Independent spirit

Cathy Spadoni, acting deputy village clerk, is coordinator of the annual Niles Fourth of July parade, which begins at Notre Dame College Prep and concludes at Grennan Heights Park. See Page 7.

Photo by Joel Lerner-Sun-Times Media
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FOURTH FESTIVITIES  Cathy Spadoni, acting deputy village clerk, is coordinator of the annual Niles July 4th Parade, which begins at Notre Dame College Prep and concludes at Grennan Heights Park. PAGE 7 | JOEL LERNER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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LoVerde has been considering running for mayor for some time, and he said the time is finally right.

"I think I can do a good job for the community," LoVerde said. "I've always contemplated it. I think the time is right now."

LoVerde has been the executive director of the Niles Park District for 16 years and is on his sixth year as village trustee. He ran in 2005 for village trustee and did not get elected, but he said he was elected in 2007 and 2011.

"There's some concerns going on currently in the village," LoVerde said of his motivation for running. "Niles has been through so much with negative headlines. It's a great community."

LoVerde said there are many positive things Niles has to offer and that it can still accomplish, and that recent negative events in the news have saddened him. He cited as an example a group of trustees moving to discharge Village Manager George Van Geem.

LoVerde said he believes it's important to support the employees of the village of Niles. "No company would succeed without good employees," LoVerde said, adding that one of his strengths is identifying good people and then giving them the support that they need to succeed.

If he is elected mayor LoVerde said he will continue to work on solving flooding issues and beautification programs to continue to make Niles an even better place to live.

"We need to be as efficient as always," LoVerde said.

LoVerde said he will continue to make Niles an even better place to live.

"We need to be as efficient as always," LoVerde said.
When Robert Murdach was just starting out in scouting, his mother could remember looking up to Eagle Scouts. Now he's one of them.

"It's something that you can do and stick with it for a number of years," said Murdach, who started scouting in first grade and recently graduated from Notre Dame High School with plans to attend Northern Illinois University.

Murdach said he received 100 congratulatory letters for his achieving the Eagle scout rank, including some from senators, governors and the owner of the Chicago Cubs.

"It was a pretty big deal," said Murdach, the 27th Eagle scout from Niles Troop 175 since 2000.

Through the years Murdach has earned required badges for swimming, first aid and other skills, as well as optional badges. He also has completed service projects and religious awards.

Murdach's final project was helping the Niles Food Pantry. He walked around his neighborhood and picked up canned goods to donate to the pantry. He also held a movie night at St. John Brebeuf.

Between the two events Murdach collected about 700 items for the pantry. He dropped off the items, and helped organize and restocked the shelves of the pantry.

A powerful moment for Murdach, who lives in Chicago at the border of Niles, was when he saw a child come in to the pantry and pick up some of the items he had donated.

"I felt pretty good," Murdach said of helping families in need.

Murdach said the most challenging part of earning the Eagle title was accomplishing all of the work to become an Eagle scout just before he turned 18 years old.

This summer Murdach is a camp counselor with the Niles Park District, for children ages 2 to 5.

"I really like working with the kids," Murdach said. "It's fun. It makes me feel like a kid again."

His mother, Tracy Murdach, said she is proud of her son's becoming an Eagle scout.

"I see him do things now that I know he learned from scouting," Tracy said. "I do credit scouting for a lot of what he has become."

Tracy is also proud that Robert participated in the Burke Scholarship Program, which supports children with conditions such as autism and Down syndrome. Murdach participated in activities with the youngsters and aimed at helping them feel accepted by sitting with them at lunch time. An active student, Murdach was also a varsity volleyball player.

Even though Murdach has achieved the highest rank in scouting he still plans to have scouting be a big part of his life. He will go on to be an assistant scout master.

"I'm definitely going to stick with it, and help out and give back," Murdach said.

His mother said that without even realizing it her son learned to be organized and self-sufficient through his years of scouting.

"It's really an amazing path for a young man to follow," she said.
For the best-possible fireworks safety, leave these dangerous devices to professionals. Attend licensed public fireworks displays.

If someone sustains an injury from fireworks immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If they have injured their eye do not allow the injured person to rub or touch it, as this may cause even more damage to the injured area.

Do not flush the eye out with water or attempt to place ointment on it, either. If it is a burn, remove any clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.


don't attempt to re-light or fix fireworks that have not gone off. Many fireworks are designed to burn hot or explode.

Sparklers, which many people regard as harmless, burn at temperatures of up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit (982 degrees Celsius).

Keep at a safe distance from fireworks-staging areas. Matches are tools and not toys. Children should never play with matches, and should especially never use them to light fireworks.

- For the best-possible fireworks safety, leave these dangerous devices to professionals. Attend licensed public fireworks displays.

If someone sustains an injury from fireworks immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If they have injured their eye do not allow the injured person to rub or touch it, as this may cause even more damage to the injured area.

Do not flush the eye out with water or attempt to place ointment on it, either. If it is a burn, remove any clothing from the burned area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice). Call your doctor immediately.
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Rich Watermann, of Chicago, has worked since 1994 at the deli counter at Minelli's Meat & Deli in Niles. Minelli's is a family-owned business and a Niles institution. ROB HART-SUN TIMES MEDIA

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
Grilling for Fourth? Minelli's will be pleased to 'meat' you

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Family, friends and fireworks all help to make the Fourth of July a fun holiday. And it's not about food.

Minelli's Meat and Deli, 7900 N. Milwaukee Ave., gets especially busy during the summer months because it's the season when people love to get their grills out.

The store features specialty imported Italian food, and makes its own Italian sausage and spaghetti sauce.

Other popular products include roast beef, meatballs, salads, steaks, frozen pastas and ravioli, imported cheeses, lunch meat, beef tenderloin, prime rib, bratwurst, hamburger patties and Polish sausage. Minelli's offers a selection of pasta sauces such as vodka and alfredo varieties.

“Right now the barbecue season is very busy,” said Lenny Minelli, noting that Christmas time is also a popular time for the shop, when people order special cuts of meat.

The store also provides hot lunches every day. Customers eat lunch in the seating area inside Oak Mill Mall.

A family business, the shop started in the 1960s with Lenny's grandparents as a tavern started in the 1960s with Lenny's grandparents as a tavern in Chicago with an attached grocery store. For 38 years the store was just down the street from the current location on Milwaukee Avenue.

Minelli's has been a family-owned business until she was 97 years old.

About five years ago Minelli moved its store in Chicago still come to Minelli's, including senior citizens whose children bring them by.

Lenny Jr. grew up in Niles and enjoys living and working in the village.

“We provide excellent customer service with a personal touch,” Minelli said.

Jim McGuire, of Park Ridge, said: “They know who you are when you come in. They have stuff you can't get at other places.”

McGuire said Minelli's has high-quality products, especially at the deli counter. He also likes to buy the pork shoulder to make pulled-pork sandwiches.

Joe Trotta, of Chicago, said he's been coming to Minelli's “forever.” He loves to barbecue all different kinds of meat.

“They treat me like family,” Trotta said.

Lenny runs the store with his brother-in-law, Ozzie Cacavella, and his cousin, Mario Minelli. His dad, Lenny Sr., still comes in a few days a week to help out.

On June 24, Lenny Sr. was sitting by the checkout counter and chatting with customers. He said some of the customers from their original store in Chicago still come to shop at Minelli's, including senior citizens whose children bring them by.

Lenny Jr. grew up in Niles and enjoys living and working in the village.

“They offer a lot. It's a nice, clean town.”
Insurance agent gets his ‘Journey moment’ in spotlight

By Jennifer Johnson
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

Chris Collins is more of a Bruce Springsteen kind of guy.

If he’s going to be quoting anything other than an insurance rate, it’s probably going to be the words to “Glory Days” or “Born in the U.S.A.,” his two favorite rock anthems by The Boss.

But if you're one of the millions of people who have caught a popular State Farm Insurance commercial, you’ll find Collins having a “Journey moment.”

Collins, a Park Ridge State Farm agent, appears prominently in the company’s latest TV spot in which he and a customer, played by actor Sam Vance, trade lyrics from the Journey song “Any Way You Want It” while discussing State Farm’s 24-hour accessibility over the phone.

The experience has turned Collins into a fan of the arena-rock supergroup.

“If I hear Steve Perry on the radio, now, my ears perk up a little bit,” remarked Collins of the former Dio, now, my ears perk up a little per-group.

It was Collins’ very first acting experience. “The experience was good,” Collins said of his acting debut. “It was interesting to see how things are done and how they piece it together.”

The commercial has also made its way to the agent's company website, which includes a clip visitors can watch.

Some of Collins’ clients have recognized him as the Journey-quoting insurance agent and “got a big kick out of it,” he noted. But Collins himself hasn’t actually come across the commercial all that much.

“My wife and I joke all the time that we never see it, but everyone I talk to says they see it all the time,” he said. “It’s kind of funny, but we just never see it. I guess we don’t watch enough TV.”

Collins acknowledged that he would love to film another commercial, but doubts another opportunity will come up anytime soon.

“I’m certainly not quitting my day job,” he remarked. “I’m not changing careers any time soon.”

And that’s good to know, considering Collins’ promise to be available “anytime, anywhere ... any way you want it.”
District 207's Best students for May: Ravi Shah, of Maine West; Nicholas Mitrovich, of Maine South; and Zachary Wallin, of Maine East. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

DISTRICT 207

May's 'Best' students named

Three seniors selected by Maine Township High School District 207 as "207's Best" for May have been recognized by the Board of Education.

All three — Nicholas Mitrovich, of Maine South, Ravi Shah, of Maine West, and Zachary Wallin, of Maine East — were recognized for extracurricular achievement.

In his introductory letter Principal Shawn Messmer characterized Nick Mitrovich as "Maine South school spirit personified." An honor-roll student during his entire four years at South, Mitrovich plays varsity baseball, and is a member of the Accounting Team and the Principal's Advisory Council. He is video manager for the varsity basketball team and a member of WMTH. Outside school Mitrovich volunteers at the VA Hospital and teaches Sunday school. He plans to continue his baseball career at Concordia University in River Forest.

Ravi Shah is Student Council president, an editor for the Westerner, serves on the Student-Wide Fundraiser Committee and is a member of the National Honor Society. He also plays varsity tennis and ranks near the top of his class academically. In her introductory letter West Principal Audrey Haugan described Shah as a self-starter who accomplishes his goals. She lauded Shah's work on the Principal's Leadership Team. Shah will be attending Harvard, where he will study government.

MAINE SOUTH

Student newspaper earns top honor from press group

For the first time in school history the staff of Maine South High School's student newspaper, Southwords, earned the Golden Eagle Award for overall excellence from the Northern Illinois Scholastic Press Association (NISPA).

The 2012 Golden Eagle Award is the highest level of distinction a newspaper can earn from NISPA. In addition to this "Best in Class" designation the newspaper earned a gold certificate on critique. Individual Southwords staff members also won the following blue-ribbon awards: Adrian Adamiec, cartooning; Austin Bryniarski, column writing; Nicole Johnson, feature writing; Hope Alchin, feature writing; and Maddy Vogg, photography.

Receiving an honorable mention were the student editorial board, editors; Adrian Adamiec, graphics; and Caroline Murphy and Sarah Tarabey for news writing and team in-depth coverage.

In addition eight Southwords editors have been selected for the National Scholastic Press Association's Journalism Honor Roll. They are Hope Alchin, Dora Bialy, Austin Bryniarski, Nicole Johnson, James Loomis, Caroline Murphy, Soren Ramsey and Sarah Tarabey.

The NSPA Honor Roll recognizes student journalists who have excelled as journalists and scholars and have a minimum grade-point average of 3.75.

"The Southwords students have dedicated themselves to informing and engaging our community and these awards reflect the exceptional work they have done," said Southwords sponsor and Maine South English teacher Alex Stathakis.
EDUCATION IN FOCUS

Diversity a plus for college-bound District 219 grads

BY NICK KATZ

Even with the rapidly increasing cost of college, Jerry Pope encourages students at Niles North and Niles West high schools to aim for top schools, ones where surprisingly they may be able to find the most financial help.

That, he said, is especially true for District 219, which has about a third of its students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunches, students with a wide diversity of ethnic and religious backgrounds, as well as the school's excellent educational reputation — all things many colleges and universities look for when they give out grants, scholarships and other types of financial assistance.

For Niles Township High School District 219, Pope's efforts have paid off.

Among members of the Niles North class of 2011, the last class for which the district has accurate data, 98 percent of students who attended college.

A full 59 percent went to four-year schools and 44 percent to two-year schools such as Oakton Community College. The remainder, Pope said, entered the military, took jobs or enrolled in technical and trade schools.

Figures were similar at Niles West, where 98.7 percent of students who went to college, of whom 62.3 percent to a four-year school and 31.4 percent to a two-school school.

Pope, the district's national college advisor, said the district's efforts to reach students and parents have been worthwhile.

Among the Top 25 schools that District 219 students apply to are some of the top colleges and universities in the country. They include Bradley University, Washington University, Purdue and Northwestern.

Pope said that what some schools do is that they see as its biggest obstacles are in truth some of its greatest assets when it comes to placing students in college.

District families speak 70 different languages. At Niles North 57 percent of students are non-white while at Niles West that figure is 50 percent.

"It does present some challenges," Pope said. "But our diversity is also our greatest strength."

On the positive side, Pope said, many colleges and universities look at District 219 as a place to recruit minority students to help bolster their own student body's diversity. That can often mean better offers with more financial assistance, especially at more costly private colleges.

"Unfortunately, a lot of college students look like me," said Pope, who is white. "Many colleges want to look more like the rest of the world."

At the same time, though, in many cases students from immigrant families will be the first ever to attend college. That is something Pope can identify with since he was the first in his family, as well.

As a first generation kid myself, if it wasn't for teachers and counselors who helped me I wouldn't have known what was possible. College is possible and affordable," Pope said.

District 219 offers programs for both parents and students who will be the first in their families to attend college and for the students themselves. In many cases, he said, students have never even seen a college campus.

As a way to introduce them to campus life the district arranges buses to take primarily junior-class members on a tour of some schools so that they can see what it's like.

"All of a sudden they can see themselves at college," Pope said.

The district, which offers the largest college fairs in the area, also provides translators at the events to help parents talk with college recruiters and become more familiar with the process in their native language.

It helps prevent the sticker shock that his own father had when Pope was applying to school.

"He saw the cost and said we absolutely cannot afford it," Pope recalled. "My father was shocked." But like his own students now, a combination of grants, a part-time job and scholarships made college affordable for Pope.

Even now, he said, he encourages students and parents to approach college in some respects as though they were buying an airline ticket or a car. He tells them to negotiate with colleges to obtain the most assistance possible.

"You wouldn't take the first offer from a car dealer," he said. "You'd try more than one dealership before you buy."

He also said students and their families should not go into lifetime debt for college as some have in recent years, as college and university tuition and other costs have skyrocketed.

The cost at Northwestern, for example, is up to $60,000 a year, Pope said. "Over four years you've bought a house," he said.

He added: "Families should not destroy their finances to pay for college."

The students most in need, though, are often those able to get assistance to bring that cost down.

"Most of them are getting some kind of grant or scholarship," Pope said.

Even students who do not plan to go to college when they graduate, Pope said, need to be "college-ready." Some of them may enter the military with the idea of going to college later. Even those without college plans, though, need to have some basic skills, he said.

