrifying photo where I approximate the size of William Howard Taft. Talk on a handlebar moustache to my face and no one could tell the difference.

The resulting shriek from my lips sends the dog under a bed.

Curses. I’m too late. My husband sealed it with spit and super glue. Welders couldn’t have blasted that ghastly photo onto the poster any better.

I groan. This is why most moms never willingly pose for photos.
Too much sleep can ruin your TV watching

Sleep is the enemy of television. You know what I mean: You can be feeling just fine, well rested, not stressed at all. Yet, all you have to do is sit down and turn on the TV and — presto — the second inning of a ball game becomes the sixth inning as if by magic; and Jack Webb meting out justice from 40 years ago becomes an infomercial for a pan that is so great at not sticking you can fry rocks in it (if you want fried rocks for some reason).

All this transformation creeps upon you because you have fallen asleep while watching TV. Maybe a sleep attack is a subconscious way our brain has of telling us that we should be reading *Anna Karenina* or *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* instead of wasting our little time trying to fall asleep while watching TV.

I don't know. All I know is that I fall asleep a lot while watching TV. And a lot of you do, too. Falling asleep while watching TV is not rare, either.

It is an annoyingly incomplete experience. Just the other night I stumbled across the beginning of a movie on one of those twenty-something channels. It was called "Company Business." I started to watch because it was a movie I hadn't seen starring one of my favorite actors, Gene Hackman.

Made in 1991, this was a spy film about America and the Soviet Union exchanging agents, complications, dangers, escapes, pursuit, double agents, double-double agents, etc. Hackman was American, of course. Mikhail Baryshnikov was a Soviet, but a good guy nonetheless.

It was an OK movie — no "The Spy Who Came In From the Cold," but an OK movie.

I was involved — and conscious — as the story unfolded, even able to coincide trips to the bathroom with commercials in the breaks.

We had just learned that one of the characters was a real American but for an agent for the Soviet Union.

Suddenly credits started rolling across my TV screen. What happened? I almost shouted. My wife looked up from her book, "Oh, I guess it's over."

But who was the double agent? How did it end?

"I'm sorry, I wasn't watching."

So, do you know how "Company Business" ended? I looked it up on the Internet, but the Internet never gives away the ending. If you know, please drop me a line. I'd do the same for you.

MIT lads solve the case of the recalcitrant ketchup

In what could be one of the greatest moves since the Reagan Administration tried to reclassify ketchup as a vegetable, those crazy kid geniuses over at MIT have figured out a faster and easier way to get the ketchup out of a bottle.

This promises to be a boon for ketchup lovers, greasy diners and Greek-owned restaurants that offer every possible dish known to man along with 30 senior specials everywhere.

We have all been there, right? Our burger and fries, or hot dog and fries or whatever and fries, arrives at our table. We pick up the ketchup and, wouldn't you know it, but it is a brand spanking new bottle. We open the bottle, turn it upside down to pour that red gold condiment onto our fries and ... nothing.

We turn the bottle over and look inside. Sure enough, there is ketchup in there. We turn it over again, this time giving it a few good strong shakes. Still nothing. OK, now we're getting mad. We take the bottle, turn it over, and hit the bottom with the fleshy part of the palm of our hand.

And still our fries sit naked on the plate, mocking us.

In a final act of desperation, we take the butter knife and dollop out some ketchup. And that's when everything goes well. We've all been there, probably between the few good shakes and hitting the bottom of the bottle, when nearly half the bottle of ketchup plods onto our burger. I love ketchup, but not that much.

Thanks to the kids at MIT, never again.

They have created a compound they call LiquiGlide. Applied inside a bottle, the slippery substance makes the ketchup flow out of the bottle like milk.

The example they give for its usefulness is the last bit of ketchup stuck to the bottom of the bottle. That's probably a better example than mine, but they're smarter than me. When ketchup is stuck at the bottom of a bottle, you may not even be able to get it out with the butter knife.

My mother's solution to that problem was to mix some water with the ketchup. (She didn't go to MIT, either.) That wet portion always seemed headed for my plate. (I put ketchup on chicken, pork chops and meat loaf.)

Originally, LiquiGlide was planned for car windshields, or for preventing clogs in oil and gas lines. All good ideas. But this ketchup bottle thing is a real stroke of genius.

"I'm sorry, I wasn't watching" for a $50 Bill Pay reward; a minimum of $50 must be paid by PNC Online Bill Pay within 60 days from account opening to qualify for a $50 Bill Pay reward."Cheer Card" rewards are issued to you and at least 10 percent must be paid with your Cheer Card to receive your credit account balance; 60 days from account opening. To qualify for a $50 Bill Pay reward, a minimum of $50 must be paid by PNC Online Bill Pay within 60 days from account opening. Your checking account must remain open for 60 days from account opening. To qualify, your checking account must remain open for 60 days from account opening.

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Color takes wing at the Botanic Garden

Color takes wing at the Botanic Garden

BY JOANNA BRODER
Contributor

Flowers of the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe get some bright, airborne competition when "Butterflies & Blooms," a tented butterfly garden, debuts on June 2.

"This is going to be a mesh tent where visitors come and they walk through in an immersive experience where at any one time there'll be anywhere up to 500 to 600 different butterflies floating around landing on you," noted Harriet Resnick, vice president of visitor experience and business development at the Garden.

Unlike the butterfly garden at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Lincoln Park, which is a greenhouse and open year-round, this one will be outdoors and only open in the summer.

Visitors can come here and "hopefully fall in love with the experience and then [know] that there's somewhere else to go in Chicago the other nine months of the year to have the same kind of experience," Resnick said.

World species

"Butterflies & Blooms" will feature species from around the world including South America, Asia, North America and Africa, as well as native species from Illinois. In total there will be over 18,000 different species of butterflies, Resnick said.

Plants will also be a focus in the butterfly tent because the butterflies need many different types of nectar plants to live, Resnick explained. The exhibit will also tell the story of butterflies as pollinators.

"There's so much going on in the world right now about lack of pollinators and what that means in terms of our plants, and our mission is really to educate people about plants and the natural world," she said.

One of the exhibits within the tent is a pupa emergence room, a glass case where children and adults can, through a window, watch butterflies hatch.

Butterflies generally live for three to five weeks. The Garden will receive new shipments of butterflies every few weeks, Resnick said. They can survive in rain and so they should be fine throughout the summer months, she added.

Admission to the Chicago Botanic Garden is free. Tickets are $5 for adults, $3 for children (ages 3-12). A Model Railroad Garden and/or "Butterflies & Blooms" 10-visit pass is available for $30 (one punch per person in the party entering). Members receive $2 off each price. Garden Plus members are free on Wednesdays.

The Grunsfeld Children's Growing Garden is free.

The Grunsfeld Children's Growing Garden is free. Parking is $20; Chicago Botanic Garden members park for free. Call (847) 835-5440 or see chicagobotanic.org.
Dogs will have a howling good time at Woofstock 2012 and so will the people who love them. The event runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at Pooch Park, 3220 W. Oakton St., Skokie.

“This is our 10th annual Woofstock,” said Jon Marquardt, Skokie Park District facility manager. “We have vendors coming in from pet rescues to animal hospitals to doggie treats. The vendors set up in one area of Pooch Park. In the other area we do events like dog agility races, a dog fashion show, dog karaoke, a dog/owner look-alike contest and a relay race.”

Admission is free. Hot dogs, chips and beverages will be sold.

Marquardt noted that representatives from the animals hospitals will answer questions that visitors have about their pets. The rescue agencies will bring adoptable dogs.

“If one dog gets rescued at this event, I’ll be one happy camper,” he said.

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

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Fiddlin’ around
Pack a picnic dinner and bring the kids to Fiddle Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the lawn area west of Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St. The program, presented by Seman Violins, is part of the Wednesdays on the Green series that will present performances or movies weekly through the end of August.

For details, visit wednesdaysonthegreen.com.

Miss Cate can’t wait
The Niles Public Library’s own DJ, Miss Cate, will crank up tunes for a Bibliobop Dance Party at 10 a.m. June 8 at 6960 W. Oakton St. She’ll choose tunes from the library’s extensive music collection.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit nileslibrary.org.

Soaring tale
Bear and Mole are excited about Kite Day in Will Hillenbrand’s charming children’s book. Your kids can hear that tale and then make a kite of their own to take home during the Friday Storytime at 7 p.m. June 1 at the Village Crossing Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie.

For details, call (847) 929-8490 or visit barneandnoble.com.
MOVIE REVIEW

Young love earns keys to ‘Kingdom’

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

MOONRISE KINGDOM
★★★ 1/2

For the most part, the films of idiosyncratic auteur Wes Anderson ("The Royal Tenenbaums," "The Life Aquatic," "The Darjeeling Express") are whimsical, somewhat bitter stories of adults who haven’t quite left childhood behind — and find the grown-up world a bit of a disappointment.

One of the great charms of the lovely, and considerably less acrimonious, "Moonrise Kingdom" is that it is primarily the tale of two love-struck "tweens who literally can’t wait to grow up. They take themselves, and their one true romance, and the greater world of grown-up grand passions very seriously indeed.

There are sad, disappointed adults aplenty in "Moonrise," (nicely portrayed by the likes of Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Frances McDormand and Bill Murray). But they serve here as a melancholy (and emotionally honest) contrast to the young lovers’ assumptions about what’s to come, just as the not-quite-children serve as poignant reminders of their elders’ early days of pre-disillusionment.

In all other respects, in terms of its dream-like visual style, its hyper-intelligent, deadpan dialogue, its eccentric characterizations and its general air of "once-upon-a-time" fairy-tale story-telling, "Moonrise" is a prime example of Anderson pursuing his personal vision. That should come as good news for admirers (who know the director’s quirky individuality) while annoying detractors, who find those same quirks mannered and superficial. Either way, you’ll know what to expect.

Twelve-year-old Sam and Suzy (newcomers Jared Gilman and Kara Hayward, both excellent) fall in love at first sight one summer in 1964, when Sam wanders backstage during a church concert in which the participating kids are dressed as assorted fauna and flora and encounters young Suzy dressed as a raven.

An officious matron hustles him away, but Sam, it turns out, is not easily discouraged. And neither is Suzy. Both are bright, intensely serious, friendless kids. Both are considered problem children in general and the phrase "emotionally disturbed" is applied to each early on. And, when you consider how quick Suzy is to puncture another kid’s kidney with a pair of scissors in a heated moment, there may be something to it in her case.

