POOLS ARE PACKED

Allen Mershah, of Skokie, cools off on the water slide at the Oasis Fun Center in Niles on July 13. Area public pools have reported a spike in use amid this year's sweltering summer. PAGE 7 CURTIS LEHMHUHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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Wellness program promotes healthy workers, lower costs

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — Niles is joining other area municipalities participating in a village-sponsored wellness program with the goal of having healthier employees and reducing health-care costs.

The new program will provide the opportunity for all full-time employees of the village to receive various health screenings, such as blood-pressure screenings and consultations, and a complete blood-chemical profile.

The program aims to encourage healthier employees, fewer insurance claims, lower health-care costs, increased productivity, better attendance at work, higher morale and improved vitality.

"It's an added benefit to all full-time employees," said village of Niles human-resources coordinator Kathy Barnat, noting that the program is voluntary.

Barnat said $25,000 is set aside in the village budget for the program.

Wellness Inc. will complete the health screenings and within a few weeks will send a complete health report back to employees who participate in the program. Participants can also choose to have the confidential report sent to their physician.

Another component of the program is health education, Barnat explained.

Barnat said that the village of Niles will receive an aggregate screening report for all employees who choose to participate. If the report reveals that high cholesterol, for example, is a common issue among employees then the village will provide educational programs on that topic.

Barnat said the village's insurance brokers recommended the wellness program.

The blood-chemistry profile helps determine early warning signs of heart disease, diabetes, liver abnormalities, nutrition disorders, kidney disease, thyroid disease, anemia, cancer and hypertension.

"I think anytime a person gets an opportunity to take advantage of resources to benefit their health they're going to do it," said Village Manager George Van Geem, who believes a high number of employees will choose to participate.

Van Geem said the village offers its full-time employees free memberships to the Niles Family Fitness Center and encourages them to stay healthy. He believes the new wellness program can lead to a healthier workforce and ultimately lower health-care costs.

The city of Highland Park started the Wellness Inc. program in 2009; its program is voluntary, as well.

Barnat said the village of Niles went with a voluntary program instead of a mandatory one because officials didn't want to create any negative association.

The program is expected to begin in September, Barnat said.

Alpogianis celebrates long-sought pardon for teen felonies

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — When George Alpogianis heard the news that he had been granted a full pardon in 2013, he was in a very emotional state.

"I was very taken back by it," said Alpogianis, who said he broke down in tears. "It's something that I've been waiting for, for awhile."

In 1983 and 1984, when Alpogianis was a teenager, he said that he was charged with aggravated battery and criminal damage in two separate incidents, one involving a party.

The felony charges came back to haunt him in 2009, when he ran for a spot on the Niles Village Board of Trustees and won by 13 percent. Despite his victory, it was against the law for him to serve, due to his felony status.

Alpogianis said he did not have a comment at this time as to whether he will run again in the next village trustee election in 2013. He said he would have to sit down with his family and talk about the great commitment that being a trustee involves and then make his decision.

He said he also wants to make sure he will still have time to contribute to Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, another passion of his.

Alpogianis did say that he does not like what's going on in the village right now, saying there's not enough harmony.

"It was a bad couple years of my life; something I thought was done and over," Alpogianis said of his past trouble. "It was hurtful for me."

Alpogianis said the last thing he wanted to do was hurt his parents, wife and children.

"I think I may have hurt some of the members of the community," Alpogianis said.

"It's a great relief to close that chapter," he said, adding that he has learned from his past experience and can also use it as a tool to educate his children.

Alpogianis said community members have been extremely supportive of him and they sent 70 letters to either himself or Springfield to show their support.

"There are great people that live here," Alpogianis said. "It's a very caring community."
IN PROFILE

Mary, Seat of Wisdom principal valued learning, life and lunch

BY NATASHA WASINSKI

Longtime education administrator Judy Schutter helped a small private elementary school in the suburbs of Chicago earn one of the nation’s highest distinctions: the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award.

And then she did it a second time.

The past February, in her final year before retiring as principal of Mary, Seat of Wisdom School in Park Ridge, Schutter and her students celebrated the Catholic school's acceptance into the ranks of Blue Ribbon winners for their academic excellence and philanthropic efforts.

Achieving the acclamation was her goal when she began working in 2009 for the Park Ridge school, which her daughter, Jennie Amato, called "a perfect match.”

A dozen-year battle with breast cancer and, later, an inability to drive to work on her own didn’t curtail Schutter’s commitment.

"There was nothing that was going to stop her," Amato said.

"She is one of the most courageous and brave people I've ever met," said the Rev. Andrew Liaugminas, of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church.

"She was a teacher of how to live life," she added.

Schutter, of Lombard, died from the disease July 10 at age 64.

Her nearly 40-year career at the Archdiocese of Chicago began at the junior high school of her parish of St. Jude the Apostle in South Holland. Schutter also served as principal of Chicago's Notre Dame High School for Girls and of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School in Orland Hills, the first Blue Ribbon awardee under her watch.

At Mary, Seat of Wisdom School, Schutter is credited with reviving the school’s religious identity and strengthening its connection to the parish. And despite the tough economic climate of recent years she successfully demonstrated the value of investing in a Catholic education.

"She did a lot to focus on mission and service work," Liaugminas said.

"There was a lot of unity and working together toward a common identity.”

Last month Schutter retired with some reluctance from her illustrious career in school administration.

But since she cared deeply for the Park Ridge school and parish, she had planned to visit with and assist its new principal this summer get settled into his role.

In a farewell letter published in the July parish bulletin, Schutter said stepping down was difficult but that she needed to focus on her health and family.

Schutter and her late husband, George, raised three children and were the grandparents to six children, all younger than 12.

Amato said Schutter viewed their weekly trips for mom’s chemotherapy treatments as an opportunity to spend time together.

"It wasn’t just another day," she said. "Everything was a celebration. Everything was an opportunity."

Her mother insisted they lunched together toward a common identity.

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Her mother insisted they lunched together toward a common identity.

"She was a strong believer in sharing a meal together," Amato said. "It was our date. I am going to miss that so much.

Schutter's generosity and genuineness inspired a countless number of people. She individually met and chatted with everyone who came to visit her in the hospital. Amato said she had 40 loving family members and dear friends by her side when she died.

"If you talked to my mom for 5 minutes you would have thought she was your best friend," she said.

Thousands of students have felt her positive impact, Liaugminas added.

"Both her life and teachings will live on in the hearts and minds of students," he said. "She was one of those people you meet and who you know made the world a different place.”

A visitation and special memorial service was held July 12 at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church, 920 Grandville Ave. A funeral Mass was held July 14 at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church, over which the Rev. Jerry Gunderson was slated to preside; the Rev. Andrew Liaugminas was to deliver the homily.

Mary Schutter
In addition to a high number of patrons visiting Niles’ Oasis Fun Center, business at Park Ridge and Morton Grove pool facilities has also been going swimmingly, which park staff attribute to a variety of factors.

The temporary closure of 12 Chicago Park District pools for two weeks in June prompted some city dwellers to visit their suburban neighbors’ facilities.

The summer’s record temperatures are also causing more families to flock to the pools in droves to beat the scorching heat.

“The hot weather is a huge contributor,” said Aquatics Manager Jackie Gonzalez, who oversees operations at the Park Ridge Recreation and Park District’s three pools. “I don’t think we’ve hit capacity but we definitely have been keeping busy.”

To date the Park District has sold 5,000 season passes to its pools, which is 300 more than last summer, Gonzalez reported.

Between Memorial Day weekend and mid-July, Centennial Pool, 100 S. Western Ave., had about 1,500 more visits by people who paid the daily admission fee compared with last year’s totals. The number of swipes by season-pass holders increased by 5,000.

Hinkleys Pool, 25 Busse Hwy, opened June 2 and had about 1,000 more daily-fee visits and 2,000 more season-pass visits than last year.

Gonzalez said power outages last year caused quite a few pool closures. This summer the pools have shut down for only a handful of hours, another reason for why numbers are up.

Niles’ experience has been similar.

“Needless to say, with being open almost every day this year, combined with the very hot weather, our daily revenues have increased dramatically over last year,” said Tom Elenz, finance director for the Niles Park District.

As of July 11, the park has sold 35 more season passes than last summer. The total dollar-amount for passes is $108,213, compared with $104,187 last year.

Where the park has seen the biggest increase, though, is in daily swim fees, as the pool brought in $35,800 more than last summer by this time.

Anna Subhani, of Des Plaines, has noticed the uptick in pool dwellers. She brings her two sons, Imad, 4, and Mohammad, 3, to Niles for private swim lessons twice to three times a week.

She likes the kid-friendliness of the center and the fact that it’s less-spread-out than other park pools, but said it got crowded when the weather was extremely warm.

“When the heat wave was going on, we couldn’t sit,” Subhani said. “And everyone was in the pool. It was packed.”

Public pools in Morton Grove are also experiencing record numbers of patrons, Supervisor Jen Tiltges said. “We’ve definitely sold more passes than last year and we’re excited about that,” she said. “We’re doing our part to help the community in the extreme heat.”

Morton Grove has two park facilities with kiddie pools, diving boards and lap lanes. Harrer Pool is at 6350 Dempster St. and Oriole Pool is at 9200 Oriole Ave.

Tiltges said she’s seen a growing number of people come to swim at night when the sun’s rays aren’t as strong. Holidays are also big pool days.

Gym rats, too, are reportedly finding refuge in the water.

Morton Grove’s Oriole Pool is one of the few outdoor facilities with a 50-meter lap lane, Tiltges said.

“It’s a good place for people to get their exercise in when it’s too hot to go out for a run,” she said.
WATER-RATE DISPUTE

Judge: Glenview OK to withhold payments

GLENVIEW — A Cook County judge said last week that the village of Glenview's decision to withhold payment to Niles of two months of water supply while a water rate lawsuit is in litigation does not violate the villagers' water-supply contract.

A Niles lawsuit filed June 23 stated Glenview, by withholding the water payments from Niles and placing them in an escrow account, was in breach of a water supply agreement entered into in 1990. The lawsuit alleged Glenview is withholding the nearly $700,000 as a "water rate protest."

However, Cook County Chancery Court Judge Rita Novak said Glenview was not acting fraudulently in the dispute, said Glenview Communications Director Lynne Stiefel, and dismissed the breach-of-contract claim.

Niles Village Attorney Joe Annunzio said last week that the judge dismissed only parts of the village's lawsuit, and gave Niles 30 days to amend it.

"I'm sure Glenview will make a big deal out of this, but it's all still in litigation," he said.

At the hearing, the judge allowed Niles until July 17 to provide an affidavit stating all documents requested by Glenview to conduct an audit have been produced.

Glenview's lawsuit claims that Niles overcharged for water supplied to North Maine Utilities, which Glenview has owned since 1997, for at least eight years.

Glenview claims Niles must charge North Maine Utilities customers the lowest water rate that it charges any of its residents.

From at least 2002 to 2010, Glenview official state Niles charged its residents a lower rate than it charged North Maine customers, in violation of the water supply agreement. North Maine Utilities serves about 4,800 customers living mostly in unincorporated Maine Township. In addition, Glenview believes North Maine customers were illegally charged for sewer services not actually provided by Niles.

Glenview continues to deposit monthly water payments from North Maine Utilities into an escrow account, as allowed under the agreement for disputed payments.

Niles lawyers up after ruling on Glenview payments

Niles Village Attorney Joe Annunzio confirmed the village's plans to refile the lawsuit alleging Glenview breached the two villages' water-supply agreement.