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Fire Department celebrates century of community service

Technology has changed in past 100 years, but firefighting fundamentals are the same

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

Adam Konwal's 4-year-old son looked around in amazement as he explored the Niles Fire Station.

"He loves everything 'firefightei," Konwal, of Park Ridge, said of his son.

The Niles Fire Department this year marks its 100th anniversary, and commemorated the milestone with a Centennial Open House this month as families had a firsthand look at what the department is all about and how it came to be.

Konwal said he and his son enjoyed the demonstration of a person being extricated from a vehicle after an accident and were amazed at how fast the sprinkler system works. His son also enjoyed participating in the obstacle course.

Historic photos of the Fire Department and the equipment it uses to extinguish blazes was on display at the well-attended event.

The Niles Fire Department has a rich history filled with many significant events and moments of heroism.

It all began in 1901, when the Niles Volunteer Fire Company was organized with F. J. Leasen serving as chief, according to the Niles Centennial Book. The company was granted a state charter on Feb. 19, 1912, officially establishing the Niles Fire Department.

A Blue Boy wagon was used on fire calls and equipped with a 100-gallon tank, ladders, picks, axes and small chemical-fire extinguishers. Records reveal that a "more modern machine" was purchased in 1904. Horses pulled the wagon and a new local record was set in responding to a fire at Dohl's Morton House in Morton Grove. Responding from the original fire house at Touhy and Milwaukee avenues, eight men got to the scene in 16 minutes. There is no record of whether it was a successful mission.

In 1921, there was a revitalization of the department, and younger members joined up. Two motorized trucks were purchased and existing equipment became obsolete.

In September 1953, the village board passed an ordinance that made the Niles company a full-time Fire Department under Fire Chief George Pasek. The first full-time firefighters were Charlie Pickup and Charlie Bacher, who were hired at a monthly salary of $50. On Jan. 1, 1948, they both received a monthly salary of $225, which included their salary for being full-time firemen and custodians.

Pasek was followed by Fire Chiefs Albert Hoelib, longest-serving Fire Chief Harry Kinowski, Barry Mueller and current Fire Chief Steve Borkowski.

In 1958 the Fire Department answered 423 calls for service, and in 1974 the department started to provide paramedic service to Niles residents.

The department has grown into one that consists of 47 sworn members. In 2011 the busy department answered 6,140 calls for service.

Over the years some of the biggest changes Fire Department members have pointed out have been techno-
logical advancements in EMS equipment.

Today, there are computers in the vehicles to help cut down radio traffic, and personnel members carry portable radios to keep in constant contact with each other. There are also specialized teams for such purposes as hazardous materials and technical rescues. Niles Fire Chief Steve Borkowski said that with the teams the personnel receive more specialized training and equipment.

Fire Lieutenant Charles Saleem agreed that the most dramatic evolution has been in EMS technology. “Hoses are hoses; you can’t do a lot to change it,” Saleem said of the actual process of putting out the fires.

Saleem said the Niles department comprises a very tight knit group of firefighters. Despite having what he describes as a wide range of personalities, Saleem said: “When the tone goes off everyone’s on the same page.”

Dan Reid, who has been a Niles firefighter for seven years, said new technology has significantly helped the department. “It’s come along way,” Reid said. “We can do our job better.”

Even though there have been many changes at the Niles Fire Department during the past 100 years, the mission of the firefighters has remained the same. “The firefighting has not changed,” Borkowski said. “Wherever they get called to, they have the confidence and expertise to take care of a problem.

“It was like that 100 years ago and it’s like that today.”

About 800 people attended the Centennial Open House. The event consisted of live demonstrations by Niles firefighters, including rappelling off of a roof, a live burn and extrication from a vehicle. There were also demonstrations given by EMS personnel and a health-information booth staffed by Lutheran General Hospital.

Before the open house a special ceremony was attended by Mayor Robert Caliera, village trustees, the village manager, current Fire Department members and retirees.

Caliera thanked past and present department members on behalf of the Niles community for risking their lives to protect citizens and their property. Borkowski talked about the past, present and future of the Niles Fire Department. The ringing of the department volunteer bell to honor those firefighters who have died concluded the ceremony.
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.

MOB ACTION

Najeeb Ahmad, 25, of 8831 Grand St., Niles, was arrested June 20 and charged with mob action and battery at a liquor establishment on the 9600 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The suspect and two others were reportedly punching and kicking the victim, a 34-year-old man from Chicago. Gweiss Ahmad, 26, of 8831 Grand St., was also arrested June 20 and charged with mob action and battery in connection with the incident, police said.

THEFT

The manager of a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center reported June 18 that a 20-year-old man removed a pair of earrings from a kiosk between June 16 and June 18. The earrings were valued at $17.99.

A 40-year-old Des Plaines woman said she parked her 2005 Chrysler minivan June 18 in the parking lot at Golf Mill Shopping Center, and when she returned to her vehicle she found that someone had removed the rear driver-side tail-light cover.

DUI

Bradley Lagenbach, 37, of 617 Long Road, Glenview, was arrested June 19 on the street at Milwaukee Avenue and Courtland, and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He has a court date of July 17.

NILES POLICE

Man dies in back seat of taxi

A 31-year-old Niles man was found unresponsive in a taxi cab June 20 in front of his home on the 9700 block of Fox Glen in Niles.

When Niles police officers arrived at the scene they were met by the Cook County Sheriff's Police Sergeant and the North Main Fire Department, according to Niles police.

The sergeant said he was dispatched to the area and discovered the unresponsive man. The man was reportedly found in the back seat of the taxi. The man, identified as Maksim Sapozhnikov, had a history of substance abuse, according to the report, and was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

The taxi driver told police he picked up a friend from Palatine and was headed to Golf and Dee roads when he got a call to pick up the victim in a parking lot on the 9000 block of Fox Glen Drive. The victim asked to go to a gas station on the 9200 block of Golf Road in Des Plaines before asking to go home. When the taxi driver arrived at the victim's residence on the 9700 block of Fox Glen Drive, the victim was unresponsive, police said.

An autopsy was pending.

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GLenville
10385 Dearlove Road Unit 114: Lynn D Pungco to Keum Yeon Kim, $47,000, May 16
1060 Woodlawn Road: Chad Clark to Gregory Rounds, $11,000,000, May 23
1550 Overlook Drive: Olga Arzamanov to Sajjad B. Kahe, $430,000, May 24
1624 Sunset Ridge Road: Bank Of America Na to Evgeny P. Volkov, $130,000, May 25
1625 Sunset Ridge Road: Waconda Regency LLC to Karl Schlitz, $145,000, May 25
1715 Maplewood Lane: Ali A Jabbabi to Andrew Rubin Jennifer Rubin, $625,000, May 25
1743 Pickwick Lane: Chicago Title Land Trt Co Trustee to Kyle Bemm, $150,000, May 23
1749 Bluestem Lane: Matthew J Thibeau to Luis Ramos Kimberly Ramos, $810,000, May 16
1854 Prairie St.: Timothy C Lucas to Kathleen Jeffery, $385,000, May 17
2201 Prairie St.: N P Dodge Jr Trustee to Matthew M Rice Faye D Rice, $790,000, May 17
2540 Harrison St.: Christofano Trust to Duoyoung Liu, $204,500, May 17
3008 Lexington Lane: Lipiokvitiz Trust to Ramesh Harjani, $75,000, May 17
3120 Bellwood Lane: Donald Frank Mason to Leonard Jaramillo Maria N Jaramillo, $393,000, May 23
321 Nottingame Avenue: Susan A Burns to Dusty Sachen Nicholas A Kordecki, $215,000, May 23
3440 Bellwood Lane: Szymon P Piecikiewicz to Mona Armo, $271,000, May 23
4006 Tracey Court: Lee L Bettenhausen to Jeffrey P Hyla Holly A Hyla, $585,000, May 23
633 Quincy Bridge Lane Apt 101: Fannie Mae to Pedro M Tupal Apronima Tupal, $50,500, May 16
761 Normandy Lane: Lehman Trust to Jacqueline A Thompson Fernandez Joel R Dickman, $875,000, May 18
845 Wagner Road: Margarita E Kellen to Jeffrey A Ruttercutter Priscilla Chang, $795,000, May 25
915 Highland Lane: Fannie Mae to Ivona Twardowska, $125,000, May 17
MORTON GROVE
206 Prairie Court: Lenar Chicago Inc to Sung Youn Kim Yong Joon Kim, $296,500, May 18
5431 Washington Street: Janet Lynne McCullough to James Judd Elizabeth T Judd, $333,000, May 16
5636 Church Street: Hail T Le to Tyrone L Turner Sandra F Allen, $155,000, May 16
6145 Fairway St. Unit 12: Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Trustee to Saraswathi Suryanarayanan, $234,000, May 24
6715 Churchill Street: Catalpa Field LLC to Patricia M Kuchta, $356,500, May 16
7230 Church St.: Khoshed Khan to Adeel A Abdul, $203,000, May 24
7407 Wilson Terrace: Fannie Mae to Farshad Ataeie, $190,000, May 24
7947 Wilson Terrace: Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp to Leonard Khanin Michael Goldman, $200,000, May 18
8400 Callie Ave. Unit 400: Hyun Suk Lee to Hoyoong Pak, $171,000, May 17
9410 Rroseview Drive: Murnertani S Lamasa to Lila Kowalkowska, $220,000, May 29
NILES
6533 W Ebinger Drive: Hepburn Trust to Karen L Hepburn, $83,500, May 24
6701 N Milwaukee Ave. Apt 4B: 5th Ave Trust to Daniel Joan Dimian, $49,500, May 23
7005 N Western Ave: ATG Trust Co Trustee to Lois M Marcus P Dolores H Marcus, $120,000, May 23
7016 W Madison Street: Wells Fargo Bank Trustee to Deeta K Brock, $172,500, May 16
7120 N Milwaukee Avenue. Apt 603: North Star Trust Co Trustee to Lylia Hnder, $140,000, May 29
7507 W Mulford Street: Chicago Title Land Trt Co Trustee to Edyta Poniewozik, $312,500, May 24
8724 N Harlem Avenue: Thomas Y Otos to Piotr Oleksy, $115,000, May 24
1012 W Courte Drive Apt 310: Yolanda H Ghidali to Lev Margulis Olga Margulis, $120,000, May 25
8456 N Osceola Ave.: Chicago Title Land Trt Co Trustee to Daniel S Borowski, $202,000, May 24
8540 W Roseview Drive: Numeriano S Lamasan II to Lila Kowalkowska, $220,000, May 29
NOL NW Terr: Dorothy L Tracico to Janet L Tracico, $315,000, May 17
9074 W Terrace Drive Apt 4B: Blumenfeld Trust to Daniel Dimple, $49,500, May 23
9500 N Washington Street. Apt 310: Chicago Title Land Trt Co Trustee to Sofia Ivanov, $17,500, May 23
PARK RIDGE
111 S Rose Avenue: Tina M McDonough to Leslie J McCarthy, $217,500, May 24
118 Gillick Street: North Star Trust Co Trustee to Pavel Kyvash, $150,000, May 15
3900 W towel Road: Chicago Title Land Trt Co Trustee to Sofia Ivanov, $17,500, May 23
325 S Prospect Avenue: Walter Rybak to Mathew T Kraila Emily A Glunz, $507,000, May 23
HOT PROPERTIES BY HANALEI SOMAR

Brick Contemporary

4-bedroom home features high ceilings throughout

9267 Nagle Ave., Morton Grove — $659,000

Built in 1997, this 2,984-square-foot Contemporary is surrounded by lush landscaping. The chandelier in the foyer adds even more height to this two-story home's high ceilings and arched entries. Tall windows running throughout the home allow for ample natural light. The living room and dining room are both on the main level and have hardwood floors. The kitchen features an island, a pantry, custom cabinets and ceramic flooring. In the carpeted family room, there is a gas log fireplace and tall windows. The bedrooms are all carpeted and come with window treatments. The master bath has a whirlpool tub and double sinks. Outside, there is a 2.5-car garage and a semi-enclosed paver patio.

Listing agent: Tina Mintel, Century 21 Marino, Inc., 847-630-7630, tinamm2000@aol.com

A two-story entryway accentuates the high ceilings throughout this four-bedroom Contemporary.

 Beds: 4
 Baths: 3

Selling a home that stands out from the rest?
E-mail us: hotproperties@blockshopper.com

MARKET WATCH

AS OF MONDAY

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<th>City</th>
<th>For sale</th>
<th>Median price</th>
<th>Foreclosure rate</th>
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Source: Chicago.Blockshopper.com, Data tracks last 12 months of sales
QUESTION OF THE WEEK
At the Oasis Waterpark in Niles we asked: Do you agree with the state increasing cigarette taxes to cover its expenses?

“No. Most of the price of the cigarettes is tax already.”
ED DOWTORT, Niles

“I do. Hopefully less people will smoke.”
LORRAINE DAVY, Edgebrook

“I’m against smoking. If you have to put taxes on them, go ahead. Want to smoke? Go ahead and pay for it.”
JAKE JACOI, Niles

“I guess so, so maybe some people wouldn’t smoke.”
CARRIE PLOVANICH, Chicago

“Personally, yeah. Some of this money will help some of our funding issues and it will discourage young people from trying it.”
GERI ROCHE, Chicago

PIONEER PEOPLE POLL
Here are the answers to last week’s question: How do you prepare yourself for an outdoor party during mosquito season?

Nothing. I like the bloodsuckers 20%
Lots of bug spray 40%
Cover up 20%
Burn citronella candles 10%
Lamp 10%

This week’s question is: What is your favorite summer anthem?

1. “Surfin’ Safari,” by the Beach Boys
2. “Summertime Blues,” by Eddie Cochran
3. “Summertime,” by DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince
4. “Summer in the City,” by the Lovin’ Spoonful
5. “California Girls,” by the Beach Boys
6. “California Gurls,” by Katy Perry

To submit your answer, go to niles.suntimes.com.

1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS

For the first 13 years of his life, my oldest was the sweetest boy scout. Then he started high school and unleashed a stream of curse words that KO’d the entire Federal Communications Commission. They didn’t fine him — they fined me. Perhaps this is a modern rite of passage into adulthood. All of my son’s friends curse. And as a culture, coarser language has become mainstream. We’re desensitized to it and to rudeness in general. When a stranger is courteous to us, we recoil with shock.

Inevitably if you complain about this lack of manners, someone will accuse you of being narrow-minded and escort you to an H.G. Wells machine and send you back to Howdy Doody Time. They will point out the U.K. study where participants were subjected to a pain stimulus like a hammer. Nine times out of 10, a blistering swear word helped the subjects cope better with their pulverized thumbs than those who said, “Fiddlesticks.”

Hitting your thumb is one thing; dining at a restaurant and enduring cursing from neighboring tables becomes wearisome.

In one thoughtful essay, it was suggested that when we lose our manners, we are losing awareness that others are just as important as we are.

Years ago, I admired the CEO of the company where I worked. He made eye contact with everyone and greeted them with genuine kindness, whether the person was the janitor or the officer of a Fortune 500 firm. His smarts and courtesy made a lasting impression on me.

“Grand gestures aren’t always necessary,” Tom Peters says. Our vow to be courteous is not a sworn statement. Peters, the business author, cites American statesman Henry Clay as an inspiration, and urges us to use Clay’s quote as a screensaver: “Courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest in the grateful and appreciating heart.”