However, that disconcerting grown-up-world label has little bearing on the magic days Sam and Suzy share in "Moonrise Kingdom." Sam, an orphan who feels misunderstood by his latest set of foster parents, and Suzy, the affected oldest child of a pair of emotionally-distant married attorneys (Murray and McDormand), bare their souls in an increasingly passionate series of love letters, before arranging to run away together when Sam returns to Khaki Scout camp on the New England island where Suzy lives.

Meanwhile, a whopping big hurricane gathers force off the island. And that, in essence, is what "Moonrise Kingdom" is all about, plot-wise. Though there are also complicating side-stories, economically (but satisfactorily) handled. One concerns the love affair between Suzy’s mom and Captain Sharp (Willis, at his best), the "sad dumb police-man" who heads the island’s police force and its effect on Suzy’s frustrated, despairing father.

Another follows the spiritual crisis of Sam’s fake-trick movie Martinet scoutmaster (Norton, as you’ve never seen him), who has devoted his life to the Khakis and is genuinely anguished when Sam disappears, and when he learns that the boy may very well be consigned to a "juvenile rehabilitation" home when found.

Of course, it’s a foregone conclusion that Sam and Suzy will be found, with Sam’s parents, Captain Sharp, a low-flying reconnaissance plane and a troop of grizzly determined Khaki Scouts scouring the small island. That’s far from the end of the story, however.

Would Romeo and Juliet be deterred by Khaki Scouts? Especially if the Khaki Scouts had a second-act change of heart? Well, that’s for Shakespeare to worry about.

Anderson makes it plain that, having literally fought their way to paradise in the little inlet they rename Moonrise Kingdom, and especially after having French-kissed and danced the frug in their underwear on the beach, his young lovers have no intention of betraying their pre-teen union of souls. Especially not if the grown-ups say it’s a bad idea.

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**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**MOONRISE KINGDOM**

* * * 1/2

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and brief sexuality.

Stars: Bill Murray, Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Frances McDormand

- A pre-teen girl and boy (newcomers Kara Hayward and Jared Gilman) throw a small New England community into an uproar when they fall in love and run away together while a hurricane is brewing.

Wes Anderson (“The Royal Tenenbaums”) directed and co-wrote the comedy romance.

**SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN**

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and brief sexuality.

Stars: Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron

- In this revisionist fairy tale, the Huntsman (Hemsworth) assigned to kill Snow White (Stewart) instead becomes her protector and helps lead a revolt against the evil queen (Theron). Director Rupert Sanders makes his feature debut with the fantasy romance.

**PIRANHA 3DD**

Rated: R for sequences of strong bloody horror violence and gore, graphic nudity, sexual content, language and some drug use.

Stars: David Hasselhoff, Christopher Lloyd, Gary Busey, Danielle Panabaker

- After chewing up the resort community of Lake Victoria in 2010’s “Piranha,” starving pre-historic piranhas make their way into a nearby water park. John Gulager (“Feast”) directed the horror comedy.

**STILL PLAYING**

**HYSTERIA**

* * * 1/2

Rated: R for sexual content.

Stars: Maggie Gyllenhaal, Hugh Dancy, Jonathan Pryce

- Tanya Wexler’s delightfully lowbrow and cutesy-crude prego-comeo-romedy. As charming and minutely focused form that handles its risqué revolution.

**WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU’RE EXPECTING**

* * * 1/2

Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual content, thematic elements and language.

Stars: Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Dennis Quaid, Chris Rock, Chace Crawford

- This over-crowded, interminably amusing, thematically linked sitcom featuring five couples coping with babies on the way turns out to be more or less exactly what you might expect, which isn’t bad, really. So long as you’re not expecting too much. If you’re satisfied to chart some emotional ups and downs while chuckling at cutesy-cruel preggo-comedy gross-out gags along the way to a group birth-a-thon (with all the awes-inspiring moments you could wish for), it’s a pretty safe bet.

**BATTLESHIP**

Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence, action and destruction, and for language.

Stars: Alexander Skarsgard, Taylor Kitsch

- A fleet of ships on a war-games exercise is forced to do battle at sea with an alien armada. Peter Berg (“Hancock”) directed the action thriller.

**THE AVENGERS**

* * * 1/2


Stars: Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Mark Ruffalo, Samuel L. Jackson, Tom Hiddleston

- Writer/director Joss Whedon delivers all the spectacular action and humorous movie that could possibly hope for with this much-anticipated Marvel superhero extravaganza — and he does it with intelligence and humor to spare. The comic book dream team of Thor, Iron Man, Captain America and the Incredible Hulk are called upon to save the world from an alien invasion led by Thor’s petulant half-brother Loki (Hiddleston). The only really surprising thing is how funny things get — with the biggest laughs provided by Big Mean Green.

**THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL**

Rated: PG-13 for sexual content and language.

Stars: Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Maggie Smith, Dev Patel

- British seniors expecting to retire in grand style in India learn that the accommodations are not quite as described in the brochure. John Madden (“Shakespeare in Love”) directed the comedy.

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**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**MOONRISE KINGDOM**

* * * 1/2

Rated: PG-13 for sexual content and smoking.

Stars: Bill Murray, Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Frances McDormand

- A pre-teen girl and boy (newcomers Kara Hayward and Jared Gilman) throw a small New England community into an uproar when they fall in love and run away together while a hurricane is brewing.

Wes Anderson (“The Royal Tenenbaums”) directed and co-wrote the comedy romance.

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SHOWTIMES

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

**ARLINGTON THEATERS**
33 S. Evergreen St.,
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(847) 483-0123

Snow White and the Huntsman (PG-13) Fri, Mon, Tue, Thu
4:45-7:15-9:50; Sat, Sun, Wed
11:45-2:15-4:45-7:30-9:50

Men in Black III (PG-13) Fri
1:35-3:25-4:15-5:45-7:45-9:15; Sat
11:05-12:35-2:35-4:45-6:45-8:45-10:15; Sun
11:05-12:35-2:35-4:45-6:45-8:45-10:15; Mon-Thu
4:10-5:15-7:45-9:45

Battleship (PG-13) Fri
2:45-7:40-10:30-10:45-12:00
Sat
11:10-3-6:45-9:40
Sun, Wed
12:00-2:00-4:45-7:30-9:40

The Avenger (P6-13) Fri-Sun
1:25-3:25-5:30-7:20-9:10

What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG-13) Fri, Mon, Tue, Thu
4:45-7:10-9:40; Sat, Sun, Wed
12:20-2:40-4:45-7:10-9:40

Dark Shadows (PG-13) Fri, Mon, Tue, Thu 5-7:20-9:40; Sat, Sun, Wed
12:20-2:45-4-7:20-9:40

The Avengers (PG-13) Fri, Mon, Thu 3:45-6:45-9:45; Sat, Sun, Wed, Sat 12:45-5:45-8:45-11:45

RENAISSANCE PLACE
1850 2nd St., Highland Park
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First Position (NR) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:30; Mon-Thu 2:30-4:55-6:15-8:10

The Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) Fri-Sun
12:30-4:30-5:30-7-8; Mon-Thur
3:45-5:5-7

Belle (PG-13) Fri-Sun
12:45-4:55-7; Mon-Thur
2:45-4:55-7

Headhunters (R) Fri-Sun
12:40-3:5-5:30-7; Mon-Thur
3:5-5:30-7

Hysteric (PG-13) Fri-Sun
12:20-3:10-5:40-8:15; Mon-Thur
3:10-5:40-8:15

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**NEW THIS WEEK**

**CASTLE IN THE SKY:**

BLU-RAY DEBUT

**Rating:** ★★★

**Stars:** James Van Der Beek, Lara Cady and Cloris Leachman

This early (1986) dazzer from Japanese animation master Hayao Miyazaki is one of his best: a pure adventure that should prove equally entertaining for children and adults. An unsuspecting princess and an orphan trying to clear his father's name team up with an incompetent gang of air pirates to defend a floating city in the clouds from an evil government takeover. As usual, Miyazaki's visual imagination is breathtaking, with the films assortment of unlikely flying contraptions a particular bonus. This Blu-ray reissue features Disney's dubbed 1989 American release, an introduction by Pixar's John Lasseter, original storyboards and a seven-part feature on Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli.

**LANCELOT LINK: SECRET CHIMP**

**Rating:** ★ 1/2

**Stars:** Bernie Koppell, Dayton Allen, Joan Gerber

This Saturday morning kid-TV series from 1970 has cult status and it's weird- enough cultural time capsule to pass muster as a curiosity, but it wears thin quickly—and there's something vaguely disturbing about the way the primates actors are being put through their paces. Stillness is the order of the day as A.P.E. agents Link and Mata Haire (no kidding) foil the nefarious schemes of the bad guys of C.H.U.M.P., primarily by donning cunning disguises and throwing pies. The psychedelic musical interludes by the Evolution Revolution are pretty groovy, though. Extras include a picture slideshow of the real-life Lancelot, courtesy of Life magazine.

**RECENT RELEASES**

**THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY**

**Rating:** ★★★

**Stars:** Bridgit Mendler, Amy Poehler, Will Arnett

This warm, glowing adventure from Japan's Studio Ghibli has master animator Hayao Miyazaki's ("My Neighbor Totoro," "Spirited Away") living under the floor of a country house, braces the unknown after being discovered by a kindly, but sickly, boy. Something special.

**ALBERT NOBBS**

**Rating:** ★★★ 1/2

**Stars:** Glenn Close, Janet McTeer, Mia Wasikowska

In addition to her performance, this is a good family film. Close plays an retired Irish actress living in an about-to-occur diamond heist. Asger Leth ("Ghosts of Cite Soleil") directed the crime drama. Rated: PG-13 for violence and brief strong language.

**MAN ON A LEDGE**

**Rating:** ★★★

A police psychologist (Elizabeth Banks) attempts to talk an ex-con (Sam Worthington) down off a ledge, and eventually becomes involved in his tale of an about-to-occur diamond heist. Asger Leth ("Ghosts of Cite Soleil") directed the crime drama. Rated: PG-13 for violence and brief strong language.

**MAVERICK: COMPLETE FIRST SEASON**

James Garner and Jack Kelly starred as a pair of gambling brothers in the Old West in this classic series, which ran on ABC from 1957 to 1962. This seven-disc set features all 27 episodes from the debut season.