Niles trustees unanimously approved the hiring of Laner, Muchin, Dombrum, Becker, Levin and Tominak, Ltd., at an emergency board meeting the morning of July 11 following a 30-minute closed session.

The Chicago-based law firm is "dedicated exclusively to the practice of labor and employment law on behalf of management," according to its website, and has litigation lawyers who specialize in representing government-enforcement agencies.

After the meeting Trustee Chris Hanusiak, Jim Hynes and Joe LoVerde would not comment on matters related to the vote other than to confirm their decision.

"We hired legal counsel for litigation and that's all we can comment on," Hynes said. "That's it."

Officials called the emergency meeting the afternoon of July 10 after Cook County Chancery Court Judge Rita Novak said Glenview's decision to withhold payment to Niles for two months of water supply while a water-rate lawsuit is in litigation does not violate the villagers' water-supply contract, which has been in place since 1990.

Niles leveled the June 23 suit alleging Glenview is withholding the nearly $700,000 as a "water rate protest."

As of July 9, Niles had 30 days to amend the suit and until July 17 to provide an affidavit stating all documents requested by Glenview to conduct an audit have been produced.

Niles Village Attorney Joe Annunzio confirmed the village's plans to refile the lawsuit and that Park Ridge firm Judge, James & Kuwata, LLC would remain as lead counsel on the case.

VILLAGE BRIEF

Niles earns Clean Air Counts award

At the June 26 Board of Trustees meeting, Mayor Robert Callero recognized the Village of Niles Environmental Committee for receiving the Clean Air Counts Gold Award for implementing clean-air strategies in Niles, according to a news release.

The Environmental Committee members are Trustee Rosemary Palicki, chair; Steven Vineziano, assistant village manager; Joseph Annunzio, village attorney; and residents Donna Hriljac, Bob Johnson and Chris Zalinski.

Clean Air Counts is a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, City of Chicago, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The multi-year initiative seeks to achieve specific and significant reductions in targeted smog-forming pollutants and major reductions in energy consumption.
Attorney sides with mayor on Van Geem appointment

NILES — Two outside attorneys hired by the village of Niles to inform trustees that they are unable to discharge Village Manager George Van Geem unless Mayor Robert Callero appoints someone else to the position.

"George (Van Geem) was the last person appointed so he remains in that position," Village Attorney Joseph Annunzio said.

Annunzio explained that Van Geem's position is considered a "holdover," as Callero did not receive the advice and consent of the board when the mayor recently reappointed Van Geem as village manager. He said the firms responded that "holdovers" can't be moved from their positions unless the mayor appoints someone in their place.

"The mayor evidently can appoint on a temporary basis without our advice and consent," said Trustee Rosemary Palicki, one of the trustees who had pushed to have Van Geem discharged.

Annunzio hired the two law firms, Ancel Glink and Holland & Knight, in recent months to address questions from a majority of trustees on the board who wanted Van Geem discharged. Van Geem was offered a six-month severance package, but he rejected the trustees' offer.

"I think the mayor got the answer he was looking for," Van Geem told the Niles Herald-Spectator on July 18.

Callero would not reveal the specifics of the opinion.

"What they said we can't disclose because it's attorney-client privilege," Callero said.

Trustee Jim Hynes said: "All I can say is that we got the opinion and everyone's just trying to see what, if anything, that will lead to."

How Illinois lawmakers voted in Congress

Week ending July 13

Major roll call votes in the Senate

| Bill Number | Description | Senator (Party) | Vote
|-------------|-------------|----------------|------
| S 2231      | Tax Credits for Hiring | Sen. Richard Durbin (D) | Yes
| S 2237      | Cantor Tax Plan | Sen. Mark Kirk (R) | Did Not Vote

Major roll call votes in the House

| Bill Number | Description | Representative (Party) | Vote
|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|------
| HR 6019     | Abolish 2010 Law | Rep. Peter Roskam (R) | Yes
| HR 4402     | Abandon Mines | Rep. Robert Dold (R) | Yes
| HR 6079     | Republican Bill | Rep. Mike Quigley (D) | Yes

Key votes ahead

In the week of July 16, the House will debate the 2013 defense budget and a bill related to mandatory, across-the-board spending cuts set for next year. The Senate will take up the DISCLOSE Act, which requires public disclosure of those now making large campaign contributions in secret.

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DAR chapter honors students for history studies, citizenship

The Twenty First Star Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recognized Good Citizens and American History Scholars at area high schools, a news release stated.

To receive a Good Citizen award the students need to demonstrate leadership, service, dependability and patriotism, and be recognized by their teachers and members of the senior class for these accomplishments.

To receive an award for outstanding work in American History, the criteria differs from each school but include scholarship, academic excellence, a passion for history, a love of learning and a positive attitude.

Eight students from the Maine and Niles Townships high schools were acknowledged at their year-end award ceremonies. Twenty First Star Chapter DAR members Nancy Meyer, Pat Gould, Bonnie Reese and Barrie Shinn congratulated the students. Niles History Scholars will be announced in the fall.

Scholars recognized include:
- Maine East - Good Citizen, Angela Marie Wong; History Scholar, Theodora Ivanova.
- Maine South - Good Citizen, Margaret McCabe; History Scholar, Pha Thaprawat.
- Maine West - Good Citizen, Margaret McCabe; History Scholar, Pha Thaprawat.
- Maine South - Good Citizen, Patrick Wohl; History Scholar, Natalie Kirchoff.
- Niles North - Good Citizen, Sumona Munshi.
- Niles West - Good Citizen, Julia Rose Zasso.

Any woman age 18 or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Twenty First Star Chapter provides genealogy research assistance. Contact Dorothy Wilson at (847) 328-6946 for more information.

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Mame South memoirs

Alum's new play reflects on high school, boasts cast of former Hawks

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Matthew Martello's memories of Maine South High School helped shape the story behind his latest play. The play, titled "A Touch of Class," is based on his own experiences in Maine South's theater department, as well as those of his late father, drama teacher and director Don Martello.

Staged readings of "A Touch of Class," featuring a cast of former Maine South students including Jennifer Stirling, Paige Driscoll and Jamie Misevich, will be held July 27 and 28 at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago.

Matthew Martello, a 1990 graduate of Maine South and also a 15-year high school drama teacher, was inspired to write "A Touch of Class" last summer based on his own experiences in Maine South's theater department, as well as those of his late father, drama teacher and director Don Martello.

"It basically turned into a tribute to all the different people who have been important influences on my theatrical life," Martello explained.

The play is especially a tribute to Martello's father, who taught and directed plays and musicals at Maine South for 23 years until his retirement in 1990, and his colleague, Hal Schuman.

The play tells the story of Carole Schuman, a longtime high-school drama teacher who loves her job and has no plans to retire. The story is based on the lives of the students she teaches. In response to the news, her students decide to organize an alumni reunion in honor of Schuman's honor, but it turns into a race against time.

"It's ultimately her facing the final curtain, as it were," Martello said.

The playwright explains that the fictional characters were modeled on people he knew from his Maine South days and many of the lines in the play were taken from real life.

The cancer struggle experienced by the character of Carole Schuman, for example, bears a similarity to that of Chastain, who died from cancer in 1975.

"I am excited for this play to have a second audience, especially in Maine South's back yard, where many of the references in the play will not be lost among the former students of my father and Mr. Chastain," Martello said. "Ultimately, I am looking for this weekend to be a celebration of the Chastain/Martello years in Maine South."

Because the story features the congregating of student alumni, so does make-up of the play's cast. Appearing in the performance are Becky Buford Bernhardy, class of 1976, as Carole Schuman; Patti Henebery Sponholz, class of 1976, as Evelyn; Dr. Bill Forrest; and Mary Morman Honager, class of 1990, as Mrs. Kaszab.

Matthew Martello will play the principal, Ron Fraser, and Schuman's students will be played by Martello's own students from Dexter High School in Dexter, Mich.: Jamie Misevich, Jennifer Stirling and Paige Driscoll.

"It's not only the teachers, but also students and friends of mine who have been positive influences on my theatrical life," Martello said.

As a Maine South student Martello acted in several plays under his father's direction, including "The Crucible," "West Side Story" and "Carousel." But getting a role wasn't that easy the first time around. When 13 actors auditioned for a dozen roles in "The Man Who Came to Dinner," Martello opted not to cast his son — but had plenty of constructive advice for the budding actor who, due to another student dropping out of the play, ended up with a role anyway.

"He had so much grace and class," Martello recalled of his father, who died just three years after retiring from teaching. "I've done a lot and accomplished a lot," he said. "This was kind of a nice tribute I was inspired to write." A portion of the proceeds from "A Touch of Class" will go to the Hal Chastain Memorial Thespian Scholarship program, which Martello established after Chastain's death for students involved in the speech/drama programs at Maine South who plan to major in theater in college.

"A Touch of Class" will be at 7:30 p.m. July 27 and at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. July 28. Tickets are $15 and can be reserved by calling David Downing at (847) 856-4148 or emailing Dedown58@aol.com.
EDUCATION IN FOCUS

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Each District 71 sixth-grader to have own iPad at school
BY NATASHA WATINSKI
Contributor

Next school year, sixth-grade Culver students might be less-inclined to grumble when their summer break is over — as each and every one of them will be greeted the first day of school with one of the most popular media devices on the market: an iPad.

The Niles Elementary School District 71 Board of Education recently approved a technology initiative that aims to integrate wireless and WI-FI-enabled tablets into daily classroom instruction.

“Students need to be flexible, technological learners,” said Superintendent Amy Kruppe, adding that the Apple tablet is an “amazing learning tool” the district could afford.

Starting in the fall Culver School’s two-sixth-grade classrooms will each be equipped with their own mobile computing cart and 30 iPads. The district reported $36,665.

The school now has one iPad cart that is shared among all grade levels.

“This is just staying up, not getting ahead,” she said.

District 71 Superintendent Amy Kruppe, Technology Director Jon Urbanski, and Culver School sixth-grade teacher Margie Pannella stand with the school’s mobile computing cart, which stores and charges 30 Apple iPads at a time. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

The plan is not making sense, she said. “Our vision is to each year add another class,” Kruppe said.

District 71 will look to expand its program by adding a one-to-one computer component to seventh-grade classrooms in the 2013-14 school year, and then eighth-grade the year after that.

“Everyone is going with the one-on-one devices,” agreed board member Tina Nielsen, who works at West Northfield School District 31.

Kruppe said iPads are already or will be owned by the district and remain at school at all times.

Technology Director Jon Urbanski now controls and monitors what users do on the devices, from websites visited to apps downloaded. Surfing that led the board to approve a service plan with more bandwidth to support multimedia.

Kruppe said that though the new Internet system is yet to be in place the district had received assurances from multiple companies that the proposed changes would be enough to accommodate more computer devices.

 Urbanski added that three or four Internet-access points would be needed in sixth-grade classrooms, which would provide more than enough support for the iPads, he said.