About 11:30 one day, I picked up my son after he finished his shift at his summer job. His managers have complimented him on his politeness and work ethic. In a skeptical moment, I wondered if the right kid climbed into the van.

“We’re going to cure this swearing problem,” I tell him. “Every time you curse, a quarter goes in the cookie jar.”

“Oh, good,” my oldest wisecracks. “I’ll be able to buy a new car.”
Blessed on the Fourth of July

Like many Americans of a certain age, I've been researching my family history. Unlike previous generations before me, I've found out quite a lot about the family that many relatives never knew before.

It is a typically American story, and that's what thrills me. It gives me special meaning this Fourth of July, the 236th in our nation's history.

My family's story in America goes back to 1621, when one William Hilton left England over a dispute over the inheritance of the family estate. He sailed on a ship called "The Fortune," which landed at Plymouth in November 1621.

In a letter he wrote to his cousin, William described his new country as "very pleasant and temperate," yielding naturally, of itself, great store of fruits, as vines of divers sorts in great abundance. There is likewise walnuts, chestnuts, small nuts and plums, with much variety of flowers, roots and herbs, no less pleasant than wholesome and profitable. No place hath more gooseberries and strawberries, nor better Timber of all sorts you have in England doth cover the land."

The only thing lacking, William wrote, was the rent day, because everyone here were free-holders. "Our company are, for most part, very religious, honest people; the word of God sincerely taught us every Sabbath; so that I know not any thing a contented mind can here want."

William eventually left Plymouth for New Hampshire and then Maine. Descendants eventually went to Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

Glory of The Answer Man is gone with the Web

BY RANDY BLASER

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BY PAUL SASSONE

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SAME AS CASH FINANCING or NO PAYMENTS For 18 MONTHS Now Available!*
Lincolnwood orchestra presents Bulgarian classics

BY JAMES WILSON
Contributor

One of the first ever orchestral concerts featuring Bulgarian music in the Chicago area will be conducted by Philip Simmons, the orchestra's founder and music director, on June 30.

The program at Gorilla Tango Theatre in Skokie will include the world premiere of "Dance" by Dimitar Noven (arranged by Simmons); and Georgi Zlatev-Cherkin's "Svendana," which Simmons, a native of Lincolnwood who now lives in Hawaii, calls a hauntingly beautiful melody.

To locally well-known violin soloist Kamen Vatchev of the Illinois Philharmonic and Northern Indiana Symphony, "Svendana" is one of the most beautiful Bulgarian pieces written for violin. It is a tone poem about a beautiful Bulgarian maiden; it contains lovely melodies, written in an ancient oriental mode.

The third Bulgarian piece will be "Five Sketches" by Marin Golemenov.

Bulgaria's best

"I've worked with Mr. Simmons and the LCO since its foundation," says Vatchev. "He is very creative and his programs are a treat to the audience. We are proud to participate in this historic event, which will introduce Bulgarian classical music to Chicago's audience and will give them a chance to 'meet' several of Bulgaria's most famous and significant composers."

The event is hosted by American Music Festivals, an organization that promotes cultural exchange with the worldwide music community, particularly in Eastern Europe. Founded by Simmons in 1997, the organization has presented performances in Eastern Europe, and in 2002 it merged with the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra. Simmons continues as musical director and principal conductor.

The Bulgarian works are framed by two American pieces. "Air and Simple Gifts" was composed and arranged by John Williams for Barack Obama's inauguration. Inspired by Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring," this work, Simmons believes, may become an important American classic, on a par with Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man."

Simmons noted that both American and Bulgarian classical music came into their own in the 20th century. "Like all great music," said Simmons, "both in some way based on folk traditions."

Top soloists

In addition to Vatchev, the 20-piece Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra will be complemented by six other professional Bulgarian-American musicians including violinist Jordanka Kissiova and former Razgrev Philharmonic principal violist Ivelin Miankov. Miankov initiated continuing musical and personal relationships with the Lincolnwood organization when he invited Simmons to visit Bulgaria in 2000.

Simmons points out that the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra has no home venue, and he hopes that a big turnout at the recently re-opened Gorilla Tango Theatre will lead to an ongoing relationship.

Simmons and the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra will also perform a free concert of mostly American patriotic music at Proesel Park in Lincolnwood at 7 p.m. July 5.

The program will include "America the Beautiful" and Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," and works by Leroy Anderson and Morton Gould, along with the John Williams piece from the Skokie concert.

Rounding out the program is "Voyage" by Oscar, Grammy, and Pulitzer Prize-winning contemporary composer John Corigliano.
FAMILY FRIENDLY

Lincolnwood market serves up family fun

BY MYRNA PETLICK
Contributor

Thursday nights are made for family fun at Lincolnwood's Summer Market and Music in Proesel Park, 7055 N. Kostner Ave.

"This event has a relaxing atmosphere and something for everyone," said Genelle Locca, community outreach coordinator for the village of Lincolnwood's Parks and Recreation Department.

The market opens at 5 p.m. each Thursday. Locca said it offers, "delicious food to eat and take home, a free kids' area with face painting and a variety of games, and free bingo that the entire family can play."

At 7 p.m. there's a free concert. Next up is the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra on July 5. The series continues with Shy Violet (July 12), Out of Control (July 19) and Maxwell Street Klezmer Band (July 26).

"Some weeks there is an additional activity," Locca said. That may be swing dance lessons, laser tag or a demonstration by a chef.

For details, call (847) 677-9740 or visit www.lincolnwoodil.org.

Crowning glory

Little girls ages 3-9 will feel like royalty during the Princess Ball from 4 to 5 p.m. July 25 at the Skokie Public Library, 5206 Oakton St. Guests from the Miss International and Miss Teen International pageants will lead them in games, a craft project and dancing.

Cookies will be served. Bring a camera to photograph your princess parading.

Registration begins July 1.
For details, call (847) 672-7774 or visit skokielibraryinfo.

Blaze of glory

The skies will be ablaze with color over Harter Park, 6250 Dempster St., Morton Grove, for the annual Independence Day fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. Rain date for the Morton Grove Park District event is July 5.

For details, call (847) 965-1200 or visit www.mortongroveparks.com.

Fresh air fitness

Families are invited to exercise together during a Saturday Workout in the Park from 9 to 10 a.m. June 30 at Centennial Park, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge. A free fitness class called Boot Camp will include body weight training intervals and other activities. In case of inclement weather, the drop-in program will move to the Community Center main gym.

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

True colors

Children of all ages — and adults, too — can prepare for the Fourth of July during Red, White and Bicycle from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. You'll hear bicycle safety tips and then decorate your bike in red, white and blue for the holiday. Wear a helmet.

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

SKOKIE'S 3-D FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

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Annual Fourth of July Parade, Noon
(Parade route: Lincoln and Niles Center to Oakton to Skokie Blvd.)

Picnic in the Park, 3 p.m.

Family Fun and Games, 6:30 p.m.

Concert

South Boulevard, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
A dynamic group of Blues influenced Chicago music veterans.

Spoken Four, 8-9:30 p.m.
Delivering over five decades of great music.

3-D Fireworks, Dusk
A Star Spangled Spectacular In the Sky. Customized 3-D fireworks glasses will be distributed to the first 10,000 visitors.

In case of rain, fireworks will be held July 5 at Niles West High School. Blankets and lawn chairs welcome. Sparklers, alcoholic beverages and dogs are not permitted.
TO ROME WITH LOVE

**

The unofficial rule that only every third or fourth film from the inexhaustible Woody Allen turns out to be a keeper resets with a vengeance in this uninspired and even occasionally tedious comedy — a dull disappointment after last year’s delightful "Midnight in Paris.""To Rome with Love" (which borrows, inexplicably, the title of a forgotten 1969 sitcom starring John Forsythe) is a continuation of Allen's grand — sometimes not so grand — sightseer's tour of Europe during the past decade.

First London, then Barcelona, then Paris and now the Eternal City for this entirely disposable omnibus of sketchy love stories. If "To Rome" lingers in the mind at all, it will probably be for Allen's equally sketchy attempts at fantasy and surrealism. Most of them fail, but one wonderfully absurd, ongoing sight gag emerges that arguably deserves a place in his best-of clips reel.

"Everything in this city is more ho-hum than the last," explains a Roman traffic cop who provides a prologue in halting English, but he doesn't say anything about them being particularly interesting stories. And sure enough, as they line up at the starting gate, the only thing remarkable about the film's four component scenarios is that each seems more ho-hum than the last.

Allen's 'Rome' is dullsville

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

JOHN Penniset is a welcome presence as a call girl with the wrong room number, forced to impersonate Antonio's wife when they are caught together by his rich, conservative relatives — especially during a private tour of the Vatican.

Benigni is fun, in the beginning, as the nonentity no one ever listens to, who is suddenly bombarded by hordes of paparazzi demanding to know whether he wears boxers or briefs — though his visage quickly loses focus and becomes repetitive.

And Allen is definitely a bonus as Hayley's dad Jerry, a failed opera director who decides his future son-in-law's mortician father Giancarlo (acclaimed tenor Fabio Armiliato) has a golden voice guaranteed to make him an international superstar. When he discovers that Giancarlo can't sing unless he's in the shower, no problem. Jerry stages a full-blown production of "Pagliacci" with Giancarlo scrubbing and warbling outtake in a portable bathtub.

The scrub-brush production of "Pagliacci" is such a good, strong, comic conceit ("He may not be the world's greatest singer, but he'll be the cleanest," observes Davis as Jerry's long-suffering wife) that it's almost possible to imagine Allen coming up with the rest of the film, almost arbitrarily, to support it.

Armiliato nudging his chest while belting "Vesti La Giubba" is most likely the only thing anyone will remember about "To Rome with Love" a few years down the road, and it's almost worth the price of admission, just to marvel at it.

It might even be worthwhile to pay double to see it without the rest of the movie.
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FILM CLIPS
OPENING FRIDAY
FOLLOW ME: THE YONI NETANYAHU STORY
***
Rated: No MPAA rating
Stars: Yonatan Netanyahu, Benjamin Netanyahu, Tirza Goodman
This affecting documentary tells the life story of Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu, leader of the 1976 commando raid that freed 130 Israeli hostages at Uganda's Entebbe Airport — and the only Israeli killed during the mission. The detailed story of the raid is fascinating, but even more so is the revelation of Netanyahu's complex and poetic character, revealed in intimate letters to friends and family, including his brother, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The only outstanding flaw in "FOLLOW ME" is its unnecessary use of sentimental music to underscore the pathos of this reluctant warrior's story, which speaks for itself. Produced and co-directed by Skokie native Ari Daniel Pinchat.

MAGIC MIKE
Rated: R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, and some drug use
Stars: Channing Tatum, Matthew McConaughey, Olivia Munn
An experienced male stripper (Tatum) takes a new recruit under his wing and teaches him the sleazy tricks of the trade. Steven Soderbergh ("Ocean's Eleven") directed the comedy, based on Tatum's pre-Hollywood professional life.

MADEA'S WITNESS PROTECTION
Rated: PG-13 for some crude sexual remarks and brief drug reference
Stars: Tyler Perry, Eugene Levy, Deniss Richards
A Wall Street investment banker (Levy) who has agreed to testify against the mob is relocated by the FBI to the home of Mabea (Perry) and her family. Perry ("Good Deeds") wrote and directed the comedy.

PEOPLE LIKE US
Rated: PG-13 for language, some drug use and brief sexuality
Stars: Chris Pine, Elizabeth Banks, Michelle Pfeiffer
After his father dies, a young man (Pine) has to deliver an inheritance to a sister (Banks) he has never known. Screenwriter Alex Kurtzman ("Cowboys and Aliens") makes his directorial debut with the drama.

TED
Rated: R for crude and sexual content, pervasive language, and some drug use
Stars: Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, Seth MacFarlane
After growing up with his teddy bear following a boyhood Christmas wish, a man (Wahlberg) realizes he will have to choose between his rude, crude lifelong pal (voiced by MacFarlane) and his girlfriend (Kunis). MacFarlane (TV's "Family Guy") wrote and directed the comedy for his feature debut.

TO ROME WITH LOVE
***
Rated: R for some sexual references
Stars: Woody Allen, Alec Baldwin, Jesse Eisenberg, Penelope Cruz
Four tales of love in the Eternal City. Allen ("Midnight in Paris") wrote and directed the comedy. Reviewed in this section.

STILL PLAYING
ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
1/2
Rated: R for violence throughout and brief sexuality
Stars: Benjamin Walker, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Anthony Mackie
It certainly looked promising, but this ever-so-slightly revisionist history from producer Tim Burton and action maestro Timur Bekmambetov (" Wanted") turns out to be a disaster. A sense of fun is the first thing you need if you're planning to make a movie about Abraham Lincoln's lifelong crusade to rid the world of vampires, but it's nowhere to be found in this gory, constantly over-the-top, and almost unbelievably inept slaughter fest. Instead, "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" makes a deadly serious effort, and painfully fails, to incorporate vampire slaying into Lincoln's real-life concerns — the Civil War, slavery and the like. Only one scene, a dazzling set piece in which Lincoln (with his whirling, kung-fu rail-splitting axe) battles a vampire in the midst of a stampeding horse herd, suggests how mind-blowing this film might have been.

BRAVE
Rated: PG for some scary action and rude humor
Stars: Kelly Macdonald, Billy Connolly, Emma Thompson, Julie Walters
Beautifully rendered, generally entertaining and even occasionally moving, this revisionist fairy tale, with its resourceful, independent and entirely unromantic young heroine, only disappoints as a product of Pixar Animation. Compared to Pixar's typically adventurous and sophisticatedprevious efforts, "Brave" is a surprisingly conventional tale, in which tomboy princess Merida (Macdonald), whose abilities with a bow and arrow make Katniss of "The Hunger Games" look pathetic, defies her mother's attempts to marry her off, storms off into the forest on horseback, acquires a magic spell from a nearby witch, and spends the rest of the film stuck in old-school Disney territory.
SHOWTIMES

From left: Lord MacGuffin (voiced by Kevin McKidd), Lord Dingwall (voiced by Robbie Coltrane), and Lord Macintosh (voiced by Craig Ferguson) are the nobility in "Brave."

**Ted** (R) Fri-Thu 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:15
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) Fri-Mon 2:40-7:9:30
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) Fri-Mon 1:30-3:6-8:15
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG) Tue 10 a.m.