**SING YOUR SONG: HARRY BELAFONTE**

This documentary explores the life of Belafonte the entertainer and civil rights activist—who later devoted himself to the cause of social justice globally.

**THE STRANGE LOVE OF MARTHA IVERS: BLU-RAY DEBUT**

Kirk Douglas made his movie debut in this 1946 film noir starring Barbara Stanwyck as a murderess who maintains a shaky hold on freedom through her marriage to an alcoholic district attorney. For its Blu-ray debut, "Strange Love" was digitally restored from its severely damaged original nitrate print. Extras include a before-and-after restoration demo.

**AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK**

100 years after the Titanic went to the bottom, A&E Home Video gets exhaustive with the documentary "Titanic at 100" Mystery Solved." And speaking of exhaustive: Check out Sony's 20-disc "Three Stooges Ultimate Collection."
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This week and beyond.

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STAGE
“After Miss Julie,” presented by Focal Point Theatre Company through June 10 at Piccolo Theatre, 600 Main St., Evanston. Miss Julie, a wealthy politician’s daughter, finds herself entangled in a perilous web of class conflict, seduction and betrayal when she spends the evening with her father’s ambitious valet, John, and loyal cook, Christine. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sundays. $20; $15 students and seniors. Visit www.focalpointtheatre.com.

“Camelot,” presented by Light Opera Works June 1-10 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performances are at 2 p.m. June 1, 3, 6 and 10; and 8 p.m. June 2, 8 and 9. Main floor $48, $68, $77, $92; balcony $32, $48, $68, $77; half-price for those age 21 and younger. Call (847) 920-5360 or visit www.LightOperaWorks.com.

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Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, IL

Dr. Julia Davids, conductor, with full orchestra, double chorus, and soloists: sopranos Máire O’Brien and Alison Wahl, mezzo soprano Angela Young Smucker, tenor Kurt R. Hansen, basses Ryan O’Mealey and Peter Van De Graaf
Pre-concert talk by Dorothy Andries from 2:00-2:40 p.m. in Werner Hall at Temple Beth-El, with reserved concert seating for talk attendees

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“Sunflowers,” a painting by Piotr Wolodkowicz of Norridge.

Norridge artist in Highland Park

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

“I think it’s a very significant event,” said painter Piotr Wolodkowicz of Norridge, whose oil-on-canvas landscapes of trees in the Chicago area were recently featured by Art Walk curator Debra Hatchett in a one-man show at Chicago’s Athenaeum Theatre.

Wolodkowicz is one of a group of area artists who will be featured in the seventh annual Highland Park Art Walk, June 1-30. He has two paintings on display in two Highland Park businesses, including the landscape “Sunflowers” at the Sunflower dress shop, 1882 Sheridan Road.

Artists tend to love the idea of Highland Park’s Art Walk, which isn’t surprising, considering that the city’s annual window-shopping cultural perambulation is devoted exclusively to Illinois painters, sculptors, photographers and the like.

They tend to be more excited, though, about the way the event allows them to present their work to people who might not typically see it, in spaces that have more to do with everyday life than wine-and-cheese gallery openings.

“It’s an interesting way to show art in places where it usually doesn’t appear and to people who might not be as likely to see it in a gallery,” Wolodkowicz said, especially since works on display during the Art Walk are exhibited long enough to be discovered by a sizable number of people. “That’s especially helpful now, because a lot of galleries are closing because of the financial crisis. This is really a nice alternative.”

Hatchett likes the idea of displaying local talent in an informal setting because it’s a good way for artists to be seen and appreciated. “We have so many extremely talented artists in Illinois,” she said, noting that local art fair organizers don’t see that. “They tend to assume that just because someone’s from New York, for example, their work will have more validity. I think it’s a good idea to show some appreciation for the great work that’s being done in our own back yard.”

Wolodkowicz and other artists will appear at the stores hosting their work from 2 to 4 p.m. June 16, followed by a party, award ceremony and silent auction at Blue Rose Gallery in Highland Park. For more details and a preview of other art on display, visit www.highlandparkartwalk.org.
New kids' place

Also opening June 2 is the Grunsfeld Children’s Growing Garden, where children ages 2-10 can learn about planting, pollination, and other horticulture topics.

The Grunsfeld Garden, at the north end of the Botanic Garden and adjacent to the “Butterflies & Blooms” tent, will provide a spot for children to have active planting experiences, noted Eileen Prendergast, youth and family programs director at the Garden.

“The most accessible interactive experience for the public in the Grunsfeld Children’s Growing Garden will be the drop-in activities,” Prendergast said. Those will take place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, June through September.

On June 3, for example, a drop-in program called “Plant Parts” will teach children about the parts of a plant. On June 9 and 10, a program called “Wiggle Worms” will introduce children to the Garden’s worm composting bins and tell how worms help to break down plant material into fertile soil.

“For an even more immersive experience, parents will want to enroll their children in Camp CBC (Chicago Botanic Garden), which will feature even more hands-on experiences in the garden,” Prendergast added.
perform Mozart's Requiem, conducted by Daniel Wal- lenberg. Cost to participate is $10 per person. Each sing- along has an optional free rehearsal the day before — June 26 and July 24, respectively — at 7:30 p.m. in Room 9 at the Music Institute's Evanston East Campus. Call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108, or visit www.musicinstituteofchicago.org.

The Northshore Concert Band will present its summer concert, "Classical and Popular Favorites," at 3 p.m. June 10 at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Conducted by Mallory Thompson, the program features Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's "Procession of the Nobles," David Del Tredici's "Acrostic Song," and Gustav Holst's Second Suite for Students. Free. June 2, 5 p.m.: Northwestern University Alumni Saxophone Recital, featuring contemporary works for saxophone. Free. June 2, 7:30 p.m.: Kumoi Saxophone Quartet and Northwestern Saxophone Ensemble. $8; $5 for students. June 3, 3 p.m.: Saxophone Orchestra Monster Concert honoring Frederick L. Hemke, professor of saxophone. $8; $5 for students. June 4, 7:30 p.m.: The Walfred Kujala Tribute Concert will feature seven of his current students. $8; $5 for students. June 7, 7:30 p.m.: The Walfrid Hemke Professor's 50 years of teaching at Northwestern University. The performance will feature seven of his current and former students who hold positions with the New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. $8; $5 for students.

Regenstein Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 60 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.

Information: (847) 491-5441; Northwestern University Alumni Saxophone Recital. Admission is free. The Northshore Concert Band presents "Light and Dark." $6; $4 for students. June 2, 11 a.m.: Anne Waller and Jason Vieaux Guitar Master Class, in the Rehearsal Room. Free. June 2, 5 p.m.: Northwestern University Alumni Saxophone Recital, featuring contemporary works for saxophone. Free. June 2, 7:30 p.m.: Kumoi Saxophone Quartet and Northwestern Saxophone Ensemble. $8; $5 for students. June 3, 3 p.m.: Saxophone Orchestra Monster Concert honoring Frederick L. Hemke, professor of saxophone. $8; $5 for students. June 4, 7:30 p.m.: The Walfred Kujala Tribute Concert will feature seven of his current students. $8; $5 for students. June 7, 7:30 p.m.: The Walfrid Hemke Professor's 50 years of teaching at Northwestern University. The performance will feature seven of his current and former students who hold positions with the New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. $8; $5 for students.

REGENSTEIN RECITAL HALL

Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 765-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosenmonttheatre.com. June 30, 7 p.m.: Roberto Carlos "Un Milbon De Amigos" ("One Million Friends") World Tour. $65-$125, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Yes with special guest Procol Harum. $40, $50, $65, $75. Oct. 21, 7 p.m.: Celtic Thunder. $32.50, $49.50, $65, $75. Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.allstatearena.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosenmonttheatre.com. June 30, 7 p.m.: Roberto Carlos "Un Milbon De Amigos" ("One Million Friends") World Tour. $65-$125, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Yes with special guest Procol Harum. $40, $50, $65, $75. Oct. 21, 7 p.m.: Celtic Thunder. $32.50, $49.50, $65, $75. Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. www.allstatearena.com. June 30, 7 p.m.: Roberto Carlos "Un Milbon De Amigos" ("One Million Friends") World Tour. $65-$125, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Yes with special guest Procol Harum. $40, $50, $65, $75. Oct. 21, 7 p.m.: Celtic Thunder. $32.50, $49.50, $65, $75. Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. www.allstatearena.com. June 30, 7 p.m.: Roberto Carlos "Un Milbon De Amigos" ("One Million Friends") World Tour. $65-$125, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Yes with special guest Procol Harum. $40, $50, $65, $75. Oct. 21, 7 p.m.: Celtic Thunder. $32.50, $49.50, $65, $75. Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. www.allstatearena.com.


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BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER YOU IN?
CONCERT INTEGRATES ARTS TO CREATE RICH EXPERIENCE

BY LARA JACKSON
Contributor

Music involves more than listening and taking in the sounds. For the Chroma Chamber Orchestra, music involves all the senses — and other creative arts.

This new Evanston-based orchestra presents early 20th-century works "...in a context that integrates the performing, visual and literary arts to create a unique, multifaceted concert experience."

According to Chroma Artistic Director, David Crane of Skokie, "We [Chroma] are filling a niche that hasn't been tapped into. I hope the audience becomes more enlightened after attending our performance and not only is entertained, but has a deeper appreciation for the "living art."

Chroma performs the last concert of its inaugural season, "L'Histoire du Soldat," at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 8, at the Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston.

Crane will conduct the world premiere of his piece, "Ode to the Telegraph," which focuses on one of the earliest forms of distance communications — Morse Code. "Morse Code is such an integral piece of history and has been engrossed in our culture. It has deep roots in technological history. This piece takes a nostalgic look at the early days of communications," explains Crane, who also serves as the music director of the Southwest Symphony Orchestra in Palm Heights.

"There is a certain rhythm and a structure and cohesiveness to this piece which reflects Morse Code," states Crane.

Music and poetry

Two creative arts unite during this piece — music and poetry. In keeping with Crane's mission to integrate creative arts, Richard Jones, an anthologist, poet and professor of poetry at DePaul University, will recite a poem he wrote specifically for the concert.

The audience will hear a seven-minute discussion of Crane's piece and the poem in relation to each other and their reflections on communications through the years.