The board ultimately approved the purchase of new iPads on a 5-2 vote with Kruppe and Mahoney opposed.
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### Local Laws

Most suburban police departments have ordinances allowing them to write tickets for possession of small amounts of marijuana. Patrol officers can decide to ticket instead of resorting to state misdemeanor charges if the amounts are small enough. Chicago passed a marijuana-ticket ordinance June 27.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Local marijuana ticket option?</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>15 grams or less</td>
<td>$250-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deerfield</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 30 grams</td>
<td>up to $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evanston</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>10 grams or less</td>
<td>$50-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenco</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 25 grams</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenview</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 10 grams</td>
<td>$100-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>&quot;very small amount&quot;</td>
<td>$25-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keniaworth</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 10 grams</td>
<td>$50-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>not specified</td>
<td>$50-$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northbrook</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 10 grams</td>
<td>up to $750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northfield</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 25 grams</td>
<td>$25-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Ridge</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>&quot;very small amounts&quot;</td>
<td>$500-$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skokie</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 25 grams</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td>Wilmette</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 10 grams</td>
<td>$50-$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnetka</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>under 10 grams</td>
<td>$25-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois law</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>under 2.5 grams</td>
<td>up to $500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**A CLOSER LOOK**

**Ticketing for pot? It’s been practice in 'burbs for years**

**BY IRV LEAVITT**

ileavitt@pioneerlocal.com

Chicago, having passed an ordinance late last month to allow tickets for possession of small amounts of marijuana, has joined a big Illinois club, founded in suburbs more than 30 years ago.

Local cops say they, too, save time by writing tickets instead of always pressing state charges. And those cited are less-likely to rue the day they were caught, when applying for a job or to college.

But it’s not a panacea.

The stakes for those charged under state law were described last fall by Richard Mosley Jr., a pastor at Hemenway United Methodist Church in Evanston, when that city finally joined the pot-ticket club.

A criminal conviction for marijuana can block a young person “from opportunities you normally would have,” he said. “We all make mistakes, and sometimes we need assistance overcoming the barriers to enable us to move forward.”

The use of traffic-ticket like citations doesn’t mean the problems of a youthful dope smoker are ignored, said Dr. John Conlin, Northfield Police psychologist. If a youth gets a Northfield marijuana ticket, his parents are likely to get a call or letter from Conlin.

“It makes perfect sense... because then, I can make contact with them or their parents, and we can see whether he needs help, or it’s just experimentation,” he said. “So parents can put their efforts into evaluating what’s going on with their sons and daughters, rather than spending it all on attorneys and legal fees.”

It might be wise to get a lawyer anyway, said Shelley Sutker-Dermer, presiding judge of...
the Second Municipal District Circuit Court of Cook County.

Though a paid ticket won't show up in normal background checks, it doesn't disappear. It's there for all to see who stroll over to the computers in her courthouse.

That information is highly unlikely to interfere in an application to Harvard or Ab- bott Labs. But those with designs on a political career might want to try to get supervision so the ticket can be easily expunged.

Better yet, she said, in Skokie, young people ticketed on a variety of offenses are invited to get on a fast-track to a dismissal by the village prosecutor, followed by expungement.

The kids, under 18, go to court, but the idea is that they get whatever help they need, and if they get through their programs, Skokie drops their tickets. The paperwork is automatically sent to Sutker-Derm for expungement.

"Deferred prosecution is our goal, not to hammer the kids," Skokie Asst. Corporation Barbara Mangler said Friday. "The most important thing about our program is early intervention."

Skokie's Youth Outreach Program began in 1998.

The Park Ridge Police Department addresses marijuana possession on a case-by-case basis, factoring in the amount of suspected marijuana, the age of the individual, and prior contacts and arrests associated with drug possession, explained Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen.

"Our goal is restorative justice and we want to get people to the right way of thinking for themselves and for their health," he said.

Normally, small amounts of marijuana warrant a local ordinance citation, which requires the offender to appear before the city's adjudication hearing officer, Jogmen said. That officer can then impose fines of $500 to $1,000 per violation or assign community service. For offenders younger than 21, the hearing officer can require attendance in a substance-abuse program.

Usually state charges, which require the posting of bond and appearance in Cook County Circuit Court, are imposed when the amount of marijuana exceeds 30 grams. But repeat offenders, even those found with a small amount of marijuana, can also face state charges, Jogmen indicated.

"There is no black and white, no set policy to determine which person gets which," he said. "It's clearly determined based on circumstances, the age and the quantity."

Jogmen added: "In our practice, we reserve the local ordinance citations for very small amounts."

The city's Municipal Code defines "simple possession" as under 30 grams of marijuana.

In neighboring Niles local ordinance citations are normally issued in cases in which less than 2 grams of marijuana are seized, said Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene. Anything under 10 grams can also warrant a citation, but officers have discretion and may file state charges if the suspect has a criminal history or is carrying a large amount of money that may indicate drug dealing, Tornabene said.

A marijuana offense combined with another crime will result in a state charge, as well, he added.

Tornabene said the Police Department averages about two local ordinance citations per month for marijuana possession and generally issues more citations than state charges yearly.

"It's probably more local ordinance citations because the vast majority (of offenses) we are coming across are well-under 5 grams on average," he said.

Issuing a citation and writing up the police report can take between 30 and 45 minutes. Those who are issued the citation are required to appear before an adjudication hearing officer who can impose fines, community service or a combination of the two.

Morton Grove does not have a local drug ordinance and all cases where arrests are made, suspects are charged under state law and must appear in Cook County Circuit Court.

"We follow the state law," said Paul Yaras, Morton Grove police commander. "Under state law, possession of less than 2.5 grams of marijuana is a Class C misdemeanor, or, Yaras said. Bond for those offenses is automatically set at $80."

For possession of larger amounts, Class A or B charges, bond is $150. Yaras said the village has so far not looked at the possibility of creating a local ordinance that would allow officers to issue court-appearance tickets.

"We have not really tackled that yet," he said. "We just have not gotten to that area."

But Yaras said like with other offenses, such as traffic violations, officers have the discretion to release someone without charges. If an officer does release someone in possession of marijuana, Yaras said the officer still confiscates the drug and brings it back to the police station to be destroyed.

Some departments mostly use state charges, and tickets just for first-timers. Other departments are more liberal.

"The fine amount for our possession of marijuana tickets is $100, but it can increase with subsequent occurrences," Glenview Police Sgt. David Sostak said in an e-mail. "A person written an ordinance ticket can either pay the fine or request a court date."

-- Contributing: Jennifer Johnson, Nick Katz, Pat Krochmal, Karen Berkowit Bob Seidenberg, Charles Berman and Bridget O'Shea.
**PROPERTY TRANSFERS**

**MORTON GROVE**

- **7237 Foster St:** Virginia Dimoulas to Nicholas Panagopoulos for $565,000 on May 1
- **8531 Menard Ave:** Gagwood Emerson Llc to Rendie Rames Jimenez for $186,000 on May 10
- **9128 Newcastle Ave:** Rbs Citizens to Ashraf Memon I for $165,000 on May 16
- **9800 Waukegan Rd Unit 110E:** Mary A Kokenos to Edith Nutescu for $73,000 on March 22

**NILES**

- **8461 N Oleander Ave:** Dendorbres LLC Series 8461 Oleander Niles II to Lorraine F Scott for $425,000 on May 9
- **8510 W Normal Ave:** Evergreen Real Estate Inv Inc to Christina Fitsalos for $235,000 on April 12
- **8000 W Foster Ln Unit B505:** Jessica Schorsch to Shahen Kesheshian for $84,500 on May 3

**EVANSTON**

- **701 Ingleside Pl:** David W Williams to Melanie Wendt for $867,500 on May 11
- **839 Lincoln St:** James Laukkanen to Steven M Zelditch for $600,000 on May 1
- **1000 Elmwood Ave:** Gregory C Bays to Allen J Rein for $675,000 on May 18
- **1612 Lincoln St:** Elaine Weiss to Ndele Sutton for $552,000 on April 24
- **333 Ashland Ave:** Margaret N Campos to Terri L Imbo for $492,000 on April 27
- **2402 Ridgeway St:** E Martin Egelson to Daniel G Johannson for $402,000 on May 22
- **9738 Chicago Ave Unit 403:** Julian Sotnick to Hek-Joeng for $178,000 on April 29

**GLENCOE**

- **115 Park Ave:** Michael H Cohan to Neil Wilcock for $1,862,500 on May 23
- **648 Sunset Ln:** Michael A Janse to Nicole E Relfman for $1,180,000 on May 18
- **1000 Sheridan Rd:** James H Scholfeild to Jeffrey S Adler for $964,000 on July 27
- **481 Jefferson Ave:** Jeanne M Bischoff to Fabio Sorano for $420,000 on May 10

**GLENVIEW**

- **1535 Milwaukee Ave:** M Six Ltd Ps to 6 Operating Lp Motel for $3,346,000 on May 18
- **3327 Bellwood Ln:** Estrella Novales to Markus Giddland for $680,000 on May 17
- **703 York Rd:** Richard J Adler Jr to Alfred Jasser for $775,000 on May 14

**NORTHFIELD**

- **220 Latrobe Ave:** Michael Adams to Stephen Collins for $241,000 on May 4

**SKOKIE**

- **8943 Lamon Ave:** Shimon Samuel to William Abraham for $320,000 on May 17
- **9838 N Karlov Ave:** Tracey Kita Lipeig to Matthew G Golosinski for $311,500 on May 16
- **9421 Lockwood Ave:** Julia C Paulk to Ida Bonanno for $250,000 on April 30
- **2780 Kenneth Ave:** Nick Drehoobl to Christopher F Mayer for $246,000 on May 17

**WILMETTE**

- **841 Oakwood Ave:** Frederick Schapp to Arthur Gunther for $1,550,000 on May 15
- **3827 Enfield Ave:** Maestro Gen Contr Inc to Constantza Llc for $121,000 on May 17

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— John Puterbaugh, jputerbaugh@suntimes.com

LA GRANGE
$866,000
30 North Brainard Ave.
House Size: 3,826
Lot size: 6,863
Year built: 2008
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3.5
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $19,414 (2010)
Agent: Dean Rouso, 708-354-7355
http://deanrouso.bairdwarner.com/property/15513055/

LIBERTYVILLE
$899,000
1216 Ashbury Lane
House Size: 4,106 square feet
Lot size: 24,559 square feet
Year built: 1997
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 4.5
Garage: 3-car attached
Most recent available tax: $21,022.67 (2011)
Agent: Pat Bell, 847-367-1171, ext. 248
http://www.kreuserandsceier.com/

BARRINGTON
$859,000
934 Lakewood Drive
House Size: 4,411 square feet
Lot size: 14,105 square feet
Year built: 1991
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3
Garage: 3-car attached
Most recent available tax: $13,775 (2010)
Agent: Brad Cartwright, 847-934-5188
http://934lakewooddrive.bairdwarner.com/

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The patio at Play Book sports bar is a popular spot to spend summer nights socializing with friends. "During the summer every single day the patio is full," Manager Lukas Rojek said.

Play Book sports bar, at 6913 Milwaukee Ave., will celebrate its first year in business with a special reception July 27.

Sports fans can watch nearly any type of sport at Play Book, including football, basketball, boxing and soccer.

"We have a lot of different food items to choose from," Rojek said, adding that the business boasts a wide variety of appetizers, soups and salads, sliders, pizza, sandwiches, half-pound angus burgers and various dinner entrees.

"It's a full menu with something for everybody," Rojek said.

Playbook offers 32 different types of beer and a variety of vodka and whiskey, as well. Customers can watch the games from several different TVs throughout the bar — including a 100-inch big-screen.

A regular, Sam Digangi, said it's a combination of so many factors that make Play Book his regular spot.

"There's a lot of TVs," said Digangi, of Norridge, adding that the food is delicious and he loves the varied options on the menu. "The ambiance is so upscale."