**RENAISSANCE PLACE**
5100 W. Fullerton Ave., Rosemont
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**Savages** (R) Thu 12:01 a.m.
Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG) Thu 11:55 p.m.
Katy Perry: Part of Me in 3-D (PG) Thu 2:35-4:10-6:20-8:10-10:10

**ROSEMONT PREMIER**
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont
(847) 447-3000


**The Dictator (R)** Fri-Sat 9:25-12:45; Sun 9:25; Mon 9:55

**The Avengers (PG-13)** Fri, Sat 12:25-6:20-12:20; Sun 12:25-6:20; Mon 12:05-6:20; Tue 12:05-6:20

**ROSEMONT PREMIER**
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(847) 447-3000

**shows** Thu 12:01 a.m.
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) Mon 12:01 a.m.; Tue-Wed 10:30-12:40-1:10; Thu-Fri 12:40-3:10-4:10


**The Dictator (R)** Fri-Sat 9:25-12:45; Sun 9:25; Mon 9:55

**The Avengers (PG-13)** Fri, Sat 12:25-6:20-12:20; Sun 12:25-6:20; Mon 12:05-6:20; Tue 12:05-6:20

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Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG) Thu 11:55 p.m.
Katy Perry: Part of Me in 3-D (PG) Thu 2:35-4:10-6:20-8:10-10:10

**Rock of Ages (PG-13)** Fri-Sun 12:10-2:50-4:10-6:30-8:50; Mon, Tue Thu 2:50-4:10-6:30

**Bernie (PG-13)** Fri-Sun, Wed 12:20-4:50-7:45; Mon, Tue Thu 2:40-5:20-7:45

**Hysteria (R)** Fri-Sun, Wed 12:20-3:50-8:15; Mon, Tue Thu 3:50-8:15

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NEW ON VIDEO

Fairly dull fairy tale

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK
MIRROR MIRROR

** **

Rated: PG for some fantasy action and mild rude humor
Stars: Julia Roberts, Lily Collins, Nathan Lane

This at-times-inspired parody of the late-'80s Fox TV show that launched Johhny Depp is considerably better than you might expect despite being rude, crude, foul-mouthed, politically incorrect and insanely violent. The directors of the similarly caved (but far more wholesome) animated comedy "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" make the most of the surprising chemistry between Hill and Tatum as mismatched undercover partners sent back to high school to track down drug dealers. Extras include cast and crew commentary, behind-the-scenes featurette, four deleted scenes, and a gag reel.

RECENT RELEASES

MY AFTERNOONS WITH MARGUERITE

***

Rating: No MPAA rating
Stars: Gerard Depardieu, Gisele Casadas

If you don't have too much of a cynical streak, there's no reason you shouldn't enjoy this not-particularly-credible, yet thoroughly charming little non-romantic love story from France. Depardieu and Jos star Casadas have delightful chemistry as Germain, a middle-aged, semi-literate worker and Marguerite, a retired professor. She turns Germain (who's generally considered the village idiot) to Camus and the like. And he? Well, you'll have to see for yourself what Germain does for Marguerite. Chances are good you'll be dabbing a tear or two.

WANDERLUST

***

Rated: R for sexual content, graphic nudity, language and drug use
Stars: Paul Rudd, Jennifer Aniston, Ken Marino

Producer Judd Apatow's hard-R-rated touch is lightly applied in this surprisingly low-key and consistently entertaining comedy romance. Unemployed and homeless yuppies George and Linda (Rudd and Aniston, nicely matched) can't quite get comfortable. Not with George's piggish ultra-capitalist brother (Marino) or the neo-hippie commune they stumble into on the road. Eventually, they learn what's most important in life: having a door you can close — and lock.

ALSO NEW THIS WEEK
DR. SEUSS'S GREEN EGGS AND HAM AND OTHER STORIES

This remastered animated TV special from 1973 features "The Sneetches" and "The Zax."

DELIVERANCE: BLU-RAY DEBUT


ORANGES AND SUNSHINE

An English social worker (Emily Watson) holds the British government responsible for separating now-grown children from their parents and sending them to Australia. British TV director Jim Loach helmed the fact-based drama. Rated R for some strong language.

THE SAMURAI TRILOGY

Toshiro Mifune cemented his Japanese stardom with this 1954-56 samurai trilogy based on the life of 17th-century swordsman Miyamoto. In addition to new high-definition digital transfers of all three films, this triple-disc Criterion box set includes trailers, a booklet of essays, and interviews with historian William Scott Wilson about the life of Miyamoto.

THE 39 STEPS

A cinematic and theatrical adaptation featuring Alfred Hitchcock, Dame Helen Mirren and Robert Redford. Rated R for some intense sequences of fantasy violence and action.

WRATH OF THE TITANS

A sequel to 2010's "Clash of the Titans." Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of fantasy violence and some gore.

A THOUSAND WORDS

A literary agent (Eddie Murphy), who has stretched the truth on a deal with a spiritual guru, discovers a deep love on his property that dispenses consequences for every word he speaks. Rated PG-13 for sexual situations and some drug-related humor.

AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK:

A very young Jane Fonda gets sexy in outer space in the Blu-ray debut of "Barbarella," scream queen Elvira unleashes a four-clunker assortment of vintage "Giant Monsters," and director "Saturday Night Live" trouper reunites for "The Women of SNL."
What to do.
This week and beyond.

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SUMMER CONCERTS
"Des Plaines Summer Fling," July 13-15 in downtown Des Plaines along Ellinwood Street. Call (847) 997-5300 or visit www.desplaines.org. Entertainment includes July 13: 6:30 p.m., Second Time Around; 9:20 p.m., The Ides of March featuring Jim Peterik. July 14: Noon, Serendipity; 1 p.m., School of Rock; 2:30 p.m., Rumor Has It; 4:30 p.m., Legendary Rock Stars; 6:30 p.m., Generations; 8:30 p.m., David Cassidy. July 15: Noon, IPO; 1:30 p.m., Dan Peters and the West Side Winders; 3 p.m., Diving for Dynamite; 5 p.m., Libido Funk Circus; 7:45 p.m., Infinity.

Island in the City Festival, July 12-15, features live music at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill. Call (708) 457-1244 or visit www.islandinthecity.com. July 12, 7:30 p.m., 7th Heaven. July 13, 8 p.m., American English. July 14: 4 p.m., I.A.M.B. (heavy metal); 6 p.m., Pipe Dream; 8 p.m., HI Imidity. July 15: 2:30 p.m., Norridge Park Movers & Shakers; 4 p.m., Poochamungus (children's entertainment); 5:30 p.m., Friction; 7:30 p.m., He Said, She Said.


Come explore and experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie-Style designs in a new exhibit at the historic Wright-designed SC Johnson Campus in Racine, WIs. Free tours available with a reservation. For information call 262-820-2154 or visit www.scjohnson.com/visit.
July 19: Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, Twiggis Park, 7 p.m.
July 24: The Antelopes, The Wax Museum, 8 p.m.
July 26: Andre Williams & the Exporters, Brummel Park, 7 p.m.

Sunday Sundown Concerts
7 p.m. at Devonshire Park, 6250 Dempster St., Morton Grove. See www.mortonparkdistrict.org.
8 p.m. at Harris Park Pavilion, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. See www.skokieparkdistrict.org.

Fort Park District's July 26: W.S. Fluke Holland Band, 7 p.m.


Operas

*就算你是陌生人* (translated: *Even If You Are a Stranger*)

Shelley, at 7 p.m. July 24 at the Side Project Theater, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Chicago. Presented by Idle Muse Theatre Company. July 26-Aug. 26 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performed by the Chicago Opera Theater. Performances are at 7 p.m., Fridays-Sundays and 3 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets are $48, $68, $77 for main floor; $32, $48, $77 for balcony; half-price for ages 21 and younger. Call (847) 920-5360 or visit www.LightOperaWorks.com.

"From Hollywood, With Love," a tribute to songs from Hollywood movies, will be presented at 7 p.m. July 6-7, 13-14 and 2 p.m. July 8 at St. Mary of the Woods Parish, 7033 S. Noyes St., Chicago. Tickets are free, but donations are appreciated. For advance reservations, contact Wendy Sable at 888-770-2297 or wss@spectrath.org.

"From Hollywood, With Love," a tribute to songs from Hollywood movies, will be presented at 7 p.m. July 6-7, 13-14 and 2 p.m. July 8 at St. Mary of the Woods Parish, 7033 S. Noyes St., Chicago. Tickets are free, but donations are appreciated. For advance reservations, contact Wendy Sable at 888-770-2297 or wss@spectrath.org.
Afghan culture has been under scrutiny throughout the decade of America’s conflict in that region. And one thing that Americans may have learned by now is that for thousands of years the people of Afghanistan have been known for their hospitality.

"It is just in our nature. If someone says something smells good, then you are going to sit down and have a meal with us," explained Akmal Qazi, owner of the popular Afghan restaurant, the Kabul House in Skokie.

What started as a babysitting gig — Qazi's father cooked homemade Afghan food for him and his brother at their family Italian restaurant on the weekends — grew into a sought-after dining destination when customers coming in for Italian began asking to try what Chef Abdul was cooking for his kids.

Eventually, visitors came to know that weekends meant Afghan delicacies and they would come in specifically for those, offering to pay for take-away.

After a year of this, the Qazi's were poised to create a stand-alone Afghan restaurant when the tragic events of 2001 took place.

"At the time, we were one of the only Afghan families in Chicago that people knew, and naturally newsgroups were looking for Afghan people to get their perspectives (on the events of 9/11)," said Qazi.

Eventually all the television and radio news affiliates would interview Chef Abdul Qazi to get his perspective, and the answers of the unsung Qazi, exposing his love for his adopted land, inspired much good will.

"People came for the moral support and ended up liking the food," said Qazi.

Today, with traditional music and the aromas that had enticed so many customers to come back again and again, Kabul House offers a glimpse of old-world Afghanistan.

"According to the silk routes, all the emperors would meet in Afghanistan because it was the middle ground," explained Qazi.

"That is where the fusion of Greek, Persian Indian, Middle Eastern and even Chinese food took place. That is why I think Afghan is the best cuisine — you get a little bit of all the good stuff."

There is a wide variety of meat and vegetarian delicacies to sample at Kabul House, and even Asian-style dumplings, a bow to the influence of the Orient on Afghan cuisine.

Standouts include the Kadu, a tender and sweet baby pumpkin ($6), popular not just with vegetarians. The Koubideh skewers made of a combination of ground beef and aromatic Afghan seasonings ($11.95) are rich and satisfying. And the Aushak, succulent Afghan ravioli, is filled with leeks and scallions before being topped with ground beef and mint ($12.95).

"This is comfort food that people from all cultures and ethnicities can truly accept and like because it has all the different elements from all the different cultures," said Qazi.

For dessert, vanilla-based ice cream infused with rosewater and cardamom and sprinkled with grated dry pistachios is $4.50.

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Jake Shimabukuro redefines the ukulele

BY J.T. MORAND
jmorand@pioneerlocal.com

Jake Shimabukuro will be whaling on his ukulele at Ravinia Festival this Sunday, July 1.

That's right. Whaling.

Toss out the window that image of Tiny Tim strumming the little, guitar-like instrument and singing “Tip Toe Through the Tulips” in 1968.

Instead, think Eddie Van Halen doing the splits mid-air while playing “Eruption.”

Shimabukuro, 35, who was raised in Hawaii, has been playing the ukulele since he was a child. But, he's taken the 4-string, 2-octave instrument to a level beyond the traditional. His star has been rising since a video of him playing George Harrison's “While My Guitar Gently Weeps” on the ukulele was posted on YouTube in 2006. It's garnered more than 10 million hits since then.

He has a way of playing the usually plinky instrument so that it doesn't always sound like a ukulele — aggression on chords and speed and finesse on single notes.

Say it right

“The ukulele is very popular in Hawaii, it was basically invented here,” Shimabukuro said, pronouncing the name of the instrument “ock-ah-la-ly,” not the mainland way of “yu-ka-lay-lee.”

“My mom played a little bit and she taught me when I was very young, and then I just played a lot of traditional Hawaiian music as a kid. Later on, I just fell in love with the sound of the instrument and discovered you can play different styles of music on the ukulele. And that's when I was completely hooked. I mean, I never wanted to play any other instrument.”

Even when he heard guitarist Eddie Van Halen, the shredding riff master of hard rock band Van Halen who made many a teenage boy want to take up the electric guitar. Instead, Shimabukuro just wanted to play the ukulele like Eddie Van Halen plays guitar.

But Shimabukuro was inspired by other artists from other musical genres, too, and applied what he heard to the ukulele.

That famous riff on “Sunshine of Your Love” by Cream was the first one he learned on the ukulele.

“I can listen to rock tunes or classical tunes or blues or metal, and play something similar to what I'm hearing on records,” he said. “I was watching rock concerts and I just loved the energy these musicians put into their concerts. You watch a Van Halen concert, you see Van Halen doing the splits mid-air while playing “Eruption.”

Shimabukuro knows the instrument is now something you can play with an open mind.

A modest guy, Shimabukuro points to Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder's 2011 album, “Ukulele Songs,” as giving the popularity of the instrument a shot in the arm.

“One of the things I'm grateful for is Eddie Vedder because when Eddie Vedder starts playing the ukulele and he's singing, he makes the ukulele cool,” Shimabukuro said. “It's an exciting time for the instrument.”

With artists like Shimabukuro pushing the ukulele to another level, the biggest misconception about the instrument is now something else.

“The pronunciation of the word,” Shimabukuro laughed.

Jake Shimabukuro, who plays Ravinia Sunday night, brings a whole new sound and Image to the ukulele. | PHOTO BY MERRI CYR

JAKE SHIMABUKURO
With chamber orchestra A Far Cry
Ravinia Festival, 200 Ravinia Park Road, Highland Park
7 p.m. July 1
$21-$45
(847) 266-5100, www.ravinia.org

Play anything

“Of course you can do ‘Tip Toe Through the Tulips’ like Tiny Tim did it or traditional Hawaiian music. But that’s this other side of it as well where you can have a lot of fun with it. If you like blues, there’s a place for that with the ukulele. There’s a place for ukulele in jazz, in rock, in classical, in any style of music. You just have to use your imagination and just keep an open mind.”

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“The pronunciation of the word,” Shimabukuro laughed.
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$25 per team pre-reg; $30 online
Featuring DockDogs—Big Air jump-
ing Dogs; Fatima Dogs; Lake County
Sheriff K-9 demo and a 3K-K9 walk.

Sat., July 7
Animal Enrichment Day
Brookfield Zoo, 3300 Golf Rd., Brookfield
$15 Adult; $10.50 seniors; $10.50,
children 3 to 11
Learn how and why keepers encour-
age animals' natural behaviors. Zoo
Chats and hands-on activities will also feature enrichment.

Thurs., July 19
PAWS Chicago Beach Party
Castaways at North Avenue Beach
Coach, 1603 N. Lake Shore Dr.,
Chicago, 6-11 p.m.
Free; pets welcome on a leash with
proof of vaccination.

Sat., July 21
Windy City Pet Expo
Orion Expo Center, 1033 N. Villa
Ave., Villa Park. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Free; pets welcome on a leash with
proof of vaccination.

Sun., July 29
Joliet Bird Fair & Sale
Knights of Columbus, 100 S. 129th
Infantry Dr., Joliet. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
midwestshows.biz
$3 ages 9 and older
More than 30 unique vendors selling
products including: handcrafted quality toys, bird seed and food play
stands, cages, embroidered items
and bird-related jewelry and leather
items. The show features many bird
breeders.

DOG-FRIENDLY BEACHES

Belmont Harbor, Chicago: The
fenced beach north of the harbor,
off Lake Shore Drive, allows off-
leashed dogs.

Evanston Dog Beach: The beach
(north of Church Street launch
facility) is restricted to handlers
with a dog-beach pass and
licensed dogs.

Gilson Park, Wilmette: This off-
leash destination is the south end
of Gilson Park. Four-footed
friends must have a tag.

Moraine Dog Beach, Highland
Park: A portion of the beach is a
fenced, off-leash exercise beach for
dogs. Registration at Heller Nature
Center, proof of license/vaccination
and a picture permit are required.