After the world premiere, Crane will conduct Igor Stravinsky's L'Histoire du Soldat, or, The Soldier's Tale. Host of Chicago's classical and folk music radio station, "WFMT" (FM 98.7), Peter Van De Graaf, will narrate this piece.

Dance

Dancers Victor Alexander, Jessie Gutierrez, and Michel Rodriguez from Chicago Dance, Inc, will perform the roles of "The Devil, Princess" and "The Soldier," of the piece, bringing the performance to life for the audience to experience as Stravinsky intended. That is, as a musical composition that reveals a Russian folk tale about a soldier who trades his fiddle to the devil for a book that predicts the future of the economy.

The dancers also add a strong, visual element to the concert, which enhances the total musical experience.

Chroma's last concerts have incorporated other arts such as photography, painting and sculpture, into the programs, and Crane intends to continue to design such programs.

This fuller orchestra experience should last well beyond the evening, he says, "We [Chroma] believe the orchestra will be able to communicate more effectively that art can bring a greater meaning to our lives."

GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11B

Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave, in Rogers Park, Chicago. (773) 278-6654. www.maynestage.com. June 2, 9 p.m.: Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars. $20 in advance; $25 at the door. June 3, 7 p.m.: For Singing OUT Loud, a tribute celebration of singers, songwriters and icons. $23 general admission; $22 reserved. June 6, 8 p.m.: Jon Anderson of Yes. $75 general admission. June 7, 8 p.m.: Spyro Gyra. June 8, 9 p.m.: Guitarra Azul. $20. June 9, 9 p.m.: Megitza Quartet. Farewell Concert. $15 general admission; $12 reserved.


**Fairs & Festivals**

**Greater Chicago Jewish Festival**
11 a.m.-6 p.m. June 10 at the Cook County Forest Preserve on Oakton Street, west of Lehigh Street, in Morton Grove. The event includes live music headlined by Steven Page, former lead singer of Canadian alternative rockers Barenaked Ladies, a storytelling stage, children’s activities area, a juried art show, dance performances, and a strictly kosher food fair. Other performers include Blue Fringe, a New York-based band, Soul Aviv presenting Jewish “gospel” sound, Moishe Skier, hard rockers from Milwaukee, and Chicago’s Maxwell Street Klezmer Band. Suggested admission donation is $5 per person. For information, call (847)-933-3000 or visit www.jewishfestival.org.

**Center’s Last Stand Festival of the Arts**, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. June 16-17 in the Main Street Station Shopping District, Main Street and Chicago Avenue, downtown Evanston. The event features nearly 400 artisans, including sidewalk sale vendors and antique dealers, music on two stages, a children’s park with nonstop activities and entertainment, a theatre stage, and food booths offering the cuisine of more than 30 restaurants. Also, Piccolo Theatre will present "The Medicine Show," featuring 20 variety acts including theatre, puppetry, jugglers and clowns performing throughout the fair on the Piccolo Theatre stage. 600 Main St. Suggested gate donation is $1. Visit www. centerfair.org.

**FILM**

*Block Cinema*, in the Pick-Laudati Auditorium at the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-4000. www.blockmuseum. Northwestern.edu/blockcinema. Admission is $6; $4 for Block Museum members, students IDs and senior citizens, or as noted below. All films shown at 7 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Mary 31: *Paris Belongs to Us*: The City of Light in Film series features "Paris Belongs to Us," directed by Rene Clair, 1931. June 1: *Paris Belongs to Us*: The City of Light in Film series features "Paris Belongs to Us," directed by Rene Clair, 1931. June 7: *Paris Belongs to Us*: The City of Light in Film series features "The Sign of Leo." See Go page 166.

**BOOKS & POETRY**


**June 1, 10:30 a.m.** Lorraine Heinichen Memorial Book Review features Suzanne Hales reviewing *Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness* by Alexandra Fuller.

**Child’s Play**

*Albino Theatre at Rosemont*, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. Aug. 9, 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.: Getting Strong — The Wiggles Live in Concert. Tickets: $15.50-$85.50.

**Niles Public Library**, 6960 Oaard Dr., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. June 13, 10 a.m.: Ronald McDonald’s Magic Show, for families with children in grades K-4. June 23, 2 p.m.: Saturday Family Movie presents "Hugo."**

**Skokie Art Guild** is seeking artists for its 51st annual Art Fair, to be held July 14-15 at Skokie’s Green, 5211 Oakton, Skokie. Fine art prizes and awards available. For information, visit www.skokieartguild.org or call (847) 677-9014 or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

The Norwood Park Historical Society is accepting applications from crafters, artists, and high-quality chefs/bakers to fill positions at the 25th annual Victoria’s Birthday Boutique, a fund-raiser for the nonprofit organization, to be held Nov. 28-Dec. 2 at 5264 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. Fee is $35-$65 per space, and each seller must donate 15% commission on sales. During the event, crafters must commit to a minimum of five hours to work the sale. Hand-made or homemade items only. For more information, call (847) 631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

**Play On** will be staged July 24-26. For more information about auditions, call (847) 699-1976.

*Chicago Master Singers* will hold vocal auditions for the 2012-13 season Aug. 9, 14, 16 and 21 in Palatine. Dedicated singers are invited to attend the auditions, singing from throughout the Chicago area. The ensemble will perform this season with the Arts Viva Orchestra and the Lake Forest Symphony. For information, visit www.chicagomastersingers.org.

**Fest celebrates the art of belly dance**

**Jasmin Jahal**

**Shimmefest 2012 Gala Performance**

**Vittum Theater, 1012 N. Noble St., Chicago**

*June 9:* Doors open 6:30 p.m., show begins 7 p.m.

Tickets are $20

(773) 777-4037 or email [jasminjahal@hotmail.com](mailto:jasminjahal@hotmail.com)

For more information visit www.jasminjahal.com.

Bonked, Jahal applied the discipline she’d learned from ballet to seeking out the best and most demanding Middle Eastern dance teachers and immersing herself in the dance cultures. She ultimately concentrated on the Egyptian and Lebanese styles, attracted by the movement and music.

"I see it as a fountain of youth," Jahal said, adding that the ability to keep practicing as they age is a top reason why women are drawn to belly dance. The women who do it stay beautiful inside and outside into their 50s, 60s and even 70s. Among women who stay with it, beauty just beams," Jahal said.

Jahal will demonstrate her skill as a dancer and choreographer at the Shimmefest Gala Performance. Her company and Shimmefest workshop participants from across the nation will also perform choreographed and improvised works.
Love muddles all in ‘Camelot’

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

Love and loyalty are put to a heart-rending test when three highly principled people become embroiled in a romantic triangle in “Camelot.” Light Opera Works is staging the lush Lerner and Loewe musical, under Rudy Hogenmiller’s direction, with Nick Sandys as King Arthur, William Travis Taylor as Sir Lancelot, and Jennie Sophia as Queen Guenevere.

“It’s a much fairer balance than normally you see in this show,” Sandys said. “We are three relatively young people.” That’s a change from the usual casting of Arthur with an actor considerably older than his bride.

“The show starts with Guenevere and Arthur supposedly very young,” Sandys related. “It actually helps that side of it. You will see the sexual attraction that they have, not just that Lancelot and Guenevere have. It makes a much more complex kind of trio.”

That works well with Alan Jay Lerner’s lyrics, which Sandys declared, “are all virtually about love-making or sex.” That led the actor to believe that the musical, which he has never seen, “really was part of its time, the early 60s.”

The role of Arthur appeals to Sandys for a very unexpected reason. “It’s great fun for me — being an academic in another part of my life — to play somebody who’s not very bright,” Sandys said. “He’s got masses of enthusiasm. He’s looking for a direction and then he meets this woman who kind of inspires him to find a direction.”

That is the formation of the Knights of the Round Table. The growing reputation of those men hired Lancelot from France to join their ranks.

Knight falls

“This is my first time as a knight. It’s a great, great role,” Taylor said, noting that Lancelot “is the head of the table. At the top, he’s this selfless Christian knight who has training and is considered to be the best and most skilled knight. Over the course of the play, he has this affair with Guenevere which kind of taints his Christianity principle.”

Still, Lancelot is a sympathetic character because of “his love for Arthur and his love for Guenevere,” Taylor asserted. “He really feels that this table that Arthur is putting together is of utmost importance. He comes all the way from France and dedicates his life to Arthur. And then he has this huge conflict when he meets Guenevere and falls in love with her.”

Sandys noted that Arthur is “a leader who tries to lead by example — by love. He falls in love, not only with Guenevere, but with Lancelot and everything he stands for and looks for a son in him. Everybody in the triangle is torn in both directions.”

That’s certainly true of Guenevere. “She’s a woman with incredible conviction,” Sophia said. “You see this passion in her and her whole life.”

The show starts with Arthur in Light Opera Works’ “Camelot.” | TAMARA BELL-SUN TIMES MEDIA

She’s willing to follow her heart,” Sophia noted. “She’s this pillar of a wife that supports and encourages her husband. But because that passion exists in her, the downfall is when Lancelot comes on the scene. The passion that he has for her also wins her heart and then she’s caught in the middle of this love triangle. She is fighting to hold fast to her ideals, to her marriage and what she has with Arthur.

Being a good king is what Arthur values most, Sandys indicated. That’s what leads him to make a tragic decision regarding the wife he cherishes.

Sandys said he is enjoying working with his costars and also relishes the chance to sing. “The songs are terrific, fun to do and great to act.”

Taylor has never seen a production of “Camelot” but is very familiar with the music. “I’ve listened to recordings of songs from the show because they’re so beautiful,” he said. He is particularly enjoying rehashing because, “The cast is unbelievably talented. They’re genuine people so it’s a joy to go to work.”

As for Sophia, she declared, “It will be definitely easy for me to play Guenevere and all the struggles she has to go through because I have two incredibly dynamic leading men.”

Passion rules

On the other hand, “She’s willing to be vulnerable.”

‘CAMELOT’

Light Opera Works, Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston
2 p.m. Friday, June 1; 8 p.m. Saturday, June 2; 2 p.m. Sunday, June 3 and Wednesday, June 6; 8 p.m. Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9; and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 10
532-992 (847) 920-5360 or visit www.lightoperaworks.com

Nick Sandys plays King Arthur in Light Opera Works’ “Camelot.” | TAMARA BELL-SUN TIMES MEDIA

Contact Robert K. Miller at (847) 272-3580 or rkmiller@mccormick.com or visit www.mccormick.com

TOURS & OUTINGS

The Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park, located along the east side of McCormick Boulevard, between Dempster on the north to Touhy on the south, offers free, docented tours featuring a different section of the park each month. Tours last approximately one hour and feature discussions of the sculptures, their creating artists, types of materials used and techniques employed as well as the artists’ concepts for the various pieces. The park is handicapped accessible but the tours require walking between the sculptures, so people who have difficulty are encouraged to bring a wheelchair. All tours begin promptly at 1 p.m. No reservations are required.