Digangi said all of the staff members are friendly and they run the bar with professionalism. He enjoys the neighborhood-bar feel Play Book has during certain times, as well as the club vibe that it has on a Friday and Saturday nights.

Weekends get rockin' at the bar with patrons dancing to music provided by disc jockeys. Rojek said customers can enjoy a meal and drinks with friends while watching sports and socializing. The bar features an after-work social scene from 3-7 p.m. Monday through Friday offering a $4 appetizer menu.

The bar also features live music on certain nights and trivia nights, during which players have a chance to win cash prizes. A "Family Guy" trivia night will be held July 18 and the winning team will win $300.

Customers on Thursday evenings also have the chance to compete in "Karaoke Idol," which of course is Play Book's second season for "Karaoke Idol," a 15-week long contest. Rojek said certain events, such as the trivia event based on "American Idol" — the winner of which brings home $1,000. This is the second season for "Karaoke Idol,"

Rojek said Play Book is more upscale than other sports bars, boasting an attractive exterior and interior.

The bar is extra-packed when the Chicago Bears or Bulls are playing, Rojek noted. He said EuroCup was very popular this year, as well. Rojek said certain events, such as the trivia event based on TV's "Friends," bring in a big crowd even on a weekday afternoon.

Rojek said Niles has been a great location for the sports bar.

"We have a huge, diverse crowd," he said.

Play Book hosted the Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the village of Niles Christmas party in December.

By Tracy Gruen

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Sports bar makes a play to be Niles' fave hangout

UP CLOSE

NAME: Play Book sports bar.
SPECIALTY: Bar food, spirits and sports watching.
ADDRESS: 6913 Milwaukee Ave., Niles
HOURS: 11:30-2 a.m., Mon.-Wed.; 11:30-4 a.m. Thurs. and Fri.; noon-4 a.m. Sat.; noon-2 a.m. Sun.

DINNER SPECIALS
SERVED MONDAY-SUNDAY 4:00-9:00 PM WITH SOUP OR SALAD

- B.B.Q. BABY BACK RIBS — 18th and the winning team will win $300. The bar is extra-packed when the Chicago Bears or Bulls are playing, Rojek noted. He said EuroCup was very popular this year, as well. Rojek said certain events, such as the trivia event based on TV's "Friends," bring in a big crowd even on a weekday afternoon.

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DINNER SPECIALS
SERVED MONDAY-SUNDAY 4:00-9:00 PM WITH SOUP OR SALAD

- B.B.Q. BABY BACK RIBS — Half slab pork ribs marinated 24 hours slowly cooked and served with Cole slaw and choice of potato. 
- TUSCAN CHICKEN PANINI — Grilled chicken breast with pesto, fresh mozz, lettuce and tomato on Italian bread & choice of soup or fries.
- FRIED PERCH — Perch filet deep fried and served with Cole slaw, French fries, and tartar sauce.
- WHITE FISH ALA GUSTO — Lake Superior white fish broiled and served on a Bed of Spinach and marinara sauce.
- PRIME RIB SAND — Grilled Prime Rib on French bread with French fries and side of horse radish sauce.
- PEPPER AND EGG SAND — Served on multi grain toast with French fries or soup.
- SUMMER SALAD — With crispy greens, avocado, diced tomatoes, Caramelized walnuts, fresh mozz, navel Oranges, Strawberries and citrus dressing.

LUNCH SPECIALS
SERVED MONDAY-FRIDAY 11:00-3:00 PM

- BBQ BABY BACK RIBS — Half slab pork ribs marinated 24 hours slowly cooked and served with Cole slaw and choice of potato.
- TUSCAN CHICKEN PANINI — Grilled chicken breast with pesto, fresh mozz, lettuce and tomato on Italian bread & choice of soup or fries.
- FRIED PERCH — Perch filet deep fried and served with Cole slaw, French fries, and tartar sauce.
- WHITE FISH ALA GUSTO — Lake Superior white fish broiled and served on a Bed of Spinach and marinara sauce.
- PRIME RIB SAND — Grilled Prime Rib on French bread with French fries and side of horse radish sauce.
- PEPPER AND EGG SAND — Served on multi grain toast with French fries or soup.
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SERVED MONDAY-SUNDAY 4:00-9:00 PM WITH SOUP OR SALAD

- B.B.Q. BABY BACK RIBS — Half slab pork ribs marinated 24 hours slowly cooked and served with Cole slaw and choice of potato.
- LAMB CHOPS OREGANANO — Grilled lamb chops with fresh mozz, lettuce and tomato on Italian bread & choice of soup or fries.
- WHITE FISH ALA GUSTO — Lake Superior white fish broiled and served on a Bed of Spinach and marinara sauce.
- SMOKE HOUSE PORKTENDERLOIN — Grilled pork tenderloin with fresh mozz, lettuce and tomato on Italian bread & choice of soup or fries.
- VEAL MILLANESE — Grilled veal Milanese with fresh mozz, lettuce and tomato on Italian bread & choice of soup or fries.
- GRILLED SALMON — Grilled salmon with fresh mozz, lettuce and tomato on Italian bread & choice of soup or fries.

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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.

AUTO THEFT

The manager of a dealership on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Avenue reported on July 11 that a Ford vehicle was given as a loaner to an identified suspect and had not been returned.

FRAUD

A 63-year-old Niles woman told police she was the victim of an online bidding scam between July 2 and July 10. The victim told police she went to a few meetings and decided to invest $4,000 in a business, police said. After she saw no return on her investment she researched the company and found out it was a fraudulent site. Investigation is pending.

RETAIL THEFT

Two males of an unknown

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Holiday campaign nets 115 violations

The Niles Police Department in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Transportation conducted a holiday traffic-enforcement campaign from June 17 through July 8, according to a news release.

Officers assigned to this specific enforcement program only worked to look for impaired driving, occupant restraint and vehicle violations.

One-hundred fifteen vehicles were stopped during this period. Below is the breakdown of offenses encountered during the target period:

- DUI arrests, 2
- DUl arresls, 2
- Speeding violations, 5
- Drug violations, 1 (marijuana)
- Other traffic violations, 25

Officers also investigated a domestic dispute and a hit-and-run accident during the campaign.

The violations listed above are above and beyond arrests made by officers assigned to the respective shifts in their patrol capacities.

PARK RIDGE POLICE

Illegal fireworks display sets off charges

Past complaints from neighbors about illegal fireworks being used in a Park Ridge neighborhood led to the arrest of a 55-year-old man on Fourth of July, Park Ridge police said.

Christopher Smith, of the 700 block of North Dee Road,

A 63-year-old Niles woman told police she was cited for possession of fireworks at 12:20 a.m. July 4.

Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen said Smith’s home was on the Police Department’s radar due to complaints from neighbors during the past years that “significant” fireworks were being used on the property.

Jogmen said officers visited Smith’s home July 3, advising him of the complaints the department had received and warning him that he would be cited if he was seen using illegal fireworks.

When officers returned after midnight they reportedly observed fireworks being launched outside the home.

“We don’t normally make a whole lot of arrests for fireworks, but this particular case was one of our directive patrols,” Jogmen explained.

Smith was released on his own recognizance and assigned an Aug. 18 adjudication hearing.

Jogmen said the police report did not indicate the type or amount of fireworks police reportedly found in Smith’s possession.

— By Jennifer Johnson
NILES POLICE

Police sergeant completes officer training program at Northwestern

The Niles Police Department announced the graduation of Sgt. Ronald J. Brandt from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He was among 31 graduates who completed a 10-week rigorous academic training program held March 19 to May 25, according to a news release.

The Northwestern University program provides undergraduate level college instruction in 22 core blocks of instruction and utilizes nine additional blocks of instruction during each session. Topics of study include management and management theory, organizational behavior, human resources for law enforcement, budgeting, staffing allocation and personnel deployment.

Each student is challenged academically through 18 written examinations, projects and quizzes, and a research paper. Upon successful completion, students may be awarded 21 undergraduate credits, which could be applied to other colleges.

Chief of Police Dean Strzelecki cited the program at the School of Police Staff and Command as “an invaluable resource and asset to our agency. The instruction and learning objectives attained are utilized by the supervisory staff at the police department on a regular basis.”

PUBLIC SAFETY EVENT

Enter National Night Out poster contest

Children of Niles residents, village of Niles employees, Niles Park District employees and their family members between the ages of 3 and 12 can enter the National Night Out Poster Contest, sponsored by the Niles Police Department. There will be two age categories: Group 1 is for ages 3-6 and Group 2, ages 7-12. The theme is “Safe and Secure Community.”

Poster suggestions: posters of police, fire, EMS and other government departments working with the community to make the neighborhood safe; positive neighborhood activities that encourage people to get to know and watch out for each other.

Posters should illustrate “what community safety means to you” or can focus on alcohol, drug, or violence prevention. Kids can draw, color or paint their ideas regarding neighborhood and personal safety, such as locking bikes, locking front doors or leaving porch lights on.

Prizes are provided by local banks and businesses for the best in group and runner-up.

Any drawing, painting materials or combination (crayon, paint, pencil,) on paper may be used. Original artwork only, not computer generated. Bold colors are encouraged. Posters may be submitted on plain paper or poster board not to exceed 22- by 28-inches.

Deadline is 8 a.m. July 30. Mail or deliver to: Niles Police Department, Attention Sgt. Tornabene, at 7000 W. Touhy Ave., Niles IL 60714. Must be delivered; judging will be at 2 p.m. Aug. 1. All posters will be displayed at the National Night Out event scheduled for Aug. 7 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the National Night Out at Washington Park on 8900 block of Washington.

NIKE THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2012 | WWW.PIONEERLOCAL.COM | 23
Holy beef patty, Batman!
Do they eat burgers in Gotham City?
Margarita Challenger thinks so.

In anticipation of the newest Batman movie, "The Dark Knight Rises," Challenger has produced a Batman Burger that will be on the menu at her restaurant in Glencoe, Everest Burger, starting July 20 when the film is released.

"It's a burger that Batman would eat," Challenger said.
This grilled grass-fed beef patty on a Batman bun — an organic hamburger bun made at Everest Burger — is topped with a thin slice of mild cheddar cheese from Wisconsin.

Bat cheese
But this isn't just any Wisconsin cheese slice.
This cheese is cut into the shape of the famous Batman logo. Challenger traced the logo onto a sturdy piece of paper, cut out the image and used the stencil as a guide to cut the cheese with a knife. "The first one came out so well, I was really excited about it," she said. "It was a lot of fun."
Challenger bakes the cheese into the bread, but the same effect can be achieved easily at home by melting a Batman cheese slice onto a bun in a hot oven. The same technique can be used to make Batman cheeseburgers. Place cheese slices cut into the shape of the Batman logo on top of hamburger patties during the last few minutes on the grill.
Challenger felt like she was on a caped crusade of her own trying to make the bread look dark. "I really wanted to make a black bun," Challenger said.
She experimented by making buns with Kalamata olives (classic black olives from the Kalamata region of Greece), but decided they didn't make the bread dark enough. She even tried blackberry juice, but the bread dough was still too light to represent the dark knight. Even purple cabbage juice didn't work. So she cast a fitting shadow on the burger with a spread as grim as the mood Batman evokes, and packed with flavor that comes from Kalamata olives. "The olive spread ended up doing a good job of giving the burger a little element of darkness," she said.