Sunrise Beach, Lake Bluff:
The far north end of the beach is
fenced for off-leash dogs. A
beach pass or driver's license, a
current tag and proof of vaccina-
tion are required. Residents: free.
Non: $150 for pass/dog sticker.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:
The beach east of the state park is
open to dogs on a leash. Dogs are
not permitted on the beach on the
west (Hwy. 49). Dogs must stay off
the closed beach and be leashed
even when swimming.
New fest for short films in Skokie

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

There’s a Catch-22 of sorts built into getting started as a filmmaker. Given the expense and complexity of producing a feature film — and the general wisdom of learning the craft with projects a little bit at a time — many filmmakers cut their teeth on short films. And then find there are few ways to present their work to the public.

The Short Cut 100 Film Festival hopes to help close that exhibition gap with its debut June 30 at the Gorilla Tango Theatre in Skokie.

“ar the goal of this event is to showcase and support independent filmmakers,” said festival founder Rujanee Mahakanjana. “It’s hard to find an outlet for short films, no matter how good they are, outside of established film festivals, and those can be difficult to find your way into.

“The idea of Short Cut 100 is to create a forum that’s friendly to filmmakers, especially those who don’t always do mainstream work. I particularly want to encourage new ideas and innovation.”

Feature debut

Mahakanjana, a native of Thailand who settled in Chicago after completing her master’s degree in Studio Arts at Northeastern Illinois University, has two 60-minute films to her credit, and she begins shooting next month on her writing/directing feature debut, the sci-fi existentialist romantic comedy “Lab 99.”

She began by making short films, though, through her Rujanee-In-Space Studio and she knows the challenges short filmmakers face. That’s why she opened her festival to films in a wide range of genres including experimental works, animation, documentaries, comedies, music videos and even trailers.

“We hope that variety will also give the audience a chance to experience something out of the ordinary,” she said.

Audience votes on films will determine the winner of a $100 prize. The 13 films confirmed for Short Cut 100’s debut include:

“Cerrrrmack” by Terf Alexius, a seven-minute crime drama about “the art of Chicago robbery.”

“Robot Love” by Mr. Mastodon, a 3-minute, 30-second animated romantic comedy about a robot who falls in love from afar, only to discover he is tethered to an electrical outlet.

“Daughters” by Tik Xamavee, an 11-minute, 30-second drama about the dilemma faced by a young Thai girl: Stay with her mother and share hardships at home or risk looking for work in a dangerous big city.

“Grandpa Gives You the Bird” by Marc Maximov, a 10-minute documentary about Maximov’s 92-year-old grandfather, who spends his days making origami birds and handing them out to strangers.

“Pimps vs. Zombies” by Jonathan Keaton, a 10-minute comedy featuring national comedians, improvisers, musicians and sketch-comedy groups.

“Another Day” by Matt Weinstein, a seven-minute drama coping with depression and writer’s block.

“Garden of Eden” by Coulter Mitchell, a three-minute animated fantasy that resets the struggle for free will after mankind’s downfall in an industrial Apocalypse, with God entrusting an “octobunny mantis” as guardian of the garden — and forbidding him to pick one flower within.
Find some of Michigan’s hidden gem beaches

BY KATH USITALO
For Sun-Times Media

Sweeping strands of sugar sand, towering dunes, thick forests and rocky cliffs line America’s “Third Coast,” the 3,200-mile freshwater shoreline of Michigan’s two peninsulas shaped by the Great Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior.

From the beachtowns along the southern Lake Michigan shore to the Lake Superior coast in the far north, countless beaches offer a variety of waterfront spots to suit swimmers and sunbathers, rockhounds and sandcastle builders, surfers and sunset-watchers.

Some of Michigan’s beaches have been cited on “best of” lists by those who know, including Dr. Beach, aka Stephen Leatherman. Other sandy stretches are waiting to be discovered. Here are three with something special:

Southwest Michigan

The ribbon of sand stretches for three miles along Lake Michigan at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park, a 1,200-acre retreat nestled in an impressive freshwater dune system. Located about 180 miles north of Chicago between Grand Haven and Muskegon, half the fun is getting there on a leisurely drive along U.S. 31, also known as the West Michigan Pike, an early automobile tourist route (you can download the 1918 visitor’s guide to “driving Michigan’s Summerland” at the Michigan beachtowns website, below.)

In addition to its beach, Hoffmaster has a campground, picnic area, concession store and the Gillette Sand Dune Visitor Center, with exhibits about the natural sand ridge and hill formations shaped by thousands of years of wind and waves.

A 10-mile system of foot trails loop through the varied dune habitat, from the forested backdrop to the beach. Take the challenging Dune Climb Stairway, with its two observation decks, for expansive views of the sand and sparkling water. Then toast the setting sun with Michigan wine you picked up in one of the beachtowns on route.

Blue heaven: Water in the Grand Traverse region of Michigan ranges in hue from turquoise to aqua to sky blue, sapphire and emerald. I SUPPLIED PHOTO

Northwest Michigan

The waters of the Grand Traverse region — the “Little Finger” of Michigan’s Mitten — have been called the freshwater version of the Caribbean thanks to sugar-sand beaches and remarkably colored waters that range in hue from turquoise to aqua to sky blue, sapphire and emerald. With 35 miles of Lake Michigan beaches within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore alone, it’s difficult to choose a favorite. Even Dr. Beach lumped together to declare the entire lakeshore No. 1 among Great Lakes beaches. But Good Harbor Bay (County Road 681 Beach) on Good Harbor Bay is a relative secret. Located 22 miles north of Glen Arbor, about halfway between the towns of Glen Arbor and Leland, the Good Harbor stretch of sand at the end of County Road 681 comes with views of Pyramid Point to the west, the ancient glacial moraine called Whaleback, and North Manitou Island. Facilities are minimal; there are restrooms and picnic tables, but be sure to pick up food and beverages on route (note: no glass containers allowed) and plan to stay for the spectacular sunset.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore:
www.nps.gov/sibe

Upper Peninsula

Lake Superior, the largest and northernmost Great Lake, also has the coldest water temperatures and most rugged shoreline of the five inland seas. But along the 42 miles of coastline within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, from Grand Marais in the east to Munising at the western end, there are sandy beaches and soaring sand dunes in addition to the namesake colorful rock walls at the water’s edge.

Sand Point Beach, at the tip of a spit of land on Munising Bay, is a standout for its white sand and welcoming waters. Protected by Grand Island just offshore, the shallow water is clear, calm, and relatively warm. Dr. Beach ranked Sand Point No. 3 among Great Lakes beaches, citing its clear and emerald green waters.

You’ll want to pick up provisions from Munising before following H-88 east to Sand Point Road and the largely undeveloped location. There are restrooms and the half-mile, accessible Sand Point Marsh Trail, where you might spot beavers at work in the wetlands. But mostly you’ll enjoy the solitude and memorable sunsets over Munising Bay.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
www.nps.gov/pirz/
Visitor Center: (906) 387-3700
Admission is free
Munising, MI: www.munising.org/
Michigan Travel Information: www.michigan.org

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
www.nps.gov/pirz/
Visitor Center: (906) 387-3700
Admission is free
Munising, MI: www.munising.org/
Michigan Travel Information: www.michigan.org

Zipping through the beauty of Michigan

BY ALEXANDRA RUDANSKY
For Sun-Times Media

The first time 70-year-old Howard Newkirk flew across a cable suspended 150 feet off the ground, he knew he was hooked (literally and figuratively).

“In a single year (my wife, Marcia, 65, and I have) turned into zip line fanatics,” said Newkirk, of Boyne City, Mich.

Zip lining is an outdoor activity that takes riders across a suspended cable from one point to another. Originating in Costa Rica, zip lines are scattered throughout the U.S., including Michigan, which is now home to about 12 zip line sites. “When the economy dropped, a lot of people weren’t doing big vacations,” said Mandle Cooko, a sales representative from Ropes Courses, Inc. in Allegan, Mich. “They were trying to stay local, to find more local things to do; so the industry has really just blown up.”

The zip lining experience begins with a short lesson on how to zip line. Certified zip line guides then help riders into a secure harness. From there, riders either walk or are transported to a platform on the tower or tree from which they will zip. The rider is always hooked up to at least one cable at any point when they are off the ground.

Zip lines are often found in forests or other scenic locations, so the rider not only gets an adrenaline rush, but also enjoys the natural surroundings of the site. Among some of the Michigan zip lining sites that are fairly close to the Chicago area are:
Zip line continued from cover

Southwest Michigan

John Ball Zoo
1300 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI, (616) 338-4301, www.johnballzoosociety.org
The zip line at John Ball Zoo is suspended over the zoo's aviary and waterfall and takes about 30 seconds to a minute to cross. The starting point of the zip line sits on the second highest point in Grand Rapids.
Length: 300 feet; Height: Four stories; Cost: $6; Requirements: Minimum 43 inches tall, must be between 65 and 260 pounds.

Ropes Courses, Inc.
1300 Lincoln Road, Allegan, MI, (269) 673-0016, www.ropescoursesinc.com
Riders zip from one tower to another and back again at this Allegan site, which has been in business for 23 years.
Length: 150 feet; Height: 60 feet; Cost: $15 for one hour, $25 for two hours; Requirements: Minimum 48 inches tall, maximum weight 300 pounds.

Upper Peninsula

Wildwood Rush
2575 Boyne City Road, Boyne City, MI, (231) 582-3400, www.wildwoodrush.com
Located in a deciduous forest, Wildwood Rush provides the largest canopy tour in Michigan with a total of 11 zip lines.
Length: 220-1,200 feet; Height: 80-150 feet; Cost: $75 for full canopy tour ($68 with a group of eight); $20 for shorter racing line; Requirements: Must weigh between 70 and 270 pounds.

Northern Michigan

Boyne Mountain Resort,
Boyne Highlands
600 Highland Drive, Harbor Springs, MI, (231) 526-3835
Boyne Mountain
One Boyne Mountain Road, Boyne Falls, MI, (231) 549-7256, www.boyne.com/thingsToDo/Zipline_Adventure
The year-round sites offer two options: a two and a half hour guided zip line adventure tour, and twin zip rides. The resorts boast the longest single zip line ride in Michigan, with the longest cable reaching 1,300 feet.
Length: 200-1,300 feet; Height: 50 feet; Price: $64 for two-and-a-half-hour zip line adventure tour, $20-25 for twin zip ride; Requirements: Minimum 3 feet tall, must be between 60 and 275 pounds.

Tree-top travel: Howard Newkirk, 70, of Boyne City, Mich., gets an upclose and personal view of Michigan's natural settings by ziplining along treelines. I SUPPLIED PHOTO

Michigan's Upper Peninsula

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GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15B


ART GALLERIES


Oakton Community College, Skokie. The Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 655-2633. www.oakton.edu/museum. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays. Through July: Steven Jay Urry: A Retrospective, presents the artist's sculptures, drawings, paintings and experimental pieces.

Services for Adults Staying In Their Homes, Celebrating Experience: A Gallery of Art by Older Adults, 1123 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Fee for the juried exhibition is $20; no non-refundable application fee. Application deadline is July 15. For further information, call (847) 800-0978 or e-mail artshowgreenerevanston.org.

The Koehnline Museum of Art at Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, invites women artists to submit work for the juried exhibition "The Personal is Political: The Transformative Power of Women's Art," scheduled to run Oct. 4-26. Deadline for entries is July 26. There is no entry fee. A complete list of rules may be viewed at www.oakton.edu/newsevents/events/WGS_art_entry.pdf. For information, contact Nathan Harpaz at (847) 635-2633 or nharpaz@oakton.edu.

Crafters are sought for the Resurrection College Prep High School Arts & Craft Fair, to be held Nov. 10 at 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Applications are available at www.reshs.org or by contacting Carol Marchetti at (773) 775-6616, ext. 112.

The Norwood Park Historical Society is accepting applications from bakers, artists, and high-quality chefs/bakers to fill positions at the 25th annual Victoria's Holiday Boutique, a fund-raiser for the nonprofit organization, to be held Nov. 28-Dec. 2 at 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. Fee is $35-$65 per space, and...
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Actor helps update Pinter play

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Richard and Sarah decide to spice up their marriage in a most unusual way — with unexpected consequences — in Soul Theatre's production of "The Lover" by Harold Pinter at A Red Orchid Theatre.

"They've been married for 10 years," said Evanston resident Rick Weber, who plays the husband. "They have an extremely playful relationship." That's about all Weber can say about the pair without giving away a crucial plot twist.

"It's a very sexy play," Weber said. "It's all about intimacy and sex, and how you come to terms with your spouse or your lover about those kinds of issues.

The work also challenges the audience to question what's factual and what's fake. "The layers of truth," Weber said, "are very hard to distinguish in this play."

Getting serious

Weber noted that Richard and Sarah are dealing with very deep issues, "But they do it in such a way that it's sort of teasing and fun," he said. "It's amazing how they take such serious issues and make it work in a most unusual way."

The play is set in New York, where Weber has performed at Circle Rep, Players Theatre, Soho Rep and Rattlestick. He also has regional credits at several major theatres.

"It's a little surprising to see the veteran actor performing in a tiny theater space for a company that did a full production in 2006. But Weber is excited about the opportunity.

"I'm thrilled to be working with them," the actor said. "We're doing some very well-written work five or six years ago. It's really exciting to be in the re-launch of the theater."

And performing in a tiny space actually seems right for Weber. "When I was starting out as a young actor, I was part of a theater group that had a performance space not unlike Red Orchids," he said. "For me, it's a little like coming home."

Soul Theatre founder Ravi Batista, who plays the wife, has scheduled eight free post-show events that explore the issues addressed in the play in a most unusual way.

Added fun

These include lessons in belly dance, finger cymbals patterns and basic drumming to explore Middle Eastern music's sensual side (Friday, July 18); a discussion called "Beyond Oversexed Secrets" by the manager of Chicago's The Pleasure Chest (Friday, July 29); and an exploration of communications in relationships (Sunday, July 1) and sex (Saturday, July 14) with family therapist Bridget Gregory.

There will also be a chance to indulge in gourmet chocolates while learning about meditation and yoga practices that can enhance your love life (Thursday, July 9); a discussion of the correlation between food and sex with nutrition therapist Michelle Gillespie (Saturday, July 11); and a program entitled "Sex, Dating & Relationships" with life coach Katy Flatau and meditation teacher Andrea Klander (Thursday, July 12).

"Ravi is a very passionate and creative woman," Weber said. "She's been thinking about this production for a while. She's full of ideas."

Weber believes that the post-show events are a way of taking the issues of this 1962 British play "and talking about it in a very contemporary way."

As for the actor's involvement with the eight sessions, he laughingly reported, "I think I'm going to stay for all of those."

July 19, 2 p.m.: “Screening of ‘Carnage,’ rated R.” July 20, 2 p.m.: Closed captioned screening of “War Horse,” rated PG-13. July 26, 2 p.m.: International Film Series features “Water.”

Northwest Chicago Film Society presents the Classic Film Series at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, unless otherwise noted, at the Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Admission is $5. For information, visit www.northwestchicagofilmso.org.

July 5: “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” (1956), with selected 1950s sci-fi trailers.


Northwestern University’s Ethel M. Barber Theatre, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tct.northwestern.edu.

July 19, 7 p.m.: “Okianhalahn,” starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones. $10; $5 for students. July 20, 7:30 p.m.: “Pacific,” starring Rosanna Brazzi, Mitzi Gaynor and John Kerr. $10; $5 for students.