For information, visit www.sculpturepark.org or call (847) 679-4265, June 24: Section II, in the canoe launch on Oakton, just east of McCormick, and walk over the channel bridge to McCormick to begin the tour, July 22: Section IV, in the lot in the park between Howard and Touhy, Aug. 26: Section I, in the lot between Dempster and Main streets on the east side of McCormick Boulevard.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

June 4, 7 p.m.: Author and educator David Witmer discusses his book, Oldest American Cartoon.” June 6, 7 p.m.: Live models; no instructor. Share and get feedback from others.

The Skokie Art Guild offers figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for seniors. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 636-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

Allstate Arena, 620 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont.
Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or by calling (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. The information line is (847) 635-6601.
June 20-24: Cirque du Soleil presents "Dralion," featuring an international cast of 52 acrobats, gymnasts, musicians, singers and comedians. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: $35-$80; $31.50-$67.50 for senior citizens, students and military; $28-$65 for children 12 and under. Visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/dralion.

June 4-Sept. 10, in the west parking lot of Westfield Old Orchard Center, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Cars on display will include classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods, motorcycles and vintage military vehicles. There will also be music, food and hourly raffles. Visit www.mondaynightcarsshows.com.


through June 30: "Ours To Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War." June 3, 1-4 p.m.: Screening of the documentary "Refuge: Stories of the Selfhelp Home," the story of a community that for 60 years has brought more than 1,000 Western European Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors under one roof. Free with museum admission; reservations required. June 10, 1-3:30 p.m.: Lisa Levinson discusses her book, Gated Grief: The Daughter oía G! Concentration Camp Liberator Discovers a Legacy of Trauma. A book signing follows the presentation. Free with museum admission; reservations recommended.


Evanston History Center, Charles Gates Dawes House, 225 Greenwood St., Evanston. (847) 475-3410, www.evanstonhistorycenter.org. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Admission (includes optional house tour): $10; free for members. Through Labor Day: Free Dawes House tours for all children 12 years old and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Also, free admission will be offered for all active-duty military and their family members (military ID holder and up to five family members). Through Jan. 26, 2013: "Bedrooms, Bathrooms and Boudoirs," a look at the story of a community that for 60 years has brought more than 1,000 Western European Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors under one roof. Free with museum admission; reservations required. June 10, 1-3:30 p.m.: Lisa Levinson discusses her book, Gated Grief: The Daughter oía G! Concentration Camp Liberator Discovers a Legacy of Trauma. A book signing follows the presentation. Free with museum admission; reservations recommended.
A recent state of confusion regarding decision-making begins to clear up. But caution is still advised. Continue to check details. An old friend has important news.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
You're anxious to see your ideas move from concept to development. But trying to force the issue right now could backfire. Wait for movement to resume on the 11th.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Keep your thoughts focused on the positive as you deal with an unexpected turn of events in a personal or professional relationship. This could be the start of a welcome change.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Health matters take on added importance at this time. Deal with them before they interfere with your summer plans. A relationship that cooled off could soon warm up again.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
While a few details involving upcoming decisions still need your attention, you fun-loving Felines can begin to spend more time enjoying your lively social life again.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
That long-sought-after career change could require you to move to another city. Weigh your decision carefully before either accepting or rejecting the offer out of hand.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
A workplace situation can be awkward for Librans who prefer to keep their problems private. But you might have to “tell all” if you hope to see it resolved in your favor.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Although your financial situation starts to improve this week, you still need to be cautious about money matters. Avoid major obligations, for now.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Your overall aspects continue to brighten, allowing you to tackle long-deferred challenges. A change in travel plans could work to your benefit.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Things seem to be slowing down for the usually restless Sea Goat. But wouldn’t a bit of rest be just what you need right now? Activity picks up by June 17.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Personal relationships take a positive turn for both married and single Aquarians. Professional commitments, however, could be complicated by newly emerging events.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
A decision you thought was final might be reopened as new facts are discovered. This could lead to a short-term problem, but might ultimately prove beneficial.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your keen interest in pursuing global events could lead you into a career as a politician or reporter.

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Mitchell, Patricia A.
A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 2, 2012, at 11 a.m., at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Ave. (at Grove St.), Evanston (Tel: 847.864.4806).
In lieu of flowers, contributions for a memorial scholarship in her name may be made to The Delta Foundation, Attn: Patricia A. Mitchell Memorial, P.O. Box 1381, Evanston, IL 60204-1381. Funeral info: HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory, Skokie, 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.

Vering, Robert W. "Bob"
Age 55. Loving father of Madeline. Loving son of Bob and Joan (nee Miller). Dear brother of Kathy (Mike) Altman, Susan (Tim) Kearns and Judy (George) Robb; Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews.
Visititation Friday 3:00-9:00 p.m. at Cooney Funeral Home 625 Busse Hwy Park Ridge. Funeral Saturday 9:30 a.m. to St. Paul of the Cross Church for mass at 10:00 a.m., Interment All Saints. In lieu of flowers donations to the Wellness House, 131 N. County Line Rd. Hinsdale, IL 60521
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

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

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

Sign the Guest Book at pioneerlocal.com
Five New Skills Job Seekers Need
By Liz Ryan, Monster Contributing Writer

Job seekers have had the same list of critical skills to brush up on or acquire for decades—things like careful follow-up, attention to grammar and punctuation, and great listening abilities. But today's overcrowded job market and the ever-shrinking attention spans of hiring managers are creating brand-new job search requirements.

Pain Spotting
It used to be that you could apply to a job and parrot the requirements listed in the job ad. But simply saying, "You want organizational and communication skills? I've got 'em!" won't cut it now. Every job seeker says the exact same thing in his cover letter. These days, you've got to do more. You've got to figure out—by reading the job ad and researching the employer—what sort of business pain lurks behind the job opening.

What are your choices? There's growth-related pain, and there's consolidation-related pain. There's pain associated with customers fleeing, with competitors outsourcing the work and cutting costs, and with a shortage of talent in an industry. When you know or can guess at the pain behind the job ad, you have something of substance to say to a hiring manager. Until then, you're just another banana in a very crowded bunch.

Storytelling
"I have a strong work ethic and get along with all kinds of people" is about as compelling as "I had cereal for breakfast"—but, worse, it's not even believable. Anyone can claim these characteristics, and nearly everyone does. To get a hiring manager's attention, tell a brief and powerful story that demonstrates what you get done when you work: When our big Q4 product release was delayed a month, I put together an outbound-calling campaign that kept our accounts from bailing and got us $450,000 in preorders. will let a hiring manager know some of the good things that happen when you showed up, saw and conquered.

Using a Human Voice
The old "results-oriented professional with a bottom-line orientation" style of resume is as out of date as high-fructose corn syrup. A human voice in your resume and your other outreach to employers will separate you from the boilerplate-spouting legions of typical job seekers. Replace tired corporate-speak like "Met or exceeded expectations" with a concrete, visual bullet point like "I sold our sales VP on a matrix territory structure that boosted sales 14 percent." Don't be afraid of the word "I" in your resume, or of using vernacular. Real people—such as your next boss—use slang every day.

Showing Relevance
The typical job seeker has a one-size-fits-all resume that gets pressed into service whether the open position is for a purchasing coordinator, a marketing assistant or a human resources analyst. That's no good. Your background won't be relevant to the hiring manager unless you highlight the accomplishments from each past job that have the most in common with the role you're pursuing. For a purchasing job, spell out your negotiating milestones. For the marketing role, tell the reader how you created or maintained a database and about your writing and creative skills. For the HR opportunity, describe the times when you untangled thorny human problems. Update your resume as often as necessary to make sure your most relevant stories come to the fore.

Knowing Your Value
No one will pay you more than you're worth, so know your value before you begin an active job search. Start with Monster's Salary Wizard so you know your market value and don't get lowballed in the hiring process. If you and an employer have wildly different ideas about what your background is worth, keep looking. Even in a tough economy—maybe even because of it—you ability to solve expensive employer problems is worth a lot more than peanuts. Arm yourself with information, and then get out there and tell your story.
Learn how to thrive, not simply survive!

Are you a smoker? Are you struggling with a chronic conditions like asthma, arthritis, diabetes or high blood pressure?

Call 1-866-Quit-Yes to quit smoking and to find a free Take Charge of Your Health program near you.

Brought to you by the Cook County Department of Public Health through funds from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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Answers to Super Crossword

SPALSH PEAK T SLE SCAMP
LEAGUE OGRE APR TABOO
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Silver Cross Hospital - Thornwood Center

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GARAGE SALE ROADSHOW

To have your garage sale ad included in our print garage sale guide, be sure to place your ad by Monday, May 28, 2012.
CAMPERS/RVS

AVERAGE IT Has a Great Opportunity for CDL-A Drivers! Home Weekly.
Class-A Team Drivers - Team Position - $3,000 Sign On Bonus.
Class-A CDL, 2 yrs OTR exp. good MVR/References required.
Call Ruff/Riffe, Inc.
1-800-558-2664

LAKE PROPERTY

Lender-Orsted Lake Liquidation Sale 2 acres with 3 piece of land.
Bidding starts at $2,900,000.00.
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The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described real estate:

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale is entered in the above-styled case in the name of the parties to the action. The sale will be conducted by the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, on March 15, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. at the Courthouse and Sheriff's Office, 799 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois, and is offered for sale to the highest bidder for cash, subject to all existing liens and encumbrances.

The property is located at 1432099 W. Madison St., Chicago, Illinois, and is subject to all existing liens and encumbrances.

Adequate Notice has been given to all parties in interest, and the property is free of any liens or encumbrances.

All persons having any legal claims or encumbrances against the property are hereby notified to appear and file their claims with the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, before the date of the sale, or to appear and object to the sale.