Challenger's Batman burger will be served with a choice of sides that complement the brooding burger: purple-colored potatoes or fresh fries made from purple-colored potatoes.
And for even more gloom, Challenger uses a deep purple cabbage in the coleslaw that accompanies her burger. She tops the slaw off with a few slices of yellow zucchini skins arranged in the shape of the iconic Batman lightning bolt.
"That ties it all up," she said.

Deep Purple Batman Coleslaw
By Chef Margarita Challenger

1 small head of purple cabbage, finely shredded
1 yellow zucchini (skin only), finely shredded
% cup canola oil mayonnaise
% cup plain yogurt
2 tablespoons white vinegar
% cup honey
Salt and pepper, to taste

Mix together purple cabbage and shredded yellow zucchini and set aside. In a bowl, whisk mayonnaise, yogurt, vinegar and honey together until mix is completely blended. Add mixture to cabbage and adjust with salt and pepper to taste.

Everest Burger is at 91-93 Green Bay Road in Glencoe everestburger.com
FOOD FEATURE

Student's snow-cone stand could become cool career

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerdocal.com

Home for summer vacation, college student Jack McClure decided to get a head start on his post-education career.

Having sampled an array of Hawaiian shaved ice at Tropical Sno in Willow Springs, McClure was inspired to open his own franchise for what has been a hot, snow-coneworthy summer.

Tropical Sno is now occupying space in the former Colonial Coffee Shop, 800 W. Devon Ave., Park Ridge. McClure expects to remain open until at least early-September before he heads back to Miami University to begin his sophomore year.

McClure, of Burr Ridge, noted that the Tropical Sno in Willow Springs appeared to be quite successful and he learned that anyone can apply to sell the product. According to parent company Pioneer Family Brands, Inc., Tropical Sno is sold in every state in the United States, as well as in more than 30 other countries.

"I thought it would be a good learning experience, plus a good way to earn some money," McClure, 18, said of his business venture.

Hawaiian shaved ice is essentially another take on the traditional summer snow cone. At Tropical Sno there are 82 different flavors of shaved ice available, from strawberry, lemon and raspberry to combinations that have names like Tiger's Blood (strawberry and coconut) and Rock 'n Roll (grape, blue raspberry and blueberry).

The shop offers three different sizes of shaved ice and strawberry-banana seems to be the most-popular flavor.

McClure, finding the Colonial Coffee Shop vacant and available at a reasonable cost, moved in and opened to the community over Memorial Day weekend.

"It's been going pretty well so far," he said, but acknowledged that with the hot summer weather he had anticipated a far larger crowd.

"Not as many people have come out as we would like," he said.

As an entrepreneur McClure manages three employees and has learned the ins and outs of marketing his product, as well as handling payrolls and daily accounts.

"It helps me with managing all aspects of a business," he said of the experience.

This is McClure's first time running a business and he believes it is "potentially" something he would like to do once he finishes college.

"It's definitely an option I'm considering," he said.
Say, did you happen to see my check for $100 large?

Dear Fixer: I recently found an old bank check from 1991 that is still valid, according to the automated phone number on the back of the check. I tried depositing the check in my bank, but they returned it saying they wanted me to have the check re-issued.

The issuing bank was The Steel City National Bank, which no longer exists but seems to be connected to CitiBank.

At the CitiBank branch, they said they could not find an issuing bank to have it re-issued, and they could not do it themselves because it was more than $100,000. Calling CitiBank's customer service got me similar answers.

Nobody seems to know how to process this check — or be able to find a bank that can re-issue the check.

Laveda Peterlin

Dear Laveda: Well, this was quite the mystery. But first — we have to say, if The Fixer lost $50, it would be enough to ruin our day. How does someone misplace more than a hundred grand?

You told us that after your ex-husband Charles — with whom you maintained a friendly relationship — passed away in March, you found an envelope at his home that contained receipts from several CDs he apparently had cashed in when you two were still married. Tucked behind those receipts was a check from 1991 made out to "Charles Peterlin or Laveda Peterlin" from The Steel City National Bank of Chicago. The amount: $102,817.90.

Besides your unsuccessful attempt to cash the check at your bank, you also tried the old Illinois Cash Dash program for unclaimed funds, with no luck. (More on that in a sec.)

"You remembered a conversation years ago, in which Charles had confided to you that he'd lost a pretty large sum of money. You remembered how upset he was, so you asked us to keep searching."

Some small type on the check read: "CitiBank New York State, Buffalo, NY," so The Fixer thought CitiBank might give us some leads. But it turns out Citi's only involvement was providing a check issuance service to the Steel City National Bank. And while their researchers in San Antonio, Tex., looked high and low, they couldn't find any unclaimed funds. They wondered if Charles had simply stopped that check and got a new one.

But you remembered a conversation years ago, in which Charles had confided to you that he'd lost a pretty large sum of money. You remembered how upset he was, so you asked us to keep searching.

So we asked Matt Butterfield, communications director for Illinois State Treasurer Dan Rutherford, if the treasurer's office could do some sleuthing.

Using a scanned copy of the check, with the check number and amount, they were able to locate the $102K in less than a day! It turns out that unlike the vast majority of funds that are turned over to the state, for some reason these funds were not tagged with Charles' or your name, but only the check number and amount. Butterfield said: That's why it didn't turn up in your initial online search. With the info you provided, they were able to find your family's missing dough.

A claim still needs to be submitted to the state to collect, but the money is there.

How to find your money

And, dear readers, a lot of other money is there, too. The Treasurer's Office says it has $1.5 billion (yes, billion) in unclaimed funds.

They estimate that one in eight Illinois residents has unclaimed money that is just waiting to be found.

The Treasurer's Office recently revamped the old "Cash Dash" program and replaced it with a new website called I-Cash (icash.illinois.gov). They've also recently added about 780,000 new names to their database — names from records before 1992.

State Treasurer Rutherford said last year his office returned $101,679,655. Illinoisans have nothing to lose, and everything to gain" by checking the website, Rutherford says — and The Fixer wholeheartedly agrees.

The unclaimed money includes cash from inactive savings and checking accounts; unpaid wages or commissions; stocks, bonds and mutual funds; money orders and bill overpayments; and paid-up life insurance policies — not to mention the contents of old safe-deposit boxes.

Costly lesson

K.J. was lucky — and then he was not-so-lucky.

First, he won a new mattress set on a televised game show. Yay! But then the mattress started sagging and developing rips and tears.

Sure, the mattress was free, but it was also only four years old and supposedly still under the manufacturer's warranty. K.J. was understandably upset. So he called for someone to come out to his home to inspect it.

It was sagging all right, but the inspector noticed something else: a few small coffee stains on the mattress, less than the size of a quarter.

As many other consumers have come to find out, it's typical in the mattress industry for any stain, no matter how tiny, to automatically void the warranty. And that's what happened here. Sadly, K.J.'s luck with mattresses has run out.

Getting the runaround about a consumer problem?
Go to www.pioneerlocal.com and click on "Tell the Fixer."
Catch Up With the Newspaper

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We asked people at Niles Public Library: How has the recent train-bridge collapse in Glenview affected how you think about railroad safety? Does it make you concerned?

“I am from Germany and over there it is much safer. They are much better with the inspections in Germany.”
SISSI OSTRWO, Niles

“Yes, somewhat. I thought it was all good at first but when I found out people died under that mess I changed my mind.”
DAMARCO WILSON, Niles

“It makes me look at bridges more carefully and when I see one, I think of that poor couple and the family in mourning.”
MICHELLE FOSTER, Des Plaines

“I didn’t think much of it before and I went under it exactly 24 hours before the derailment. When I heard about the collapse, I said ‘Holy crap! I never trusted that bridge.’
JOE FUSINATO, Niles

“I only think about the Metra, but when they found the bodies, I became much more concerned.”
BARBARA ALLGAIER, Niles

Here are the answers to last week’s question:

How are you keeping cool during this hot summer?
1. Neighborhood pool. 19%
2. A Lake Michigan beach. 0%
3. Staying inside with the AC. 65%
4. Snuggling up with a block of dry ice. 0%
5. Nothing. A little heat doesn’t bother me. 16%

This week’s question involves the July 20 release of the film “The Dark Knight Rises.” Who is your favorite “Batman” nemesis from the current film series?
1. The Joker. 17%
2. Bane. 5%
3. Scarecrow. 2%
4. Two-Face. 0%
5. Ra’s al Ghul. 24%

Man’s best friend, eh? That dog don’t hunt

The crime was about to take place in the kitchen. I’d just returned home from Jewel with a grocery bounty. As we have no counter space, the bags were on the floor. I figured, “Hey, I can put the stuff away after the phone call. Give my son some space.” Dodging around him and throwing Campbell’s soup in the cabinets would be disruptive. So I loitered in the adjoining office.

Phone pressed to his ear, my son paced near the stove. An HR director had called him as part of an initial interview for his first part-time job.

From the office, I listened, wringing my hands. My son is renowned for his honesty, once announcing that I was aging like Hillary Clinton. “Ma’am, I see my tests at school, but forget to turn in my homework. I can be forgetful.”

I winced. At this rate, he’d be confessing to being an accomplice to Benedict Arnold.

It was then that the crime occurred. A plastic bag rustled. I spun around in my chair. In the kitchen, I saw the dog rooting around in a grocery sack. His tail wagged frantically, as if saying, “Wow, here’s where they buried the treasure!”

His furry beard moved in a chomping mode. To my horror, I realized he was snarfing down a deli bag containing roast beef.

Scribbling the address on top of a blonde posed in a J. Lo track suit, he confirmed a time for Friday afternoon.

I looked over. The dog licked his chops and smirked. I scowled. Sandwiches were no longer a menu option.

“Kirby!” I hissed.

The next morning, my husband was in a mellow mood. He petted Kirby on the head. Please know that normally my husband is the warden to Kirby’s “Cool Hand Luke.”

“We got a pretty nice dog,” my husband mused. “Trained and everything.”

Kirby* I hissed.

Kirby, the dog

*Kirby*

The next morning, my husband was in a mellow mood. He petted Kirby on the head. Please know that normally my husband is the warden to Kirby’s “Cool Hand Luke.”

“We got a pretty nice dog,” my husband mused. “Trained and everything.”

I spied the empty deli bag under the table where Kirby had dragged it out again.

And because I did not want to see my husband etching Kirby’s name onto a tombstone, I smiled and agreed.
Should a kid's friends be determined by caloric intake?

Oh, hi, Mrs. Mitz. Can Gene come out and play?
"Not with you, he can't, Paul."
How come?
"Gene can't play with you anymore because you are obese."

I'm a beast?
"No, o-bese, that means you are fat. And if we let him play with obese kids he might become obese himself."

This conversation never actually took place. But it might have if a recently released study on child obesity had been around when I was a kid.

The study, by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology of Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, found that a person's circle of friends can influence their weight.

Conducted with high school students, the study found that students were more likely to gain weight if their friends were heavier than they were. And students with friends thinner than they were were more likely to lose weight or gain weight slower than the kids with portly friends.

I'm not sure what to make of this. Should parents allow their kids to play only with thin kids?

I'm not sure what to make of this. Should parents allow their kids to play only with thin kids?

I, for one, hate the ubiquitous plastic bags.

That's why Abby is my new hero.

Abby Goldberg is my new hero.
Abby is the 12-year-old girl from Grayslake who spearheaded a petition drive to stop a bill that would keep local communities from banning plastic bags.