TOURS & OUTINGS

The Evanston History Center presents a summer walking tour series June through October 2012. Conducted by Kris Hartzell, EHC’s director of Visitor Services and Facilities, the tours will focus on a range of topics. Each tour begins and ends at the Dawes House, 225 Greenwood St., Evanston, and will take place rain or shine. Tours being at 11 a.m. and run until roughly 12:30 p.m. Admission for each tour is $20; $15 for EHC members. Reservations are not required, but are recommended. Call (847) 475-3410 or e-mail khartzell@evanstonhistory.org. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

Monday Night Car Shows, 5-9 p.m. every Monday, through Sept. 10, in the west parking lot of Westfield Old Orchard shopping 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.mondaynightcarshow.com.

Local actors in new take on Chekhov classic

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

Anton Chekhov’s classic play may be called “Three Sisters” but the story of those siblings, who dream of moving back to Moscow, can’t be told without including the men in their lives.

Scott Jaack, who grew up in Evanston and Wilmette, plays Chebukyin in Steppenwolf Theatre Company’s production of Tracy Letts’ “Three Sisters.”

Although the play was written in 1900 in Russian, all three actors believe it has relevance for contemporary American audiences. They all credit Letts’ adaptation for adding to the relevance. Moore noted that Letts told the cast, “If you want Chekhov, the only way you’re going to get Chekhov is to see it in Russian.” That’s because there are many inside jokes that only Russians would understand.

Updated version

Gaspar noted that Letts removed all of those foreign references. He believes modern audiences will connect with this adaptation because, “It has a lot to do with time and the idea of what we did with our time.”

He added that the play also addresses the eternal issue of suffering. “We’ll always have suffering,” Gaspar said. “I have daughters and they always ask me, ‘Why don’t some kids have food’?”

Also, like the characters in the play, “There’s a great many people in our world who don’t grab their lives by the horns,” Jaack said. “Their lives end up being guided by other things.”

“Many people just get stuck in their lives and they can’t make a decision,” Moore concluded. “I think this whole play reflects that. Anybody watching it will think of their lives and say, ‘What in my life am I holding on to and how can I move beyond it and do something more with my life?’”

‘THREE SISTERS’

Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1650 N. Halsted St., Chicago.

July 8-Aug. 26; preview begins June 28 $20-$75 (312) 335-1650 or visit steppenwolf.org
PLUS: GEEZER JOCKS
Athletes that won’t let age stifle their game
Senior athletes prove age doesn’t have to be an obstacle

BY ANDY FRYE
For Sun-Times Media

Everyone has the ability to be an athlete, regardless of age or experience. Every 90 minutes of exercise adds vitality to your life, no matter if you’re a lifetime competitor or looking for a new hobby to enjoy during your retirement. Move your body; it will thank you.

Alan Schwartz, 80, suivs to use his racket. “Tennis can bridge generations,” said former United States Tennis Association president Alan Schwartz. "The rally and hitting ball is one important part of the game,” said Midtown’s general manager, Mike Mahoney. "But also the camaraderie and social part of tennis is what makes it fun.”

Hayley said that, beyond nailing down the basics of tennis, adults enrolled can enjoy playing indoors at air-conditioned facilities. Moreover, the state-of-the-art tennis turf is easy on the joints.

"Tennis can bridge generations,” said former United States Tennis Association president Alan Schwartz.

According to Schwartz, the tennis great Billie Jean King called Midtown, "the standard against which all tennis clubs should be measured." That is partly because beginners are so welcome.

The club, founded in 1969, partners with the USTA to put on more than 40 sanctioned events for adults older than 46 with categories every five years by age, including fun-for-competition for ages 75-plus. Many seniors have gotten back into tennis as adults through local events, and some choose to participate in regional and national recreational tennis events for people in their 60s and up, including those as old as 80.

Schwartz, 80, strives to use his racket up to three times a week. He spends time hitting the ball and giving coaching and stroking advice to his grandson, a ranked player at his school and in Illinois.

"I don’t want you to think in any way I can keep up with my grandson,” Schwartz said. "But tennis gives me a chance to stay active and enjoy the pleasure of swinging the racket.”

"When my grandson hits to me,” Schwartz joked, "let’s just say he’s gentleman enough to ease up.”

Those not interested in tennis have plenty of other options.

The Wilmette Park District has a 60+ program with golf, yoga and more. Plus, tai chi and walking are low-impact ways to keep active.

Dean Paynter, 67, is president of the Rock Trail Coalition, an organization that advocates construction of bike trails throughout Wisconsin. Paynter bikes and yoga a few times a week, but he favors hiking, especially in the summer.

"Hiking is a great low-impact, active activity. It gets your legs moving, and better yet, it’s cost-free,” Paynter said.

"Instead, you get summer exercise while birds are singing and the wild flowers are out.”

The Lake County Forest Preserve’s website has a number of hiking and short walking areas.

Set: Norman Henderson, 55, prepares for a volley. COURTESY MIDTOWN TENNIS CLUB

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800-757-4654
Golden years' silver lining

As much as people have tried over the course of civilization to find a way to impede Father Time, the aging process can't be stopped. Getting older is a fact of life.

But it's possible that today's seniors are living better than a couple hundred years ago. A study found that people aged 60 to 65 years old in the United States are more educated and more physically active than those of the same age decades ago.

Several factors that play into how particularities are designed are just some of the health care and even how community research and policy—Center for Research on Health and Aging, says education, physical activity, quality of health care and even how communities are designed are just some of the factors that play into how this particular age bracket will grow older.

This age group tends to have educational advantages and still have a better quality of life as medical and technical advantages improve the quality of life for substantial numbers,” she said.

Impact of exercise

Hughes stresses that the rise of obesity in the United States is capable of bringing down the quality of life for baby boomers and the generations that are following them.

“The level of obesity among middle age adults is definitely a cloud on the horizon,” Hughes said.
A recent survey conducted by the American Academy of Dermatology found that most men are lax when it comes to proper sun protection. Caucasians and men older than 50 are at a higher risk of developing melanoma — the deadliest form of skin cancer.

The Academy conducted an online survey of adults nationwide. Results from the survey show:

- When outside in the sun, less than one-third of men (29 percent) say they always protect their skin, compared with 43 percent of women.

- A significantly larger percentage of men (39 percent) than women (28 percent) agreed that they prefer to enjoy sunshine and not worry about what they should do to protect themselves from it.

- Less than half of men (46 percent) indicated they knew how to examine their skin for signs of skin cancer compared with 59 percent of women.

“This survey demonstrates that many men do not protect themselves from the sun when outdoors and that some still believe that sun exposure is good for their health. This is a very troubling combination in light of the fact that the major risk factor for melanoma is exposure to ultraviolet light,” said board-certified dermatologist Thomas E. Rohrer, clinical associate professor of dermatology at Brown University School of Medicine.

The survey results should serve as a wake-up call to men to be vigilant about protecting their skin from sunlight exposure and examining their skin regularly for skin cancer,” he said.

A total of 1,181 adults ages 18 and older completed the online survey, which was conducted by Relevant Research Inc. of Chicago. Data was weighted by sex, age, race/ethnicity and education level based on the U.S. Census Current Population Survey.

Visit the website at www.SpotSkinCancer.org to learn how to perform a skin self-exam, download a body mole map for tracking changes in your skin, and find free skin cancer screenings.

To learn what you can do to prevent skin cancer, visit www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/prevention.htm.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 3.5 million skin cancer cases affecting 2 million people are diagnosed annually.

It is estimated that there will be about 131,810 new cases of melanoma in 2012 — 55,560 noninvasive (in situ) and 76,250 invasive (44,250 men and 32,000 women).

Caucasians and men older than 50 are at a higher risk of developing melanoma than the general population.

Although before age 40 melanoma incidence rates are higher in women than in men, after 40, rates are almost twice as high in men as in women.

The five-year survival rate for people whose melanoma is detected and treated before it spreads to the lymph nodes is 98 percent.
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You probably would be a nice, happy as a social director on a cruise ship. You're a real effort to include them in your life.

You're a good friend to others. Now's the time to make some effort to include them in your life. Despite your hectic workplace schedule, important, but especially so at this time.

You might well feel uneasy as you face a trusted friend offers understanding as you of changing workplace conditions. Now it's done some great work recently. Now it's time to allow them to be good friends to you. Rely on their trusted advice to help you through an uncertain period.

Ewes and Rams love nothing more than to miss out on an important message some-

WONDERFUL, perhaps a day at a spa or a refreshing plunge into the social swim. Shrug them off, and move ahead with the changes you've put off all this time.

You get through an uncertain period. You rely on their trusted advice to help you through an uncertain period.

For the week of July 4 — July 10 you. But you know you're doing the right thing, so stick with your decision.

Your good friend to others. Now's the time to allow them to be good friends to you. Rely on their trusted advice to help you through an uncertain period.

Family and friends are always important, but especially so at this time. Despite your hectic workplace schedule, make a real effort to include them in your life.

That project you've been working on is almost ready for presentation. But you still need some information from a colleague before you can consider it done. Don't let those negative attitudes that have sprung up around you drain your energies. Shrug them off, and move ahead with the confidence that you can get the job done.

A trusted friend offers understanding as you you're a nice, happy as a social director on a cruise ship. A nice, refreshing plunge into the social swim can recharge your physical and emotional batteries.

BORN THIS WEEK: You love to travel and be with people. You probably would be happy as a social director on a cruise ship.

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In Memoriam

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

Sign the online Guest Book

For local community Death Notices visit pioneerlocal.com

Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems.
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
High-Paying Jobs for New Graduates
By Christine Lau, PayScale.com

Want your first postcollege salary to be as high as possible on graduation day or soon after? You may not earn six figures right away, but according to online salary database PayScale.com, certain careers provide a good chance you'll earn a salary of around $50,000 in your first two years. That's well above the $35,000 that new graduates typically earn.

It's also promising news in a labor market that over the last few years has created an epidemic of college graduates who are either unemployed or taking lower-wage jobs, says Katie Bardaro, PayScale's lead analyst.

Just because you have a bachelor's degree doesn't mean you're in a job that requires one, she says. However, the following list of jobs shows that students who choose their majors strategically can land well-paying entry-level positions and avoid being broke baristas with bachelor's degrees. The list shows top-earning jobs for college graduates with two years of experience or less in their chosen field.

Drilling Engineer
Median Annual Salary: $77,400

If you like drilling down into numbers, consider this job that combines technology and economics. A drilling engineer designs and implements procedures to drill oil and gas wells as economically as possible and manages both the people and technology involved in a complex drilling operation.

You'll need a bachelor's degree in engineering, preferably in petroleum engineering. Look for cooperative engineering programs in which students earn academic credit on the job.

Business Banker
Median Annual Salary: $66,900

Until he joined Wells Fargo in 2006 as a business banker, Kendall Scheer of Omaha thought bankers were stuck in offices crunching numbers. Now specializing in loans to businesses, he explains the different loan types, obtains applicants' information and analyzes their finances.

"I am not stuck behind a desk, and it is not all about numbers," he says. "It's about helping people realize their dreams."

A bachelor's degree in finance, business, economics or a related field is generally required. On-the-job training is a typical path to gain experience.

Financial Services Wholesaler
Median Annual Salary: $56,800

Rather than selling directly to consumers, this wholesaler sells financial services to large corporations, midsize companies and small businesses. These high-value transactions occur between banks, insurers, stockbrokers and fund managers. A wholesaler often offers the services at discounts to attract business.

Because of the complex nature of financial products, a bachelor's in business, economics or finance may be required. Sales experience is important, too.

Cytotechnologist
Median Annual Salary: $52,700

A cytotechnologist prepares slides of cells and examines the cells under a microscope for abnormalities that may signal the beginning of disease, such as cancer.

Cytotechnologist Courtney Robinson of Kansas City, Kansas, recommends the job to anyone interested in science or healthcare, but warns that her daily task of diagnosing cancer can be difficult emotionally. Still, it's a stimulating career that pays well, she says.

"It keeps your brain active, and you never get bored," she says.

A bachelor's degree is typically required. Some states require laboratory personnel to be licensed, registered or certified.

Regional Sales Representative
Median Annual Salary: $50,800

These sales representatives work a specific territory in which they contact existing or potential customers to explain product features, answer questions and negotiate prices.

College degrees aren't always required, unless the product - such as pharmaceuticals - requires scientific or technical knowledge.
Answers to Super Crossword

JAB OILED PEAT CALAF
ALE PRIDE APSO CAMRA
IMABEATER RAPT ATOMIC
LADEN ENROL HEED SMEE
OUT ROSA LEMIST
PINUSQUOIRE STAIN
ODIN PUPS LATE GOGOL
LIE SIDECAR LAMINATE
LOCAL HOURS ODE EDIT
SMETANALUTE PARCHESS
MOUSERSTDEGREE
DAH SKIM LIST EYELIDS
ELANTEO DAMP LINEN
POMANDER KEYPADS ICE
PESTO YAN LIDO AGAR
TORCH GOPHER THEGOLD
AVE AHA ITEM ONE
WORMETAT BOUTS ONSET
ADDAMS LAMB RAT BUTLER
SKATES ETAL GRIEG UMI
HAMEL CEDE EARH GOO

FINANCIAL

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Business Opportunity
Distributionships
Financial Services
Franchise
Loans
Work at Home

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TO PLACE YOUR GARAGE SALE AD, CALL 847-998-3400
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DIVERSION OF SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

NURSES
The University of IL at Chicago Division of Specialized Care for Children is recruiting Registered Nurses for Home Care Compliance and Audit & Care Coordinator positions in the Chicago Area. Hours are M-F, 8:00 to 4:30. Salaries are negotiable. Applicants must be residents of the State of Illinois. Minimum qualifications for each position are:

Home Care Compliance and Audit (Civil Service Title Adm. Assis. I)
1. Bachelor’s degree and current State of IL Professional Registered Nurse licensure.
2. Three years progressively responsible managerial or administrative work experience in a private or governmental organization, preferably in a facility providing care for children with special health care needs. 3. Two years of responsible managerial or administrative work experience in a private or governmental organization in addition to the preparation required in #2.

Care Coordinator (Civil Service Title Nursing Consultant)
1. Bachelor’s Degree, State of Illinois licensure as a RN. 2. Two years of public health or specialized nursing experience. Pediatric experience is beneficial.

To apply go to: https://jobs.uic.edu/ For additional information contact Kim Kirchner, kekirchn@uic.edu or phone 800-322-3722

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DART CONTAINER - SOLO CUP, a leading international manufacturer of plastic and paper products for the consumer and the food service industry, has great job opportunities at our expanding south side Chicago facility.

- Industrial Machine Technician
- Maintenance Mechanic

Must have experience in a manufacturing environment.
Set up, troubleshoot, repair and maintain high speed forming and packaging equipment.
Able to use precision measuring tools, read drawings/blueprints.

- Building Facilities Maintenance Lead

Industrial HVAC and process water chilling systems insuring reaching 300 tons.
Experienced industrial steam and hot water boilers up to 300 horsepower.

- Machine Shop (Manual) Machinist

Manufacturing experience required for each position.
Must be able to set up and operate all appropriate shop equipment.

Dart Container - Solo Cup offers great benefits which include medical, dental, life insurance, 401k plan, paid vacation and more.

Send resume to: Dart Container - Solo Cup Attn: Human Resources 7575 S. Kostner Ave. Chicago, IL 60652 Email: Kostner.human@solocup.com Fax: 773-838-2226 No phone calls or third party recruiters.