The sale will be conducted in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, and the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, will conduct the sale in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

For further information, please contact the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, at 312-263-3900.
NOTICE OF SALE

Ira T. Nevel

2830 RISING SUN DRIVE, SUITE 718A
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

Telephone: (847) 571-4228

MORTGAGE CORP.,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 16, 2012, in the above entitled cause on March 29, 2012, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Civil Division, a sale will be conducted to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the residential real estate property described as follows:

1437423

15W030

5/17, 5/24, 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CRYPTOGRAPH CORPORATION

BY LAW OF MORTGAGE CORP.,

IN THE NAME OF Ira T. Nevel

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 16, 2012, in the above entitled cause on March 29, 2012, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Civil Division, a sale will be conducted to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the residential real estate property described as follows:

1437423

15W030

5/17, 5/24, 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21

NOTICE OF SALE

FOR A RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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5/17, 5/24, 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21

NOTICE OF SALE

FOR A RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
CH 14236

MARGARET S. SCHAFER
2121 MASON STREET
Suite 105
Skokie, Illinois 60077

(708) 625-2653

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above mentioned case on April 2, 2012, an agent of the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor Chicago, IL 60606, will hold a public auction to sell the property:

Common Address: 8828 NILES CENTER ROAD UNIT #307
Skokie, IL

The sale will begin at 3:00 P.M., on May 21, 2012, at the South Wacker Drive at the highest bid. Upon receipt of the highest bid, the purchaser will receive a contract and/or a deed for the property.

The property is subject to the personal representative's interest. The property must be sold for cash or certified funds at the closing date. The closing date is scheduled for June 21, 2012.

If the sale is not made, it shall proceed on the 22nd day of June, 2012, at the same time and place as noted above.

The property is being sold subject to all encumbrances, liens, and covenants that may be recorded.

Auction will begin promptly, and the bidders must present the required funds on the day of the auction. The deposit required is 20% of the highest bid.

For more information, please contact: Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, or call (312) 444-1122.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) OF THE PROPERTY, YOU MUST COME TO THE COURT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) OF THE PROPERTY, YOU MUST COME TO THE COURT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY.

The property is located at 8828 NILES CENTER ROAD UNIT #307, Skokie, IL 60077. The property is subject to the personal representative's interest. The property must be sold for cash or certified funds at the closing date. The closing date is scheduled for June 21, 2012.

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IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER) OF THE PROPERTY, YOU MUST COME TO THE COURT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION OF THE PROPERTY.
VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at 7:00PM, a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Lincolnwood, Cook County, Illinois, in the Council Chambers Room of Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6500 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois, for the purpose of considering the following:

Property Address: 6620 North Drake Avenue
Property PIN: 10-35-406-033-0000
Applicant: Bruce & Linda Poulaom, Property Owner
Nature of Request: The requested action would allow for a patio in a residential district to extend beyond the maximum 10 feet from the residential structure and for relief from the maximum lot coverage requirements of .60 of the lot area.

At the public hearing, the Zoning Board of Appeals will accept and consider all testimony and evidence pertaining to this application, and will consider any zoning actions or relief that may be necessary or convenient related to this request. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Zoning Board of Appeals will make a recommendation to the Lincolnwood Village Board of Trustees based on the information presented. The Village Board will consider that recommendation at a subsequent public meeting. The decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be the final decision of the Village regarding this application. Information concerning this application is available for inspection in the Community Development Department of the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6500 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois. This public hearing may be adjourned to another date by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village without further notice, other than a notice entered upon the minutes of said meeting, being the time and place of its reconvening.

All persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding this application. Any person who so desires to appear at an "interested party," with the right to cross-examine others at the public hearing, may file an appearance form with the Village of Lincolnwood no later than 5 p.m. on the business day prior to the commencement of the public hearing. Appearance forms are available in the Community Development Department of the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6500 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

This is not a "notice to appear." It is an invitation to all interested persons to submit oral or written comments concerning this application. Written comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the business day prior to the public hearing and may be sent to the attention of the Village Zoning Officer at the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6500 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois. Persons having questions regarding this matter may call the Village Community Development Department at 847-573-7402.
Love your pet –
love Pioneer Press’ Pets & Vets!

A monthly feature devoted to our animal companions.

Look to Pioneer Press Classified for all the products and services you need and want for your favorite family member.
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 460-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

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

- **Mondays, June 4, 11, 18, 25:** Employment counseling, by appointment.
- **Monday, June 11:** Alzheimer’s Caregivers support group, 10 a.m.
- **Tuesdays, June 5, 19:** Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- **Wednesdays, June 13, 27:** Grief and loss support group (call first).
- **Sa. tursdays, June 2, 16, 30:** Legal counseling, by appointment.
- **Saturday, June 30:** Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.—noon (no appointment needed).

Center of Concern: Hosts its annual fundraiser Miniature Golf outing from 5:30-8:30 p.m. June 13 at Mountain View Adventure Golf in Des Plaines, 510 E. Algonquin Road (west of Wolf Road). The event will include a picnic dinner of barbecued hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, salads, dessert and beverages. Cost is $15 per adult; $8 per child under 12. Rain date is June 16. Register by June 11; call (847) 823-0453.

**Shared Housing:** 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.

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

Center counselors: Also available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Cares Rx (prescription assistance), the senior-citizen real-estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax-assessment freeze, and the long-term-occupant-homeowner property-tax exemption.

**Civic**

**Village of Niles July 4 Parade:** Niles is looking for even greater participation from local businesses, organizations and schools. The parade will begin at 9 a.m. July 4 at Notre Dame High School and end at Grennan heights. Ride in a homemade float or march along with co-workers, colleagues and classmates and join the marching bands, clowns, stilts-walkers and patriots. Contact Cathy Spadoni at (847) 588-8019 or cms@villes.com.

Niles Township Clerk Office: Open 9 a.m.—5 p.m. weekdays and evenings by appointment on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to accommodate residents with passport applications, voter registrations and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 673-9300.

**Maine Township Neighborhood Watch:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in the basement of Maine Township’s MaineStreamers, 1700 Ballard Ave., Chicago. Those who entertain at nursing homes, senior centers, classrooms, or other organizations are also having meetings. For additional information, call Joe Henmi, (847) 966-5479, e-mail jamiebond54762@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712:** Meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 566-5497, e-mail jamesbond54762@yahoo.com or call (847) 470-9890.

**Korean War Veterans Association:** Greater Chicago Chapter No. 35, meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Henni, (773) 74-9671.

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

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

**Community**

**Maine Township’s MaineStreamers hosted a birthday party for about 70 seniors age 90 or older, including two women who were more than 100 years old. The celebration of life was held May 23 at the Chateau Ritz in Niles as part of the observance of Older American Month. From left are: azure Susan Meylan Krzy, Katharyn Swanson (age 102), Trustee Peter Gialamas, Isabelle Bost (age 102), Supervisor Carol Teschky, Clerk Gary K. Warner, and Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano.**

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Solid Waste Agency: 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 Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2312), only the following items will be accepted:
- Computers – PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals – mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs - printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes, electronics from businesses, institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swancc.org.

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

Avenues Thrift Shoppe: Offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. The main shop is located at 7710 W. Touhy Ave. in Chicago, and the “boutique” shop at 7700 Touhy Ave. features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and finer merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations are accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing, broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities.

Advances to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual’s work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

Fundraisers
Breast Cancer Walk: The American Cancer Society’s Northwest Chicago Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk will be at 8 a.m. June 2 at Edison Park Elementary School, 6220 N. Olcott Ave., Chicago. Registration for the noncompetitive one-mile walk or five-kilometer walk/run is at 8 a.m. The activity begins at 9 a.m. at the school on Olcott Avenue, just south of Devon Avenue. Donations for the American Cancer Society will be collected at the walk, or can be made online at www.makingstridesnorthwestchicago.com. Resurrection Medical Center is partnering in this event. Call (312) 279-7258.

Like New Auto Spa, Inc.: 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fundraising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/Advocate Lutheran General Children’s Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their car washed or detailed or buys a gift card from the company and also asks for the Lutheran General 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 Aimie Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 733-8518; or visit www.likeneuautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a Tsunami Relief Fund donation containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is not valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program.

Health
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital: Hosting a weekly Community Healthbeat lecture series. This month’s topic is “Healthy Bones and Joints,” led by orthopedic surgeons. All lectures will be held at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital’s West End Conference Center, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, at 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Free valet parking is available and refreshments will be served. Admission is free, however, registration is required. Call 800-323-8622 and mention Class Code 8652 or visit www.advocatehealth.com/luth. Click on “I need a class or support group” and type in the class code.

June 8: “Don’t Wait to Work on Your Weight,” Dr. Jeffrey Rosen, bariatric surgeon and...
ACHIEVEMENT: MAKES EVERY OPENING GRAND

FREE MONEY
No strings attached.
That's right, stopping at 11am, our branch staff will be handing out envelopes to the first 200 guests containing either $10, $15, $20, $50 or $100 dollar bills.

ENTER TO WIN ON EVENT DAY!

Raffle Prizes:
The new Apple® iPad
Weber® Genesis® Grill
Apple® MacBook Air Notebook
$3,000 Apple® Vacations
Travel Voucher

Drawing:
12pm

$3,000 Voucher

GET UP TO $150 FROM PNC!
Take advantage of one, two or three rewards:
1. Get $10 when you open a new PNC Personal Checking Account with qualifying direct deposit.
2. Get $10 when you make purchases with your PNC Bank Visa® Card.
3. Get $10 when you use our free Online Bill Pay.

JOIN THE FUN:

> Fresh fruit provided
> Green screen pictures
> Airbrush tattoo artist
> Giant inflatable slide
> Caricaturist

CALL: 847-647-2730

PNC Niles Township Avenue Branch
5727 West Touhy Avenue
(next to Star Nissan)
Niles
Call: 847-647-2730

Saturday - June 9 - 11-3
Great Hours
Lobby: M-Th 9-5, F 9-6, Sat 9-1
Drive-Thru: M-Th 9-5, F 9-6, Sat 9-1

CALENDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23


Advocate Medical Group:
Providing immediate care and occupational health services to the Advocate Medical Group Patient Center, 7255 N. Caldwell Ave. in Niles. This will provide community members with convenient, quality medical care including treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses such as: Cuts and burns, sprains and bruises, eye injuries, symptoms of colds, sore throats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, ear aches, respiratory and urinary tract infections. The center provides easy access to X-ray and laboratory services to assist in diagnosis and treatment of these and other ailments. In addition, the clinic provides international travel medical services including for those planning a trip out of the country. Office hours are 7:30 am - 8:00 pm weekdays and Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturdays and Sundays.