But then she ran into the state bill. After a couple of acts of protest amount to sticking my head in a bag and screaming: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

"I'm not sure what to make of this. Should parents allow their kids to play only with thin kids?"

friends. They made me fat.
"Are they all overweight?"
Oh, no.
"Then why do you blame them?"
Maybe they're carriers of obesity, like Typhoid Mary...
No, that definitely needs some work before I can blame others for my girth.

And it probably wouldn't work, either, if I were stopped for speeding and asked the officer to give the ticket to my circle of friends.

Probably a bad idea.

Let's make sure plastic bags are not the future for Illinois

Abby Goldberg is my new hero.
Abby is the 12-year-old girl from Grayslake who spearheaded a petition drive to stop a bill that would keep local communities from banning plastic bags.

But then she ran into the state bill. Approved by the General Assembly, the bill requires plastic bag manufacturers to provide for recycling of their material. That's a good thing.

But the bill also prevents local communities from banning plastic bags outright.

So Abby switched tactics and gathered more than 150,000 names on petitions asking Gov. Quinn to veto the bill.

That's why Abby is my new hero.
I hope she's Gov. Quinn's, too.

Just when we got rid of the aluminum can poptops, we came up with the plastic bags.

But unlike Abby, I've never really done anything about them.
Oh, I've grumbled about it to friends and relatives when in soap box mode.
I've asked for paper instead of plastic when in line at the grocery store.
But that's about it. In other words, I've just been going along with the flow, carrying my groceries home and occasionally seeing them fall onto the driveway when I'm picking up a ripped bag.

Why fight city hall? Why fight the corporate entities?
For me, and millions in my generation, my acts of protest amount to sticking my head out the window and screaming: "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

But not Abby.
Abby did something about it.
She's taking on city hall. Taking on the corporate interests.
And for Abby's sake, I'm going to get some of those canvas tote bags and start packing my groceries in them rather than in the plastic bags the store hands out.

And I'm urging every town to take up the cause and ban plastic bags before the state forces us to keep using them.

That's why Abby is my new hero.
I hope she's Gov. Quinn's, too.

2012 WHISKEYBLU

Ticket Prices:
Friday, September 21st
Whiskey Blu Cocktail Reception and Ardbeg/Ashton Cigar Event
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
$75
Saturday, September 22nd
Whiskey Blu VIP Admission
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
(Admission includes seminars, VIP Event, and main event)
$175
Whiskey Blu General Admission
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
$125
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WHISKEY BLU 2012

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Sample the robust flavors of world renowned and regional distilleries as Blue Chip hosts the first ever, Whiskey Blu event! The fun begins Friday night, September 21st, with a Whiskey Blu Cocktail Reception featuring Glenmorangie, Woodford Reserve, Jim Beam 46, Journeyman Distillery, Jameson Irish Whiskey and an Ardbeg/Ashton Cigar Event. Whiskey Blu continues Saturday, with the General Admission sampling in the Stardust Event Center. You can also buy VIP tickets for Saturday, which include seminars from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and a VIP Event beginning at 6:00 p.m., as well as access to the General Admission Event. Tickets are on sale now at Ticketmaster.com or the Blue Chip Gift Box.
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Puppetry showcase targets grown-ups

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

It won't be child's play when puppeteers showcase their work at the Puppet Meltdown puppet slam at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre Saturday night. This is the second annual puppet slam put on by the Sea Beast Puppet Company and the Chicago Puppetry Guild.

"Puppet slams are amazing and exciting," said Sea Beast Artistic Director Kat Pleviak, who started the Puppet Meltdown slam last year. "It's a collection of short works of puppetry specifically designed for adults. Slams have been popping up all over the country over the last decade."

Acts are selected following a general call for submissions through the Puppetry Network and a variety of other sources. "Some slams are very loose and it's literally like open mike," Pleviak said. "We curate ours a little bit more. We want pieces with a little bit of polish. The theme of the slam is experimental so it doesn't have to be masterpiece level but we want pieces that have been rehearsed. Then we look at how easy it is to 'tech' because we have to move things very quickly."

They also consider the overall makeup of the slam. "We like to have a diverse selection of styles of puppetry," Pleviak explained.

Puppet variety

The upcoming Puppet Meltdown will feature tabletop puppets, rod puppets, hand puppets and shadow puppets, plus shadow improv, a new form of puppetry that was developed this summer at the O'Neill National Puppetry Conference in Connecticut. "We have some really clever films this time," Pleviak reported. "We have one called, 'Goldfish Swan Lake,' which utilizes actual goldfish."

Pleviak, who holds a master's degree in youth theater and puppetry from the University of Hawaii, will present "The Shadow Puppet Conspiracy," which is an example of shadow improv puppetry. Her company will also show a short video from a series called "Dinosaurs in the Office," which features small dinosaur bobble-head puppets.

Getting weird

Davey Krofta participated in the slam last year and is looking forward to being part of it again. Krofta studied fiber and material at the Cleveland Institute of Art, which basically means pattern-making, weaving and dyeing," he said. "They didn't have a strong focus on making clothes. They wanted people to get a little bit weirder."

Since Krofta was always interested in performance, puppetry was a natural move for him. He started creating props and then worked with a classmate on "Food Parties," a cooking show with puppets on the Independent Film Channel.

Krofta calls his informally organized company, Davey K and Friends. Last year's show was at Gorilla Tango's Chicago space. "It was a real interesting experience because it was the first time I had done any kind of slam," Krofta said. "It was cool to see a bunch of different puppeteers. This is their art. It's not what they get paid for but it's what they love to do."

This year, Krofta's group will present two pieces, both featuring the same puppet — a little blue goblin character. In "The Lonely Necromancer," a mystic will conjure a spirit and send it into the goblin's body. The second piece, "Level Five Dwarf," is "like a live music video for a song that some friends of mine did quite a few years back," Krofta said. "It's about the shenanigans that a little dwarf gets up to on his rise to power in kind of an ode to Dungeons and Dragons."
FAMILY FRIENDLY

Lizards and others leap at library

DEB KROHN

Deb Krohn loves reptiles and amphibians. That’s why she is known as the Frog Lady. Krohn hopes to inspire that love in others from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Aug. 1 when she brings more than 20 live animals to Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

“Reptiles and amphibians are some of the most feared animals,” Krohn said. “My job is to show people how they are, which is really amazing, mostly gentle creatures. I do a brief introduction into the world of herpetology, the study of reptiles and amphibians.”

After describing amphibians, Krohn passes several around in clear viewing containers.

“People really start getting excited when we bring out the reptiles,” Krohn said. “All of my reptiles are rescues or adoptions.” Krohn also will bring four or five snakes. “Three snakes that I use for almost every show have literally been held by thousands of people,” she reported.

Registration begins Saturday.

For details, call (847) 825-3123 or visit parkridgelibrary.org.

All together now

There will be an hour of songs plus hands-on musical activities during the campfire sing-along at 10 a.m. July 27 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. The event is for the entire family.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or visit nileslibrary.org.
Fascinating, frustrating 'Farewell'

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

FAREWELL, MY QUEEN

While there's fascination in the idea that great historical events can be understood from the fresh perspective of lowly bystanders — what might Napoleon's third-assistant valet, for example, have made of Waterloo? — there's a fair amount of built-in frustration as well.

Both are very much evident in "Farewell, My Queen," a revisionist, servant's-eye view of Marie Antoinette's final days of power and privilege that turns a minor lady-in-waiting into the drama's main character, without providing much illumination, ultimately, about her or her beloved royal employer.

However, the point of view she provides about down-stairs and back-stairs life during the queen's final days at Versailles offers considerably more substance than Sofia Coppola's frivolous, New Age "Marie Antoinette."

The first film in several years to be released by the veteran French writer-director Benoît Jacquot ("A Single Girl"), "Farewell, My Queen" opens with young Sidonie Laborde (Lea Seydoux, the female assassin of "Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol") waking in her tiny cell of a room to the chiming of a golden clock worth several lifetimes of her salary, and rushing to the bedchamber of Marie Antoinette (former German supermodel Diane Kruger).

Sidonie is the queen's reader, who reads aloud from novels and plays and occasionally engages in impassioned line readings from stage romances with the queen. Her job gives her an unusually intimate acquaintance with Marie Antoinette, and it's clear that she has a fiercely protective love for the queen, as well as the hidden ambition to perhaps become one of her special favorites — along the same lines as Marie Antoinette's scandalous (and, in this treatment, blatantly lesbian) love affair with the Countess Polignac (Virginie Ledoyen).

Of course, events conspire against her.

The film opens on July 13, 1789, the day before the storming of the Bastille, and Jacquot proceeds from establishing the rot at the heart of life in Versailles (represented by mosquitoes rising from the stagnant swamp providing the palace drinking water and by the dead rats in every nook and cranny) to revealing the panic and cowardice and shifting allegiances that consume the court as rumors spread of the peasant uprising.

A large part of the plot is devoted to capable, no-nonsense Sidonie's efforts to learn the truth about the revolution, swapping favors for information, and doing all she can to protect her queen, though Marie Antoinette's seeming affection for her eventually proves to be a cruel illusion.

Jacquot has long been known for his skill at directing actresses, and the performances of Kruger (whose Marie Antoinette is more confused and overwhelmed than let-them-eat-cake arrogant), Seydoux and Ledoyen are this film's greatest strengths, along with his rare privilege of being allowed to film on location in Versailles.

Unfortunately, while "Farewell, My Queen" begins with the briskness and intelligence Sidonie provides, it gradually loses its drive and focus, partially because her perspective is so severely limited. She witnesses important events, but only from far out on the margins, except for her occasional intimate interactions with the queen. At points, the story can only proceed with dramatic insights that she has literally dreamed, and which may or may not be true.

As a result, "Farewell, My Queen" is up-close and personal, but also oddly detached and un-engaging. We can only see what Sidonie sees and feel what she feels and, in the end, while intriguing, that's not quite enough.
FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAY

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
Rated: Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some sensuality and language
Stars: Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway
Despite being blamed for the destruction in "The Dark Knight," Batman (Bale) feels compelled to intervene when Gotham City is threatened by the super-criminal Bane (Hardy). Christopher Nolan returns as director.

FAREWELL, MY QUEEN
Rated: R for brief graphic nudity and language
Stars: Diane Kruger, Lea Seydoux, Xavier Beauvois
The final days of Marie Antoinette are observed from the point of view of a female member of her court. Benoît Jacquot ("A Single Girl") wrote and directed the period drama. In French with subtitles.

STILL PLAYING

ICELAND
CONTINENTAL DRIFT
Rated: PG for mild rude humor and action/ peril
Stars: Ray Romano, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo
It's taken awhile to wring the last bits of inspiration out of the "Ice Age" franchise, which, until now, has at least been good for a few laughs. In this installment, the herd after being cast adrift on an ice floe, while a really mean orangutan pirate captain (Peter Dinklage) does his best to thwart them. All in all, the prehistoric era is a lot less hysterical than it used to be.

NEIL YOUNG JOURNEYS
Rated: PG for language including some drug references, and brief thematic material
Stars: Neil Young
"Stop Making Sense" directed this documentary about the rock star's solo show last May in Toronto, where he was born.