Dart Container - Solo Cup

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1h full of the amount bid, the pur-
### Garage Sale Guide

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<tr>
<th>Address</th>
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### Judicial Sales-Real Est.

**judicial sales**: real estate foreclosures are handled by the court. upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a certificate of ownership and the property will be conveyed to the purchaser of record. **judicial sale fee** for abandoned residential real estate is calculated as follows: 1% of the sale price for the first $50,000, 2% of the sale price for the next $50,000, and 3% of the sale price for the remaining amount.**
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check the court file to verify all information. The mortgaged real estate is improved with a two-car detached garage. The real estate is improved with a 2,000 square foot home with a two-car detached garage.

The mortgaged real estate is subject to the residential real estate arose pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure by the mortgagee acquiring the real estate at a sale. The mortgagee acquiring the real estate is subject to the same rights as the mortgagee acquiring the real estate at a sale. The mortgagee acquiring the real estate is subject to the same rights as the mortgagee acquiring the real estate at a sale.

For information contact Plante & Plante's attorney, The Safe, 200 N. Ohio St., Suite 820, Chicago, IL 60611. An ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN EXECUTION OF JUDGMENT, UNDER THE MORTGAGE FORECLOSED, will be entered on Wednesday, June 28, 2012, at the The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 2012, Chicago, IL 60606, at the hour of 10:00 AM, for the purpose of selling the residential real estate at a public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below. The property will NOT be sold to the mortgagee acquiring the real estate at a sale. The property will NOT be sold at full value. The property will not be sold for less than 75% of the amount bid. The property will be sold at full value. The property will be sold at full value.

For information contact Plante & Plante's attorney, The Safe, 200 N. Ohio St., Suite 820, Chicago, IL 60611.
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

NOTICE OF SALE

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Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.
NOTICE TO SELLER OF REAL ESTATE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE - NON-MORTGAGE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that on August 16, 2012, the Illinois Attorney General, through the Judicial Sales Corporation, located at 11 South LaSalle Street, Suite 2000, Chicago, Illinois 60603, in the County of Cook, State of Illinois, will conduct a public sale at the hour of 11:00 AM, in the State of Illinois, of the real property located at 1206 South Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60607, which property is subject to a tax lien for the year 2011.

The property is a single family residential dwelling. The sale will be conducted in accordance with the Illinois Real Property Tax Law, 70 ILCS 50/5(c)(2) and the Illinois Condominium Property Act, 735 ILCS 5/11-1001 et seq.

The purchaser shall have no further interest in the property and shall not be entitled to the return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall also receive a Certificate of Sale which will entitle the purchaser to the property, free and clear of all liens and charges.

For further information, please contact the Illinois Attorney General at 312-432-0570.

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Pioneer Press (DC)

ASSUMED NAME

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Assumed Name Act, that an Assumed Name Business Name is hereby assumed, pursuant to the Assumed Name Act, that an Assumed Name Business Name in the State of Illinois, as amended, that a certificate of assumption of the Assumed Name Business Name was filed by the undersigned with the Clerk of Cook County, File No. D132135707, on June 8, 2012, under the Assumed Name of

Joseph S Urban AKA Joseph Urban Corp.

1111 West Wacker Drive, 24th Floor

Chicago, IL 60606

The true name and address of the owner(s) is: Debra Wergin, 1111 West Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606.

Pub date: 6/14, 6/21, 6/28, 7/5.

DON'T NEED IT? SELL IT FAST.

Call 847-998-3300
Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Public Hearings

PUBLIC NOTICE OF BIDDING ON THE PROPOSED APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

A "Public Hearing" will be held by the President and Board of Directors of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 26, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712. The purpose of the Hearing is to consider the proposed Appropriation Ordinances for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

A copy of the proposed ordinance will be available for review starting Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at the Village Hall during normal business hours. Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Village of Lincolnwood

Cook County, Illinois

To Issue $1,100,000 Working Cash Bonds

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that on the 19th day of June, 2012, the Board of Education of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois (the "District"), shall hear the Board of Education of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, and the said Board of Education of the Board of Education of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, shall hold a public hearing on the 19th day of June, 2012, at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712.

The said Working Cash Fund is to be increased by $1,100,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of a school building, to be used for the purpose of school education. The said Board of Education of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, shall hold a public hearing on the 19th day of June, 2012, at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712.

It is an invitation to all interested parties to submit oral or written comments concerning this proposal to the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, at 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT TO ISSUE $1,100,000 WORKING CASH BONDS

Village of Lincolnwood

Cook County, Illinois

TO ISSUE $1,100,000 WORKING CASH BOND

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that on the 19th day of June, 2012, at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712, the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, will hold a public hearing for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the Village, by the sum of $1,100,000 for the purpose of paying the cost of a school building, to be used for the purpose of school education. The said Board of Education of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, shall hold a public hearing on the 19th day of June, 2012, at 7:30 P.M. in the Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712.

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Summer in Stereo

1 1/2 ounces Distiller's Gin No. 6
3/4 ounce fresh lime juice
1/4 ounce green chartreuse (optional — can use spiced simple syrup instead)
1/2 ounce simple syrup
Illinois Sparkling Co. Stereo sparkling wine

Shake first four ingredients with ice; strain into tall glass filled with ice. Top with Stereo and stir. Garnish with lime wheel.

Strawberry-Basil Smash

1 1/2 ounces North Shore Vodka
1 ounce basil simple syrup
1/2 ounce fresh lemon juice
2 strawberries
12 ounces club soda

Muddle strawberries and basil syrup. Add remaining ingredients, except soda, and shake with ice. Strain over fresh ice into tall glass filled with ice and top with soda. Garnish with additional strawberry or sprig of basil.

Cucumber Fizz

1 1/2 ounces Sol Chamomile Citrus Vodka
3/4 ounce simple syrup
4 lime wedges
4 cucumber wheels
12 ounces club soda
Sprig of fresh herbs, if desired

Muddle lime, 3 wheels and syrup and herbs. Add vodka and ice, and shake well. Pour shaker contents into rocks glass and top with a splash of club soda. Garnish with cucumber wheel.

Sparklers to toast the USA

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

These indoor sparklers won't trigger the fire alarm — the only sparks flying will be in your mouth. Whether your sparkles come from ginger beer or locally-produced bubbly wine, flavorful, fizzy drinks will complement 4th of July fireworks.

Celebrating starts at 9 a.m. on July 4 at Glenview House in Glenview with mimosas made from champagne and orange juice, then enhanced with yuzu juice and dehydrated lemon. These sparklers will accompany a patriotic menu Chef Grant Slauterbeck designed for the holiday.

Day to honor

Slauterbeck says sparklers reflect what happened on July 4, 1776. "It was the first day we shined, and we sparkled," he said. "We formed the future on which our great country would eventually be built."

Drink to that with your favorite libation, or something new.

For those not into sweet, there's a refreshingly bitter sparkler at The Purple Pig in Chicago. A Chinato Fizz (pronounced: kee-NOT-oh) is the one sparkling drink included on a new menu of cocktails made with amaro, which are Italian bitters.

The Pig's chef/owner Jimmy Bannos Jr., a Park Ridge resident, said, "We have a whole new menu of amaro (an Italian herbal liqueur) cocktails."

The Chinato Fizz is a mix of prosecco and chinato, a wildly popular amaro that is flavored with cardamom seeds, rhubarb, quinine bark and gentian (violet) root.

At the North Shore Distillery in Lake Bluff, co-founder Sonja Kascebaum salutes the lazy, crazy summers of the vinyl era with a sparkler she dubbed Summer in Stereo. She makes it with the Distiller's Gin No. 6 she and her husband Derek make, and Stereo, a sparkling wine produced by Illinois Sparkling Co., which makes sparkling wines out west in Ulica. Kascebaum enhances Summer in Stereo with homemade, spiced simple syrup and a splash of fresh lime juice.

Fresh flavors

Kascebaum often shops the Lake Bluff Farmers Market on Fridays, buying ingredients like the fresh strawberries she uses in her Strawberry-Basil Smash. The sparkler is made with North Shore Distillery vodka, club soda and strawberries. The berry red will go well with the patriotic July 4 festivities.

For extra flavor, Kascebaum makes simple syrup and infuses it with basil she grows just outside the front door of the distillery along with curry chocolate mint and pineapple sage.

Cucumber slices can bring natural, seasonal flavor to simple syrup to include in sparklers like Cucumber Fizz. Kascebaum makes that drink with fresh cucumber, lime, club soda and the distillery's newest vodka, Sol Chamomile Citrus.

Kascebaum will demonstrate how to make these sparklers during a class from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 at North Shore Distillery. For details, visit www.northshoredistillery.com.

All recipes from Sonja Kascebaum

Photos by Ryan Pagelow-Sun-Times Media
Dear Fixer: I completed a short sale of our Jefferson Park home in June 2011. It was a huge relief for me and my family.

Due to the horrible economy, we no longer could afford to pay our mortgage and care for our family. After purchasing our home, we did not refinance and buy frivolous things. We thought we were being responsible. We just hit a rough patch.

About four months after the sale, I noticed that Ocwen Financial Corp., which was our second mortgage company, had posted information to my credit report indicating we had a loan that was outstanding and delinquent. The loan had a different loan number than my original loan, even though it was the exact amount that should have been taken care of as part of the short sale.

I have all the closing documents, the approval letters and copies of the wire transfers to prove them wrong. After several attempts at disputing the information and hundreds of phone calls, I was told by an Ocwen representative that I was correct and that a fictitious loan was entered into their system, he could do nothing about it, and I should seek legal help.

Dumbfounded, I spoke with an attorney who told me it could take years to resolve this. I am at an utter loss. We would very much like to move on with our lives, but I don’t think Ocwen will allow us. This column is my last resort. I hope you can help us.

Norm Osimani

Dear Norm: It sounds like you got caught in one of those glitzy situations that seems like it should be simple to fix but somehow isn’t. The Fixer was happy to pluck this problem out of that hopeless cycle and get it into the hands of someone who could fix it.

We brought your story to John Britti, executive VP and CFO at Ocwen, who took it to their consumer ombudsman’s office. Within a few days, they straightened it out.

Apparently, the glitch occurred around the time of the short sale, when the servicing of your loan was transferred from Ocwen to another company. Ocwen got the $3,300 that was supposed to pay off your debt, but somehow, it was never recorded as such. They fixed this and are filing a satisfaction/release of mortgage. They also sent you written documentation, along with an apology. It may take several weeks for the erroneous delinquent debt to come off your credit report, but it will.

Vital KID information

Years ago, when The Fixer was a reporter in the old Sun-Times building, a woman called the newsroom upset about something she’d seen while driving past a yard sale.

On display, right on the front lawn, was a crib that had been recalled as hazardous. When the woman pointed this out to the seller, the seller refused to remove it. He acted like it was no big deal.

But it is a big deal. Faulty drop-side cribs and poorly designed portable crib/play yards have been implicated in dozens of infant and toddler deaths. With recalled portable cribs,

the top rails have accidentally collapsed, creating a “V” in which the child can suffocate. With drop-side cribs, there have been numerous cases in which babies have become wedged between their mattress and the drop-side.

One of the most publicized cases was the death of 16-month-old Danny Keysar, the son of University of Chicago professors Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar. After Danny’s death in 1998 in a licensed childcare facility’s portable crib — which no one realized had been recalled — his parents founded the Chicago nonprofit Kids In Danger to publicize recalled children’s products and try to get tougher standards for items on the market.

Now, KID has a new way to connect parents and grandparents with potentially life-saving information: A new mobile website that can be accessed from a phone or tablet to instantly check on whether a car seat, stroller, crib or other product has been recalled.

The innovation will be especially useful at summer garage sales or flea markets. KID’s executive director, Nancy Cowles, told The Fixer. The first item that pops up is a search field, where the person can search by product type or brand.

There are millions of recalled cribs still in circulation. Cowles says she regularly finds recalled products on the resale market, something she always points out to the seller.

It’s illegal for people to resell recalled products, even at rummage sales. But many sellers simply don’t know, because they were lucky enough to not have a child get injured. “I don’t think anyone does it intentionally” Cowles told us. “I think they just don’t realize it.”

Consumers may access the free mobile website at KidsInDanger.org.

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Given the runaound about a consumer problem? Go to www.pioneerlocal.com and click on “Tell the Fixer.”

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Volunteer Opportunities

Local families needed for Cultural Exchange Students
ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with local high schools, is seeking local families to host boys and girls between ages 15 to 18 from countries around the world. Students are enthusiastic in practicing English and experience American culture. They will also share their own culture with host families, not as a guest, but as a family member. Additionally, students have pocket money for personal expenses; and full health, accident and liability insurance. Host families can choose students from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests. To become a host family, call the Midwestern Regional Office at (800) 736-1760 or visit www.assehosts.com for an application.

Looking for: court watchers
at the Skokie Courthouse for domestic violence. Domestic violence affects up to 50 percent of all families in the U.S. Being a court watcher is easy, convenient and rewarding. If you can be a volunteer for this very important program, contact Joanne Liberman, chairperson, at (847) 412-1577 or e-mail Joanne at NonnyL@aol.com.

CJE SeniorLife: in need of more volunteers for its Home Delivered Meals program in the north side of Chicago, Evanston, Skokie, and Morton Grove areas. Hot and cold meals are delivered weekdays from 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Volunteers work in teams of two, where one person drives his/her car with the other person delivering the meals to the client's door. Volunteers can choose one or two weekdays on a regular basis to deliver meals or assist as their schedule permits. For more information on becoming a Home Delivered Meals volunteer, call Anne Schuman at (773) 508-1064.

The Interfaith: Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs is seeking volunteers of all races, national origins, ages and physical abilities to assist in collecting data about their home-seeking experiences. Experience is not required, training will be provided. A small stipend and expenses will be paid. Call Viki at (847) 501-2029, Ext. 408, or e-mail viki@interfaithhousingcenter.org.

The North Shore: Senior Center in Northfield has the following volunteer needs: friendly visitors; volunteers for the House of Welcome; help with the Lunch Circle on Mondays and/or Wednesdays; transportation coordinator; and committee secretaries. Contact Maura Rogan at mrogan@nssc.org or (847) 784-6052.

Lincolnwood Place: Retirement Community, 7000 N. McCormick Blvd., Lincolnwood, is seeking volunteers over the age of 16 to assist with resident programs. If interested, call Brad Howell at (847) 673-7166.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 16 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3/70 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60025. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453. Calendar of events includes:
- Saturday, June 30: Legal counseling, by appointment.
- Saturday, June 30: Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

Center counselors: Also available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois Care Rx (prescription-drug assistance), the senior-citizen real estate tax exemption and deferral, the senior-citizen tax assessment freeze, and the long-time-occupant-homewowner 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 Niles High School and end at Greenberry 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) 588-8939 or cms@niles.com.

Niles Township Clerk Office: Open 9 a.m. to 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 Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Meetings address issues within the unincorporated area of the township and all residents are invited.

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

Arts/Crafts
Resurrection Fair: Applications are available for crafters who are interested in participating in the Resurrection College Prep High School Arts & Craft Fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 10 at 7500 W. Talbot Ave., Chicago. See www.reschs.org or contact Carol Marchetti at (773) 775-6616, Ext. 112, or cmarchetti@reschs.org.