CALL: 847-647-0355

Golf Mill Health Aid Center: 8856 N. Milwaukee Ave., offering free hearing evaluations. All who come receive a comprehensive audiological evaluation. Call (847) 296-3344.

LYNX Therapeutics: 9436 W. Touhy Ave., provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Pediatric developmental screenings offered at no cost. Contact: Ingrid Kenron at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 907-9684.

Fresenius Medical Care: Local dialysis clinic, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave., has started a new night-time program for dialysis patients. The new service allows patients to receive treatments in the clinic at night, for eight hours, while sleeping or resting, usually three times a week. In addition to having their days free for other activities, patients often report having more energy and better dialysis results.

Medicare-certified Fresenius Medical Care Niles is now accepting new dialysis patients. Call (847) 581-0334.

Senior Advocate: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital offers free blood-pressure screenings 10 a.m.-noon on the first Wednesday of each month at the hospital's Patient Resource Center, 8820 W. Dempster St., across from the hospital. No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7777.

Historical Society
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 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: 5690 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslib.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

Journalist and educator: David Witter, will present an illustrated presentation based on his recent book, "Old Chicago," at 7 p.m. June 6 at the Niles Public Library. Witter will highlight historic sites and enterprises, including - the oldest business: Peacock Jewelers (1838); oldest apothecary: Metz Apothecary (1875); oldest tavern: Schaller's Pump (1869); oldest theater: the Playhouse (1914); and the oldest drive-in restaurant: Superdawg. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

Special display: During May, check out the special "Remembering Our Veterans" display in the Audiovisual department.

Residents can recycle: Cell phones, certain ink toners and used eye glasses at the Niles Public Library. Drop off boxes are located in the Circulation lobby.

Help downloading eBooks: Go to www.nileslib.org/contactus and click on e-books. You will click on OverDrive. From there, you will find a link on the homepage to find step-by-step instruction sheets for different e-book readers as well as help starting on MyMedia Mall. MyMedia Mall titles are now available for the Amazon Kindle.

Book Buddies: Students entering sixth grade in the fall and adults can become Book Buddies. Buddies are often assigned to children read once a week for an hour. The Niles Public Library provides all materials and training.

Niles Public Library: Open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m., all year.

Chicago Chapter of SCORE: Weekly, counselors from 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.

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Chefs offer talk, tips in Best of the Best

BY TOM WHITOM
Contributor

The late James Beard, hailed as the dean of American cooking, left a legacy that celebrates the nation's rich melting pot cuisine as "one of the most fascinating culinary subjects of all." And since its creation in 1986, the James Beard Foundation has nurtured the country's most creative chefs. A new book by Kit Wohl, The James Beard Foundation's Best of the Best (Chronicle, $60), spotlights 21 outstanding culinary talents, including Wolfgang Puck, Thomas Keller, Alice Waters, Daniel Boulud and Tom Colicchio. Three renowned Chicago-based Beard Award winners — Charlie Trotter, Rick Bayless and Grant Achatz — also are highlighted.

Though the handsome volume would dress up any coffee table, its 240 pages contain a number of approachable recipes. In addition, readers will find behind-the-scenes snapshots of the high-energy chefs and insights on what makes them tick.

For instance, Wohl quotes Trotter, summing up the chef's philosophy: "It's important to try as hard as you can. At the same time, human failings are appealing and beautiful because you learn so much from them. If one knows nothing but success, one can become complacent."

Mexican cooking authority Bayless, who operates Topolobampo and Frontera Grill, tells readers: "I tend to have a lot of focus, a lot of passion, when I'm doing something. Usually I work on one thing to the exclusion of everything else until I'm done."

Alinea, classically trained Achatz's avant-garde restaurant, blends dining with performance art. "We're trying to break the monotony of not only food technique, presentation and preparation, but the emotional response that you have," the chef is quoted.

These top chefs each contributed recipes, too. Trotter offers an involved recipe for Squab Breast with French Breakfast Radish Confit, Black Sesame Puree and Annato Gastrique. Achatz serves up Hot Potato, Cold Potato, Black Truffle, Parmesan. And Bayless shares a recipe for Smoky Peanut Mole with Grilled Quail. Though all three recipes are intriguing, their execution probably is best left to professionals.

Alfred Portale, 2006 Beard Award winner for his work as chef at Gotham Bar and Grill in New York, attributes his success to offering a menu that's consistently "creative, fresh and contemporary" complemented by well-tuned service.

He presents a quite doable recipe for Beet Salad with Mango, Feta, Orange and Mint, which is a fine example of the style and philosophy his nearly 30-year-old restaurant embodies.

Beet Salad with Mango, Feta, Orange and Mint

(Serves 4)

2 large red and golden beets, washed but not peeled
2 tablespoons olive oil
Coarse salt
Freshly ground black pepper
3 oranges, peeled and separated into segments
½ cup coarsely chopped fresh mint
1 tablespoon minced shallots
4 ounces Greek feta cheese, crumbled into large pieces (approximately 1 cup)
1 ripe mango, cut into medium dice
Microgreens, for garnish (optional)

Vinaigrette

4½ teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon freshly squeezed orange juice

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

In a bowl, toss the beets with the oil and season with the salt and pepper. Put the beets on a roasting pan and cover them with foil. Roast in the oven until tender, about 1½ hours. (They are done when a sharp, thin-bladed knife can easily pierce through to their center.) Remove the pan from the oven, remove the beets from the pan and set them aside to cool.

While the beets are roasting, make the vinaigrette: In a small bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar and orange juice. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

When they are cool enough to handle, peel the beets and cut them into ½-inch dice. Put them in a bowl with the feta, mango dice and the remaining orange sections. Add the vinaigrette, season with salt and pepper, and toss gently.

Transfer the salad to a platter. Arrange the cheese, mango dice and the remaining orange sections on top. Garnish with microgreens, if desired, and serve.
Residents on the south end of Park Ridge have their Dairy Queen, but now north siders are getting the chance to enjoy their own neighborhood spot for cold, summer treats.

Armen and Melina Ovassapian are the owners of Frosty Penguin Grill, hoping to have opened Memorial Day weekend at 1056 Busse Highway. Soft-serve ice cream and sundaes are the primary draws on the menu, sharing space alongside hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, soft drinks and a selection of salads.

“We want it to be a fun atmosphere — family-friendly, good food and very happy,” Melina Ovassapian said.

Ovassapian’s family previously operated a Dairy Freeze at the site, but during the past decade the building has been home to a few short-lived fast-food businesses or has been vacant.

“Now we’re coming back,” Ovassapian said. “We own the property and thought this new restaurant would be great. We have teenagers in the family and it’s going to be a great family business.”

The plan is for Frosty Penguin Grill to be open year-round. During the summer months seating will be available outside.

“Park Ridge is a great community. It is a very family-oriented community and I’ve always thought this was a great place,” Ovassapian said. “We had many wonderful years here and I think this will be the start of another chapter.”

A May 25 opening was planned.

Armen and Melina Ovassapian, owners of Frosty Penguin Grill in Park Ridge, pose at the establishment May 17. The Ovassapians are hoping to open May 25. CURTIS LEHMKUHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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Evans’ development helps engineer improvement

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

It’s no coincidence that Maine East’s ascent to baseball respectability paralleled Cory Evans’ development over the last four years.

As a freshman, Evans was a talented but skinny starting second baseman, hitting in the bottom third of the order. He advanced as a speedy shortstop and leadoff hitter in 2010. Former assistant Ron Clark took over as head coach last season, and turned Evans into a reliable pitcher who hurled a two-hit shutout in a Niles West regional semifinal on May 23. Brilliant in defeat, Evans yielded only one earned run, three hits and two walks. He also singled, walked and stole a base.

In the fifth inning, Meger allowed a single to Andrew Glowacki and a double to Ramen Odicho, but escaped the one-out jam in the close battle.

“We outhit ‘em but didn’t outscore ‘em,” Clark said. “Cory did a great job. He mixed his pitches and threw strikes.”

The Glowackis were just as essential to the program’s turnaround. The senior twins rotated with Evans at shortstop, second base and pitcher. Andrew went 4-4 on the mound and hit .270 in his final campaign. Tyler batted .304.

“The Glowackis were really solid guys for us and did everything we asked,” Clark said. “They both still have a lot of upside, and can play college ball.”

Seniors George Zakharias (304 average, .429 OBP) led the Demons with 22 RBI and 10 doubles. Classmate and first baseman Steve Khatchadourian (.289) contributed eight doubles and the team’s only homer. Senior third baseman Odicho was a reliable regular, and senior right fielder Muhammad “Mo” Tabani embraced an opportunity to start early in the season.

“It was nice to see the kids reach a point that they knew they could play against anyone,” Clark said. “Thanks to them, we earned respect as a program. They gave us a foundation for the next kids to follow.”

Clark will be challenged to replace all those departing seniors, but he’ll start with a talented trio right up the middle.

Senior pitcher/outfielder A. J. Plas recorded a 2.68 ERA in 62 2/3 innings. Junior catcher Phil Papaionannou, the team’s cleanup hitter, batted .322 with a .414 OBP and 19 RBI. Junior center fielder Greg Davis missed almost the entire season with a stress fracture in his back.

Evans wound up with a hard-luck 6-7 record with a sterling 2.55 ERA in a yeoman 90 1/3 innings to cover for a staff lacking depth. The lefty-hitting Evans led the offense with a .396 average, 40 hits, a .479 on-base percentage and 14 stolen bases.

“Cory made great progress over the years. He got stronger and turned into a very savvy ballplayer,” said Clark. “We went with him as a pitcher his junior year, and that is one decision I am very happy I made.”

Three-year veterans Andrew and Tyler Glowacki were re-elected as essential to the program’s turnaround. The senior twins rotated with Evans at shortstop, second base and pitcher. Andrew went 4-4 on the mound and hit .270 in his final campaign. Tyler batted .304.

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Niles West pitcher Krista Dawson has another season of eligibility remaining after spending two years in the Wolves’ circle. | CURTIS LEHMkuHL-Sun-Times Media

Dawson provides certain amount of maturity

BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

Injuries to the Vikings left Krista Dawson all alone in the circle at the end of the season. The Niles West junior pitched every inning of the team’s final nine games, including last week’s 7-0 loss to Loyola in the regional semifinals at Maine South.