FOLLOW ME: THE YONI NETANYAHU STORY
Rated: No MPAA rating
Stars: Yonathan Netanyahu, Benjamin Netanyahu, Tzipra Goodman
This affecting documentary tells the life story of Colonel Yonathan Netanyahu, leader of the 1976 commando raid that freed 103 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 Pinchot.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
Rated: PG-13 for sequences of action and violence
Stars: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans
Though the recent, spectacularly successful series of "Spider-Man" adventures directed by Sam Raimi is still fresh in moviegoer memory, this complete reboot of the spider-saga by director Marc Webb quickly establishes itself as a worthy successor by telling the same story in a different — and in some ways superior — manner. Webb doesn't score quite as high as Raimi in terms of visual dazzle, but he delivers plenty of adrenaline-pumping action. And he generates a surprising level of gravitas between Garfield as Peter Parker/Spider-Man and Stone as his high school girlfriend Gwen ups the romantic ante in a way that improves on the comics, as well as Raimi's "Tobey Maguire/Kirsten Dunst match-up.

BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD
Rated: PG-13 for thematic material including child violence, drug use and language
Rated: R for language, some crude sexuality, nudity, drug use and language throughout
Stars: Aaron Johnson, Taylor Kitsch, Benicio Del Toro, Salma Hayek, John Travolta
Two friends (Johnson and Kitsch) and their shared girlfriend (Blake Lively) enjoy an idyllic life as successful marijuana growers until a Mexican cartel decides to cut in on their business. Oliver Stone ("Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps") directed the crime drama.

TAKE THIS WALTZ
Rated: R for strong, brutal and grisly violence, some graphic sexuality, nudity, drug use and language throughout
Stars: Michelle Williams, Seth Rogen, Luke Kirby
The life of a happily married woman (Williams) is complicated when she falls for an artist (Kirby) who lives across the street. Sarah Polley ("Away from Her") wrote and directed the comedy-drama.
### SHOWTIMES

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

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To Rome with Love (R) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:15-5:10-7:10; Sun 7:10-8:10
Katy Perry: Part of Me
(PG-13) Fri-Sun 12-2:15-4-4:25-7:25-10:25; Mon-Sun 12-2:30-4:30-7:30; Mon-Thu 2:30-4:30-7:30; Fri-Sun 10-12:30-4:30-7:30

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**Murder on the Train Mystery**

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<td>10:45-11:15</td>
<td>Katy Perry: Part of Me</td>
<td>Katy Perry</td>
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<td>Curtis Hanson</td>
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Katy Perry (who else?) stars in "Katy Perry: Part of Me." | COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES
NEW ON VIDEO

Awfully funny Ferrell

BY BRUCE INGRAM

NEW THIS WEEK

CASA DE MI PADRE  

* * * 1/2

Rated: R for bloody violence, language, some sexual content and drug use

Stars: Will Ferrell, Gael Garcia Bernal, Diego Luna, Genesis Rodriguez

The funniest movie of the year may also turn out to be the strangest. In addition to the most intentionally awful. Ferrell stars as Armando (and speaks Spanish throughout) in this dead-on-target parody of a truly bad 1970s-era Mexican action melodrama - defending family honor against encroaching drug lords and failing to overcome his passion for the girlfriend (Rodriguez) of his black-sheep brother (Luna). Hipster-ish? Perhaps. But also hilarious. Extras include deleted scenes and commentary by Ferrell.

SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN

* * *

Rated: PG-13 for some violence and sexual content, and brief language

Stars: Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt, Dustin Scott-Thomas

If you give this one a try expecting a whimsical, romantic-comedy charmer you'll be satisfied, most likely, but perhaps a bit baffled by its seemingly incongruous elements of political satire. In fact, the novel Salmon Fishing in the Yemen was first and foremost a comic shot at Brit government, with its plot about the prime minister's press secretary facilitating a billionaire sheik's desire to practice fly-fishing in the desert (after spending 50 million pounds to build a dam, create a river and import 10,000 British salmon). In the hands of director Lasse Hallstrom ("The Cider House Rules"), though, the sheik is a visionary and the setting is ideal for romance between his business consultant (Blunt) and the somewhat cold-blooded fisheries expert (McGregor) coerced into leading the project — and a moral about valuing faith in addition to science.

RECENT RELEASES

THE SAMURAI TRILOGY

* * *

Rated: No MPAA rating

Stars: Toshiro Mifune, Marko Okada, Rentaro Mikuni

Japanese superstar Mifune consolidated his fame after "The Seven Samurai" by starring in "Samurai II: Musashi Miyamoto," the same year for director Hiroshi Inagaki - one of the chief practitioners of the jidaigeki samurai cinema. In addition to being an enormous hit in Japan, it won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1955. The trilogy was filmed in 1954, 1955 and 1956, tracing the life and times of 17th-century duelist Musashi Miyamoto, from undisciplined young soldier to master swordsman, whose martial arts text "The Book of the Five Rings" has been adopted by modern-day corporate warriors. All three films are visually sumptuous and leisurely paced - with a classic duel concluding the third installment. An epic of character development. This Criterion Collection box set features new hi-def restorations of all three films plus extras including an exploration of the life of the real-life Miyamoto.

THE 39 STEPS

* * * *

Rated: No MPAA rating

Stars: Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll

Classic films don't come more entertaining than this. Alfred Hitchcock came into his own with this 1935 sophisticated, funny and thoroughly romantic thriller, freely adapting a fairly standard espionage novel from 20 years earlier. Donat plays a more-or-less everyday guy who suddenly finds himself mixed up with a nest of spies, falsely accused of murder and running for his life across Scotland with the police and the skulduggery of the Brit government in hot pursuit - with coolly disdainful Carroll (the original Hitchcock blonde) rigorously handcuffed to him most of the way, and hating it. At first. Several of the themes Hitchcock explored in his later films made their debut in "The 39 Steps," but it's safe to say he got it right the first time. In addition to a new high-def restoration, this Criterion Collection release features extras including audio commentary by Hitchcock scholar Marian Keane, a Brit-
Niles actor produces Latino theater festival

BY DONALD LIEBENSON
Contributor

The first-ever Yo Solo Festival of Latino Solo Shows is not "the Latino Monologues." The six solo pieces written and performed by Latino artists from Chicago and around the country explore the borders and boundaries of traditional storytelling.

"What's really exciting is that these six pieces incorporate diverse artistic mediums like movement, music, and audience participation," said Sandra Delgado, a native of Niles and a producer and soloist of the festival. "A lot of these stories are inspired by personal experience. There is going to be that, but I don't often get cast in shows where I get that opportunity. These are songs that my mom used to sing in the Latino (artistic) community," she said. "I'm so thankful for my time at Niles West High School, where she was involved in theater, dance and choir. She was also a cheerleader and homecoming queen."

"A good high school arts program does wonders," she said. "I'm so thankful for my time at Niles West and all the opportunities I had to express myself." Delgado's piece, "para Graciela," is featured in program B of the festival. It is a fictional piece inspired by her maternal grandmother and was shaped by interviews she conducted with her mother and aunts about their childhoods in Columbia, and Delgado's great-grandfather, who made perfume.

The scent of bergamot and the spell of Latin love songs of the 1930s and '40s flavor this story of a woman who returns home to make peace with her recently-deceased father through a lesson in perfume making. "I get to sing in it," Delgado said. "(That's the fun) of creating your own work. I love to sing, but I don't often get cast in shows where I get that opportunity. These are songs that my mom used to sing to me."

Also on this program is the piece "Highway 47," in which KJ Sanchez recounts her family's involvement in one of New Mexico's most famous land grant wars, a 15-year legal battle that tore families apart and in which her father played a central role.

"This festival got me so excited from the beginning, because it was giving these six actors the opportunity to have complete ownership (over their work) and to create something that allowed them to present the Latino experience beyond the limited, stereotypical roles on television and film." For Delgado, the selection process was something of a revelation, and she hopes the audience will feel the same. "I thought I had a pulse on what was happening in the Latino (artistic) community," she said. "I was happily proved wrong. There is this whole other layer of theater happening in the neighborhoods that I was out of touch with. I feel I have been so enriched being introduced to these artists."

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Jess Godwin is happiest as herself

BY J.T. MORAND
jmorand@pioneertocat.com

The pigtails are gone. Singer Jess Godwin is growing up and shedding her awkwardness, but still insists she's a misfit.

And she'll prove it when she performs with her band at the Wilmette Theatre on July 27 in an all-ages show.

Godwin, 29, a Loyola Academy grad who lived in Winnetka during her teenage years, is known for pop songs about feeling awkward yet being true to yourself. Proving she's comfortable in her own skin, her lyrics are often self-deprecating.

Take "Katy's Side" from the 2011 album "Klutz," for example: "Katy's got all the boys in tow/She'll say the word and I look out and somebody's being like, 'I know what I do. So, I hope that life continues to throw me rejections. I try every single time, but I know that I've gotten so much better because of it.'

Still a dork
She's strikingly pretty red-head, which makes her misfit status hard to believe. But, she says her awkwardness still comes through even though image consultants tried to cover it up.

"Two years ago I had gone through a bunch of image consulting with people who were trying to make me very slick and put together," she said. "I'd be on stage in those sequined dresses and the heels and the crazy hair, and I would trip on stage or say something really embarrassing. It just never fit. I gave up."

This is who I really am.
"And it's fun! It's so much more fun. I'm sorry I didn't realize it when I was in high school. Everyone is so worried about being cool then."

And, she's accident-prone, too. "Two years ago I had gone to the ER in the past couple months while in another actor. When I'm at a show and I look out and somebody's singing my lyrics, there's no better feeling than that. I just like writing a song and somebody being like, 'I know how you feel.'"

Godwin will be going into the studio soon and plans to write songs with an R&B and Motown feel that will appeal to an audience beyond her misfit brethren. But, she's not shedding that misfit edge completely.

"A lot of my old music was about boys not liking me. I'm just tired of writing about that. So, I'm hoping to connect with a larger audience."

Happy solo
"I love theater, but I'm happiest being myself on stage," she said. "I love it. And I love having something to say in music. When I'm at a show and I look out and somebody's singing my lyrics, there's no better feeling than that. I just like writing a song and somebody being like, 'I know how you feel.'"

"It was one of the last performances and the guy playing Billy Bigelow was supposed to spin the girls around, and he let me go too early and I slipped," Godwin said. "Who knows how it really went down. But, I went off a four-foot stage and so everyone gasped, and I just climbed back on, and I got off stage and laughed for 20 minutes. And then it really hurt and I just started crying."

She also sustained a bruised sternum during tech rehearsal for a production of "Snapshots" at Northlight Theatre when she ran into another actor.

"When I got thrown off the stage, that was the fourth time I'd gone to the ER in the past couple months while in shows," she said.

Although she has a foot in both theater and music, she saw the flingings into the audience as a sign to ease up on the acting and focus on singing, in which she is all Jess Godwin and no one else.

The (new) songs that I have, I'd be on stage in these ample: "Katy's got all the boys in tow/She'll say the word and I look out and somebody's being like, 'I know what I do."

Happy solo
"I love theater, but I'm happier being myself on stage," she said. "I love it. And I love having something to say in music. When I'm at a show and I look out and somebody's singing my lyrics, there's no better feeling than that. I just like writing a song and somebody being like, 'I know how you feel.'"

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The (new) songs that I have, half of them have a positive message, talking about how it would be better if you were just nice to people, it might help the world a little, and talking about rejection and how you have to keep going through that. I've experienced a lot of that in my life."

She added, "I've been rejected by casting directors and producers so many times in my life. Every time I was rejected, it made me better at what I do. So, I hope that life continues to throw me rejections. I cry every single time, but I know that I've gotten so much better because of it."