Classes
Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc.: Offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $50. Contact Dorothy King at dhlinga@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

Clubs
Polish National Alliance: Invites Sox fans to join along with the Polish Roman Catholic Union, Polish Falcons of America and Polish Women's Alliance for the annual Polish-American Night at U.S. Cellular Field (Chicago White Sox vs. the Texas Rangers) on July 3, starting at 7:10 p.m. Tickets for the lower box seats are only $10. Call the Polish National Alliance, (800) 621-3723, Ext. 316; Polish Roman Catholic Union (800) 772-8632, Ext. 2603; Polish Falcons of America (574) 289-2140; or the Polish Women's Alliance (888) 522-1898, Ext. 1208. Complete details for both events may be found at www.pna-czp.org.

Veternus Chapter Toastmasters: Meets at 7:15 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Morton Grove, 6160 Lincoln Ave. Members learn how to feel comfortable and have self-confidence talking to an audience. Call (847) 583-9238.

Community
Document Destruction: The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County is sponsoring a Document Destruction Event from 9 a.m. to noon June 30 at the Niles Public Services Center, 6849 Touhy Ave., to assist residents with recycling outdated or sensitive documents. There is no cost to participate, but residents must live in one of SWANCC's member communities and IDs will be checked for proof of residency. As SWANCC residents drive up in their vehicles, workers will unload the paper documents into large carts. When full, the carts of paper are emptied into the truck's cross-shredding machine. The shredded documents are transported to Groot's recycling facility in Elk Grove Village and baled before being recycled into new paper. Typical documents include medical forms, bank statements, personal files and retired tax forms. Staples and paper clips are acceptable, but binders should be removed. Residents will be limited to six grocery-size bags or boxes of documents per event. Visit swanc.org.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center: 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie; information: (847) 967-4800; reservations: (847) 967-4889; www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Museum admission prices: General Admission, $12; seniors (65+), $8; students (ages 12-22), $8; children (ages 5-11), $6. Reservations required for programs. July 8: Sarah Lazarus Memorial Concert - the Lori Cahan-Sim ensemble performing the music of Miki Gelbart, 1210-5 p.m. Tickets: $10, general; free to Illinois Holocaust Museum members. Advance reservations: July 15 to Jan. 6, 2013. Special exhibition, "Spies, Traitors and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America," a creation of the International Spy Museum, explores this vital question through video, film, interactive displays and artifacts, offering an unprecedented perspective into the stories of espionage, treachery, and deception that Americans have contended with since the founding days of the republic. Opening day, July 15, features talks with Anna Starke, director of exhibitions and programs, International Spy Museum. Free with museum admission. July 19: Lecture: "Seeking just-
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 shop is located at 7110 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 1 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing, broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Fritschl, (773) 631-6230.

Fundraisers

Benefit Bowl-a-Rama: The Jessica Shayne Magid "Chai" Chapter of the Leukemia Research Foundation hosts its annual Bowl-a-Rama event from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. July 15 at Brunswick Zone, 10 S. Waukegan Road in Deerfield. This event is held in honor of Jessica Shayne Magid of Niles, who lost her fight with leukemia in 1985 at the age of 13. The event features two hours of all-you-can-bowl, with shoes, pizza, soda, and more. Games and prizes for adults and kids; team and individual scores will be tabulated. Registration fee starts at $25 for adults, $15 for kids 12 and under. Visit swanco.org.

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 28
Illnesses such as: Cuts and burns, sprains and bruises, eye injuries, flu symptoms, sore throats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, ear aches, respiratory and urinary tract infections. The center provides easy access to X-ray and laboratory services to assist in diagnosis and treatment of these and other ailments. In addition, the clinic provides international travel medical services including for those planning a trip out of the country.

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

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

LYNX Therapeutics: 9436 Ozark Ave., Morton Grove, provides specialized occupational therapy services and learning instruction programs to children with physical, social, emotional, and learning difficulties. Pediatric developmental screenings offered at no cost. Contact: Ingrid Kennon at (847) 791-1631 or (847) 966-1505.

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 every month at the hospital's Patient Resource Center, 8820 W. Dempster St., Niles (across from the hospital). No appointment is necessary. Call (847) 723-7777.

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, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. The new magnetic elevator makes the auditorium easily accessible. Call (847) 390-0160.

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

Summer Reading Program: Learn about the Niles Public Library's summer reading program, "Reading Is So Delicious," which rewards kids, teens and adults for continued reading throughout the summer months.

The summer's first Bibliobop Dance Party was held in Golf Mill's Center Court on June 20. This is a program in partnership with the Niles Public Library's summer reading program, "Reading Is So Delicious," which rewards kids, teens and adults for continued reading throughout the summer months.

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

Parks

Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation: Offers people with physical and mental disabilities, learning disabilities, and behavior and learning disorders, an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

Niles

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

Golf Maine

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

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

Next month is a big one for aspiring college basketball players. July introduces another evaluation period and, once again, Malachi Nix will be out to show people his 5-foot-6 frame doesn't define him.

The incoming senior is looking to play ball in college following graduation from Niles North. He's already earned tremendous respect in the CSL, and Niles North coach Glenn Olson doesn't see why Nix can't do the same on the next level.

Nix led the Vikings to their second consecutive sectional final this winter. He averaged 19.5 points and 3.2 assists as a junior. "There's no doubt in my mind he's a Division I player," Olson said of the point guard. "He's proven it in high school by playing great on great teams in big games. He can break down his man off the dribble, he can pass, he can defend. Whether a Division I team is the best fit for him remains to be seen. We will sit down soon and talk about it. "But he has Division I ability."

Lorenzo Dillard also is a Division I prospect. The 6-2 guard attended Cal-Irvine's camp last weekend to raise his profile.

"Both of them are poised to have really good Julys," Olson said. "That's when their recruiting will take off."

This is the final week of summer leagues and shootouts for the Vikings before players join their AAU clubs. Niles North played at Loyola and Niles West this summer, as well as several weekend tournaments.

"It's been a really good summer for us," said Olson, who's guided Niles North to two regional titles and back-to-back 20-win seasons. "We had a lot of questions, but we're finding out who's going to play hard and who's going to play where."

B.J. Beckford is one player who's improved his game in the offseason. As a junior, the 6-1 guard mostly was a spot-up shooter, but he's developed a more all-around game this summer.

"He's become a capable third scorer for us," Olson said. "His game has improved by leaps and bounds. He can take the ball to the basket and finish, he can score in transition and he's still hitting the three."

Billy Voitik is another player who's role will increase this winter. At 6-4, the senior gives the Vikings a veteran with some size.

"He continues to get better," Olson said. "We are excited about the opportunity we have, but we have a long way to go."

Niles North's Lorenzo Dillard recovers a loose ball during the regional semifinal. He attended a camp in California last week to improve his profile. | DION DURR-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Bacalla becoming more attractive to colleges

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

Niles North’s Dave Bacalla is attracting the USTA tennis circuit once again this summer. While the rising senior is used to spending the months of June, July and August traveling the country and facing some of the nation’s top junior players, this year brings some added pressure in the form of college coaches watching. Bacalla, who competed at his third straight IHSA state tournament last month, has not yet signed to play college tennis. He has held discussions with a few schools and knows others are keeping a close eye.

“It adds a little pressure when I see them watching me,” said Bacalla, who said Big Ten schools like Michigan, Illinois and Indiana have recently joined Valparaiso of the Horizon League in the recruiting picture. “I want to do well, so I have to deal with it. You have to play through it.

“I don’t think it bothers me that much as opposed to other players who feel really nervous when coaches are around them. It doesn’t bother me. I try to stick with it and play my game.”

This week, plenty of coaches have flocked to Indianapolis, where Bacalla and many of the region’s top junior players are competing in the USTA/Midwest Section Closed Junior Outdoor Championships. Bacalla, seeded 20th in the 18-and-under division, opened the tournament with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Cole Buchenheimer (Richtmond) on Saturday, and then defeated Nick Dyke- man, of De Pere, Wis., 7-6, 6-3 the following day.

On Monday, No. 2 seed Jack Murray (Beverly Hills, Mich.) ended Bacalla’s run 6-1, 6-1.

Bacalla also played doubles with Stevenson High School’s Jeremy Bush, who finished third in singles at the state meet. The duo opened with a 6-4, 6-3 win over the Ohio State University’s Kathryn Kuechenheier and Matt Dykstra, before falling 6-4, 6-4 to Hillsdale partners Sam Bloom and Martin Joyce.

In addition to growing bigger and stronger since 2011, Bacalla said he also has become a smarter player. One example is his ability to battle through tournament play, while still keeping something extra in the tank.

“I’ve learned how to use my energy sparingly,” he said. “I don’t want to use it too much one day and then be tired the next. So, I’ve learned how to prolong my energy throughout a tournament.”
Dwyer catching scouts' attention with his defense

BY ERIC VAN DRILL
Contributor

In baseball showcases like the high-profile Stevenson Showcase, athletes receive limited opportunity to stand out.

Niles North's Gabe Dwyer played six innings over the course of two nine-inning games because he was one of the CSL team's three catchers. Dwyer earned three at-bats over the course of those six innings.

While his opportunities were limited during the games, Dwyer and the other position players got the opportunity to perform position-specific events before each game. The catchers displayed their pop times — how quickly they can catch the ball and fire to second base — for the hordes of scouts in attendance.

That's where Dwyer shined. The Niles North senior recorded the top pop time among CSL catchers, and that, along with his quickness behind the plate, is a big reason why the Niles North senior has received interest from Division I recruiters this summer.

"I've been getting some letters, some emails," Dwyer said. "I went to a camp at Bradley and they seem pretty interested; they want to see me play. I know Boston College just showed interest after seeing me play (at the Showcase). It's started; hopefully it will pick up soon."

Dwyer, as he showed at Stevenson, is solid defensively, but it's his hitting that he will spend the most time this summer trying to develop.

"I think my hitting and approach at the plate is definitely what I want to improve the most," said Dwyer, whose teammate Elliot Mark went 2-for-2 in the CSL's 5-1 victory against the MSL. "I'm definitely going to work on that this summer. Defensively, I just want to keep improving in every game."

Dwyer is playing with the Schaumburg Seminoles, which travels to high-profile tournaments throughout the Midwest. He also plays with Niles North's summer team whenever he can.

Dwyer remains disappointed with the Vikings' performance this spring, but with the majority of lineup returning, he feels confident that Niles North can improve upon its 16-20 record.

"I think, as a team, we could have done better, especially during conference," Dwyer said. "We have a lot of returning guys, so we're hopeful for next year. Personally, I think I played pretty solid defense, but I think my hitting kind of held me back. I didn't hit the way I wanted to, let's put it that way."

Maine East catcher Phil Papaioannou (right) has a discussion with pitcher Seth Rosenberg (19) of Niles West during the Stevenson Showcase.

Papaioannou shows good eye at the plate

BY ERIC VAN DRILL
Contributor

As one of three catchers on the CSL's 25-man roster at the Stevenson Showcase, Maine East catcher Phil Papaioannou knew the two-day event wouldn't mirror a regular game.

The catchers would work only three innings in each game behind the plate. The opportunities to make an impression on the scouts — over 100 were expected to attend — were extremely limited.

But Papaioannou, who drew only two plate appearances, made the most of his opportunities. The Maine East senior drew a pair of walks, but unlike a traditional game, the count reset and he got another at-bat.

"Yeah, but you have to make the most of it," said Papaioannou when asked if he was disappointed to get only get one at-bat in the first game, which the CSL lost 10-4 to the WSC. "You just have to focus in on that one at-bat."

With so many scouts in attendance and Maine East baseball not typically a program which draws much attention from scouts, Papaioannou went against expectations and didn't feel nervous or anxious during the showcase.

The calm he felt seemed to translate to patience in the batters' box.

"I know a lot of the kids around me," said Papaioannou, Maine East's lone representative. "It takes some of the pressure off, so it's not too bad. I just had the regular nerves before you play."

The CSL bounced back to defeat the MSL 5-1. Papaioannou, an all-conference player in 2012, figures to receive increased exposure this summer.

He's playing on Mount Prospect's Legion team, along with 2012 Maine East graduates Tyler and Andrew Glowacki. He'll also compete with the Blue Demons' summer team, working with A.J. Plis to help rebuild a club that graduated a slew of talented players.

East to triple its win total.

Papaioannou will be a cornerstone of the Maine East baseball program next season. Along with a new leadership role, he's trying to develop nearly every facet of his game — including his pop time, which measures a catcher's quickness behind the plate — to both help replace the graduates and land a college scholarship.

"I'm trying to improve my batting — making a little hit more solid contact, going the opposite way and stuff like that," Papaioannou said.
New Trier's Brigit Ieuter pitched the Trevians to two sectional championships during her career.
Spotlight doesn’t bother Rosenberg

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

With more than 100 scouts in attendance for the first day of the Stevenson Showcase, the majority of the athletes participating on the CSL’s 25-man roster were overwhelmed by the stakes.

Niles West’s Seth Rosenberg was one exception, primarily because he has performed in many showcase events while attempting to make a lasting impression on college coaches.

“I think everyone wants to do their best and they have so little opportunity to show coaches and scouts what they have,” Rosenberg said. “I think everyone has nerves, just trying to show to their best.”

Over the course of the two-day event, Rosenberg only threw two innings on the mound and didn’t play catcher, his primary position.

In addition to being used to being under the microscope — Niles West attracted hoards of professional scouts to its games this season to watch shortstop Kevin Ross, who was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates — Rosenberg is accustomed to throwing in high-pressure situations.

“All of my life I’ve come in and closed, so I’m used to the one inning,” Rosenberg said. “I’ve done so many showcases so far, and you only get about 18 pitches anyway — I think I threw a little bit less than that (the first day) — but I think I’ve done enough to where I’ve kind of gotten used to throwing so little.”

Rosenberg is also playing on Top Tier’s 17U Americans team, a high-profile travel club.

Rosenberg competes alongside Niles West teammate Kyle Colletta, a shortstop who also played at Stevenson. Rosenberg, after transferring from New Trier for his junior season, was a vital piece on a Niles West team which finished 26-11 and advanced to the sectional semifinals.

“Overall, it was a great season,” Rosenberg said. “I think our season was really successful — we won our regional, which was huge for our school. I had a lot of fun playing, which is something that you sometimes lose with teams. I just had a great time playing with those guys.”

Next spring, Rosenberg and Colletta try to help Niles West replace Ross, No. 1 starter Jason Meger and the team’s other seniors.

Furthermore, Rosenberg wants to continue attracting interest from college scouts, while finishing with recruiting cattle calls.

“I was lucky enough to get invited to the Area Codes tryouts with the Chicago White Sox, so I’ll be attending that (showcase),” Rosenberg said. “Other than that, hopefully I won’t need any more showcases.”
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Brynn Wiegmann
Store: Romeoville
Position: General Manager
Time in the community: 17 years
Pet parent of a bird, corn snake and two Shih-Tzus—Mr. Hippo & Snuffy—Brynn, as a leukemia survivor, is a huge supporter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Noel Santiago
Store: Algonquin
Position: Dog Trainer
Time in the community: 23 years
Father of a seven-year-old son and three dogs, Noel volunteers with several animal welfare groups and wants pet parents to know training isn’t just for puppies. It’s for the lifetime of your dog.

Kristen Jurwicz
Store: Bloomingdale
Position: Dog Trainer
Time in the community: 15 years
Kristen volunteers with PACT Humane Society and is proud parent of Fiona Mae, a Boxer mix, and Isabelle, a Pitbull. Her pet advice? “Stay patient and consistent!”

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