“She really did a fantastic job for us,” Wolves coach Nicole Reynolds said.

The ace a year ago, Dawson struggled with shin splints as a sophomore before playing at full strength this season. She figures to be the team’s top pitcher for a third year in a row as a senior.

“She’s been very strong for us throughout,” Reynolds said.

Dawson, who also batted at the top of the order, will be one of the seven players back who started the playoff game against the Ramblers.

One senior ended her prep career prematurely. Starting catcher Lexi Leftalces broke her leg in a late April practice and missed the rest of the season.

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Leftalces was one of several Wolves who suffered injuries this spring.

“The most everyone is coming back, but we don’t know what is going to happen next year,” Reynolds said. “We pulled up some young kids to play in the regional, and we have some good kids coming up in the future. We will see how next year goes.”
Committee approach solves pitching dilemma

BY MIKE CAMERON

Nelson Gord wasn't thinking about wins and losses after his first season as Notre Dame's head coach ended with a 3-1 loss to visiting Grayslake Central in a Class 3A regional final on Saturday.

The Dons (14-23, 5-11 ESCC) probably would have notched several more victories if they had not been without senior mainstays Kevin Stahmer and Keenan Connelly during the first five weeks. The Niles nine sorely missed third baseman Stahmer's slugging and the solid leadership of both injured veterans.

Stahmer tore an ankle in the first inning of a sectional wrestling victory over Johnsburg in the Class 3A regional in Niles. "I robbed Dick-Sun-Times Media

Notre Dame's Ryan Czachor advances a runner with a sacrifice bunt during the Dons' victory over Johnsburg in the Class 3A regional in Niles. I ROB DICKER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Stahmer tore an ankle in the first inning of a sectional wrestling victory over Johnsburg in the Class 3A regional in Niles. "I
Schoenberg shipping out to Mizzou

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

Schoenberg, the most memorable game of the Vikings' 2012 season will always be when they defeated Niles West.

"We were down 1-0. Kevin Ross got to us that first inning, and then I helped my team start a rally," said Schoenberg, who drove in runs in six runs in the 13-2 blowout of the Wolves on April 30. "I had four RBIs that inning — a single and a 2-RBI double — and came back against Kevin Ross in the next inning and hit another double off him. Six RBIs and it really started a rally for us."

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Although the pain will linger for Niles North's baseball team, it will eventually fade. The Vikings' current underclassmen will shift into new roles and start playing summer baseball, while the graduating seniors will be left with new opportunities and the memories accumulated this season.

"Probably the biggest issue (this season) was finding consistency," Toledo said. "When we were playing well, we were playing pretty well. When we weren't playing well, it really wasn't very good. We're still a young club by all accounts, and I think we can be a very good club. Looking ahead, that's the goal: to play at a much more consistent level."

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Building upon its win over Niles West (26-10), Niles North then defeated Glenbrook North, something which the Vikings have struggled to do in recent years.

Niles North coach Ed Toledo can turn to those experiences when he looks for improvement from his returning players.

"When you're down like we were, 9-2, you still don't give up," said Schoenberg. "You never know what's going to happen. Play your (butt) off every time because you never know who's watching."

Although Niles North (16-20) fell behind Evanston 7-0 after two innings, the Vikings lived up to Schoenberg's expectations. They kept fighting, managed to get runners on base, but couldn't pull the Oak Park-River Forest regional semifinal closer than the final seven-run margin.

"Once you have one error in the field, it starts to progress and it's contagious. We (couldn't) get it out of our heads. We were just stuck in the same play over and over again."

SCHOENBERG, BASEBALL PLAYER TALKING ABOUT THE VIKINGS' FIVE ERRORS IN THE FIRST INNING OF A 9-2 PLAYOFF LOSS TO EVANSTON ON MAY 24
Talhami off and running in postseason

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

The Wolves' hitting has been spotty since starting the season at a scorching 19-2.

Coach Garry Gustafson increasingly pressed the running game, and the speedy Wolves responded with a school-record 11 steals Saturday.

Among the thieves was No. 9 hitter Trevor Talhami (3-for-8, 2 R, 2 SB), who accounted for nearly half of the Wolves' seven hits. The senior right fielder broke his thumb early in the season, but has fully recovered. Loyola cut him when he was a sophomore.

“I had known Coach Gus for a while. I knew I'd get a chance and transferred here,” said Talhami.

Gustafson bagged the Wolves' third regional crown in the last six years, though Niles West hasn't won a sectional championship since 1976.

Niles West's outstanding pair of right-handed pitchers would not let an injury to superstar shortstop Kevin Ross deny the Wolves a Class 4A regional title.

In fact, junior Kyle Colletta and senior Jason Meger didn't even allow a run. Colletta (9-2, 1.50 ERA) threw a six-hit shutout to lead Niles West (26-10) over visiting Leyden (18-16) 8-0 on Saturday. Meger (6-5), lowering his ERA to 1.68, blanked Maine East (12-19) 3-0 on four hits May 23.

Ross suffered a hairline fracture of his left thumb on a slide into third base May 19 in a 5-4 road loss to Vernon Hills. With the thumb heavily bandaged, Ross was limited to pinch-running in the regional opener before popping out and walking twice Saturday.

“We played more for him. I'm a real good friend of Kevin’s and didn’t want this to be his last game,” said Colletta.

“I know Jason felt the same way,”

Ross leads the team at .436, the Hawks swept the Wolves 8-4 and 7-1 in mid-May. Maine South edged Maine West 3-2 in 10 innings Saturday.

“Our motto is to leave our mark. We feel we're a special team, even though we've had a rough go of it at times,” said Colletta.

The Michigan recruit has attracted a flock of big league scouts in advance of next month's MLB first-year player draft.

Although his swing appeared restricted, Ross hopes for improvement in time for the Evanston Sectional. No. 4 Niles West was slated to face top-seeded Maine South (31-5) on Wednesday. During the regular season, the Hawks swept the Wolves 8-4 and 7-1 in mid-May. Maine South edged Maine West 3-2 in 10 innings Saturday.

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High-fives

Track and Field: Neal Omar (Sr.) - Captured a pair of state medals at the IHSA Class 3A state finals held at Eastern Illinois University's O'Brien Stadium. Omar was seventh in the 800 (1:55.7) and was part of the 3,200 relay team that took fifth place.

Female

Softball: Jesse Simkins (Jr.) - Reached base twice - once on a walk and once on a single - in the Wolves' 7-0 loss to Loyola in the Maine South regional semifinals on May 23.

Culture Grid

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH JESSICA SUTFIN, SENIOR GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

What's your favorite movie? "Time Travelers Wife." It's a romantic movie and I like the story. Love overpowers everything no matter what's going on.

What's your favorite restaurant and what are you eating there? My favorite restaurant would have to be Chipotle. Burrito bowl with white rice, steak, fajita (peppers and onion) and then I put the really hot sauce on it, black beans, sour cream, cheese and lettuce.

What’s your favorite super hero? Captain America or Spiderman because they’re handsome and swole.

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Big Numbers

11
- Regional titles won by the baseball team. The Wolves captured No. 11 by beating Leyden 6-0 on May 26. Niles West didn't allow a run in its first two playoff games.

22-15

Sound Bites

“I felt ready to go today. My curve was better than it had been and my fastball has been there all year.” - JASON MEGER, BASEBALL PLAYER

After the Wolves' 3-0 victory over Maine East in the Niles West Regional Semifinals
North’s Bacalla beefs up his tennis game

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

Niles North junior Dave Bacalla may have scored the same number of team points at last weekend’s IHSA state meet as he did in two previous appearances. Yet, Bacalla’s third trip to the showpiece event, held May 24 through Saturday throughout the northwest suburbs, was clearly a step forward for Bacalla, whose game has progressed from a physical and mental standpoint.

The last two years, I won my first two and then lost. So, this was pretty good. I obviously got deeper into the tournament and got through the first day with three wins,” Bacalla said. “Then, to get the opportunity to play the second-best player in the state (Hinsdale Central senior Sam Bloom), that was a lot of fun and a real good match.”

Bloom, the tournament’s No. 2 seed from the eventual state-champion Red Devils, ended up defeating Bacalla 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in Friday’s epic fourth-round match.

The three-hour match clearly took a toll on both players. Bloom went on to lose the quarterfinal in two sets to Stevenson’s Jeremy Bush, while Bacalla also fell in his next time out, losing for the second straight week to New Trier senior Rob Jacobson, this time 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

“I lost to Rob at the sectional this year, and again at state,” Bacalla said. “I came out pretty strong in the match, but couldn’t find the energy. I guess I just ran out of gas after that battle versus Bloom.”

For Bacalla, the Bloom match was a bit of a reminder of the past, since he had played Bloom’s older brother Augie at the state tournament two years ago. However, the performance also showed how Bacalla’s game has advanced.

The player clearly is bigger, stronger and his game more powerful than in the past. The way Bacalla thinks through the game also appears to have changed.

After getting a feel for Bloom in the first set, Bacalla made the necessary adjustments in the second, breaking the Hinsdale Central player at 3-3 and going on to even up the match.

“I had to adjust as we played,” Bacalla said. “(Bloom) is a really aggressive baseliner, with a really big forehand. He’s solid in everything and makes you play, doesn’t give you much to play off the serve. I knew I was going to have to beat him, because he was not going to be beating himself.”

“In the second set, I adjusted my game. I had been making too many errors. I decided to cut down on the errors by not giving him as much (not playing for winners). It worked for me, and I kept that throughout the match.”

Though Bloom ultimately prevailed in a tight third set, Bacalla said the tournament had been a good one.

“It was a learning experience,” he said. “Playing with that caliber of player, you get to learn from that, learn what works. Sticking with those high-caliber players on those important points, those pressure points, is the key to winning matches. It was a good test for me to play against that kind of player.”

Bacalla opened state play with straightforward victories over Fenwick’s Brian Hickey (6-2, 6-4) and Centralia’s Jon Urshan (6-1, 6-1). Things got trickier against St. Charles East’s Jasper Koenen, as Bacalla dropped the second set but ultimately prevailed 6-2, 6-4, 6-4.

“I lost to Jasper at the sectional this year, and again at state,” Bacalla said. “I came out pretty strong in the match, but couldn’t find the energy. I guess I just ran out of gas after that battle versus Bloom.”

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