Jess Godwin PHOTO BY UNDERGROUND PROFESSIONAL & POPIDSTUMPFCOM

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At just 22, Chris Colfer has made a career centered in storytelling via acting, screenwriting and now fiction.

Best known for his Golden Globe-winning portrayal of gay teen Kurt Hummel on TV's "Glee," Colfer has now written *The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell* (Little, Brown, $17.99), a fast-paced fantasy adventure that blends the modern world with traditional fairy tales.

Recommended for ages 8 and older, the story centers around 12-year-old twins Alex and Conner, who literally fall into the realm of fairy tales thanks to a magical storybook. There they encounter Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, Jack (of beanstalk fame), Snow White, Goldilocks and various other characters from classic fairy tales. As they struggle to return home, the twins learn much about themselves and uncover some surprises they didn't expect.

On the movie front, Colfer's first screenplay, "Struck By Lightning," will hit screens later this year. It's a comedy about a young man (Colfer) who, after being struck and killed by lightning, recounts the way he blackmailed his fellow classmates. Christina Hendricks, Dermot Mulroney and Allison Janney also are in the cast.

Colfer also has been hired by the Disney Channel to write a pilot for a children's show called "The Little Leftover Witch," based on a book by Florence Laughlin. And he's not yet finished with Alex and Conner. He's already at work on a second book that he says "will be a little bit more personal for me."

Colfer recently took some time to talk about writing, fairy tales and what the future holds for his character on "Glee.

Q. For someone so young, you have a long history with this book.

A. When I was 10, the overall concept came to me, and I began writing. Ever since then, it's been in my head.

After the success with "Glee," I was approached to do an autobiography. But I was just 20 and didn't want to do that just yet. I want to wait until I'm at least 25. (Laughs). But I suggested the idea of writing a children's fantasy novel, and they liked the idea.

Q. How did you become interested in writing at such a young age?

A. I loved playing with action figures and gave them very, very detailed storylines. So I think that was kind of my first taste of writing. I was bullied in school, so writing and storytelling became a form of escapism for me. Now I'm addicted to it.

Q. Why do you dedicate the book to your grandmother?

A. She was my first editor when I started writing years ago. Every time I finished a chapter, I would go over to her house, and she would do the spelling and grammar check for me. If she liked it, she would keep it. If she didn't, she would throw it away and tell me I could do better.

Q. What do you find so fascinating about fairy tales?

A. I love thinking that there is magic in the world, that there are people in the world with amazing abilities that we just don't know about. And I wanted to make sure to incorporate the original Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen tales into the book. Over the course of time, with all the fairy tale adaptations and cartoons, the moral of the stories used to hold have kind of been lost. I hope the book inspires readers to take a look at the originals.

Q. So, screenwriting vs. fiction, are they different challenges?

A. Screenwriting is much easier, because all you have to do is write the action and what they're saying. You have a lot of help from the actors, the director, the set designer. They're all helping you bring your vision to life. In a novel, you have to write the internal dialogue, the conflicts, and all that inner turmoil. You have to supply the reader with every single detail you can.

Q. Taking a turn to your other job, what does the new season hold for Kurt on "Glee?"

A. His future was left up in the air after he graduated at the end of last season.

Q. I really don't know. I'm eagerly awaiting the script. All I know is he's going to be mentored by Sarah Jessica Parker, so I'm very excited about that. And as far as I know, all the graduated characters are coming back.

Q. How do you see your own future unfolding?

A. I just want to do everything. I'm really happy right now being able to do a movie here, a television show there, write a book, write a screenplay. So as long as I'm able to keep my whole storytelling addiction alive, then I'm good.
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Midwest New Musicals presents "North Shore Rhythms and Blues," the culminating performance for authors in the Midwest New Musicals musical theater writers workshop, at 3 p.m. July 22 at Light Opera Works Second Stage at McGaw YMCA Children’s Center, 1420 Maple (at Lake), Evanston. $10. Call (847) 920-5360 or visit www.LightOperaWorks.com.

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"The Monument," presented by Idle Muse Theatre Company July 26-Aug. 26 at the Side Project Theater, 1439 W. Jarvis Ave., Chicago. Caught up in the political interests of a war he never understood, a young soldier stands convicted of war crimes. Now his only chance for survival is an enigmatic woman from the enemy side with an agenda he doesn’t understand. Curtain at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $20; $15 for students and seniors; $10 for previews, July 26-27. Visit www.idlemuse.org or call (773) 340-9438.

National Theatre Live broadcasts "Frankenstein," a new play by Nick Dear based on the novel by Mary Shelley, at 7 p.m. July 24 at Northwestern University’s Josephine Louis Theater, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $20; $10 for students. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tic.northwestern.edu.

"Play On," a community college playwriting festival, will be presented July 24-26 at Oakton Community College's Studio One, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines. Seven one-act plays, directed, written and performed by community college students, will be performed nightly at 8 p.m. $10 for general admission. Call (847) 699-7282 or visit www.spectralia.org.

"Spectra Lux" will present a family-friendly, 90-minute version of Shakespeare’s "As You Like It" in various Chicago parks through Aug. 5. Performances are at 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, July 28-29 at Por-tage Park, 4100 N. Long; and Aug. 4-5 at Chase Park, 4701 N. Ashland. All performances are free of charge; donations appreciated. For information, call (773) 654-3097 or visit www.spectralia.org.

"The Useless Secret Weapon of Jacob Thompson," at 7:30 p.m. July 20-21 at Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre, 7224 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. Meet Jacob Thompson, inventor and recovering nutcase. After being committed for inventing a deadly android and released into his siblings’ care, he does what any other madman would do...he builds another android. $12. Call (773) 958-4549 or visit www.gorillatalango.com.

"With a Song In My Heart: The Romance of Richard Rodgers," 7:30 p.m. July 20-21 and 27-28; 2 p.m. July 22 and 29 at Northwestern University’s Ethel M Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. The three-part revue celebrates the collaborations of Rodgers, Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II. Tickets: $30; $27 for seniors; $10 for students. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tic.northwestern.edu.

CLASSICAL

The Music Institute of Chicago Chorale will present Summer Sing-along at 7:30 p.m. July 25 in Room 9 at the Music Institute’s Evanston East Campus, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Participants will perform Mozart’s Requiem, conducted by Daniel Wielenberg. Cost to participate is $10 per person. Optional free...
rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. July 24. Call (847) 905-1500, ext. 108, or visit www.musinsituteofchicago.org.

Pick-Staiger Concert Hall at Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. Information: (847) 491-5441; tickets: (847) 467-4000, www.pickstaiger.org. July 25, 7 p.m.: Northwestern University Summer Band performs works by Steven Barton, Gordon Jacob, Gustav Holst and von Weber. $6; $4 for students. July 26, 7:30 p.m.: Northwestern University Summer Orchestra performs Copland’s Clarinet Concerto, featuring clarinetist Andrew Hudson, and Debusyy’s “La Mer.” $6; $4 for students.

**POP/FOLK/JAZZ**

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5000 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. Aug. 3-4, 8 p.m.: II Divo, $85, $125. Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m.: Yes with special guest Procol Harum. $40, $50, $65, $75. Oct. 21, 7 p.m.: Celtic Thunder. $32.50, $49.50, $65, $75.

Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information, visit www.allstatearena.com. Parking: $20, cash only. Aug. 3, 7 p.m.: Summerland Tour 2012 featuring Everclear, Sugar Ray, Gin Blossoms, Lit and Mercy Playground. $20, $49.50. Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m.: System of a Down with Deftones. $50.

InterContinental Chicago O’Hare Hotel, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. (847) 544-5300. For information, visit www.montroseoom.com. July 21, 8:30 p.m.: Contemporary jazz, R&B and pop singer Lisa McCray. $12 general admission; $18 VIP; $30 first row. July 27, 8:30 p.m.: Kill Hannah (rock). $15 general admission.


July 26, 8 p.m.: Dan Teller CD release show for “Tendrils of Ruin.” $15 general admission; $20 reserved. July 27, 7:30 p.m.: Dot Dot Dot, $15 general admission. Aug. 1, 8 p.m.: The Zombies. $65-$75. Aug. 11, 10 p.m.: Brazilian Carnival Summer Edition, featuring SWSI and Brasiliero. $15 in advance; $20 at the door. Aug. 17-18, 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.: Pink Floyd Laser Light Show, featuring “Dark Side of the Moon” and “The Wall.” $30 general admission.

Mullen’s Bar & Grill, 8313 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. (708) 452-3190. July 24, 7-10 p.m.: Jazz Community Big Band, an 18-piece big band based in Norridge, plays the music of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and others. No cover.

Oakton Community College’s Performing Arts Center, 6000 N. Euclid Ave., Des Plaines. (847) 691-4000, www.oakton.edu. July 19, 8 p.m.: Oakton’s Guitar Ensemble performs quartets and duets under the direction of Tom Ellipient, Free.


**THEATRE**

By ANTON CHEKHOV

**SISTERS**

Written and directed by Regina Taylor

Now playing at the Goodman Theatre, 205 N. Dearborn St., Chicago. For information, call (312) 443-3800. For tickets, call (312) 443-3800 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Preview through July 29. Regular tickets $45-$90; student tickets $25-$45. Thursdays and matinees pay what you can. In the Goodman’s 75th Anniversary Season, the company’s annual fundraiser. www.goodmantheatre.org

**THE VORTEX**

Written by Douglas Hegman

Now playing at the Greenhouse Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. For information, call (773) 877-7239. For tickets, call (773) 877-7239 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Thu. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $30; $20 Thu. Regular: $30; $20 Thu. $15. Sat. $20; Sun. $20. Free with subscription or membership. For information, call (773) 877-7239.

**AMUNDSON MYSTERY TRAIN**

Train goes to Milwaukee

Now playing at the Riviera Theatre, 21 Mound Rd., Chicago. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Tue. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $39.50, $49.50. Thu. $29.50, $39.50. Fri. $35.50, $45.50. Sat. $41.50, $51.50. Sun. $36.50, $46.50. Fri., Sat. and Sun. $45.50. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Tue. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $39.50, $49.50. Thu. $29.50, $39.50. Fri. $35.50, $45.50. Sat. $41.50, $51.50. Sun. $36.50, $46.50. Fri., Sat. and Sun. $45.50. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Thu. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $39.50, $49.50. Thu. $29.50, $39.50. Fri. $35.50, $45.50. Sat. $41.50, $51.50. Sun. $36.50, $46.50. Fri., Sat. and Sun. $45.50. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Thu. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $39.50, $49.50. Thu. $29.50, $39.50. Fri. $35.50, $45.50. Sat. $41.50, $51.50. Sun. $36.50, $46.50. Fri., Sat. and Sun. $45.50. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Thu. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $39.50, $49.50. Thu. $29.50, $39.50. Fri. $35.50, $45.50. Sat. $41.50, $51.50. Sun. $36.50, $46.50. Fri., Sat. and Sun. $45.50. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Thu. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $39.50, $49.50. Thu. $29.50, $39.50. Fri. $35.50, $45.50. Sat. $41.50, $51.50. Sun. $36.50, $46.50. Fri., Sat. and Sun. $45.50. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Thu. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m. Regular $39.50, $49.50. Thu. $29.50, $39.50. Fri. $35.50, $45.50. Sat. $41.50, $51.50. Sun. $36.50, $46.50. Fri., Sat. and Sun. $45.50. For information, call (847) 671-5100. For tickets, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.
Sample Greek food, fellowship at Niles fest

BY LEE LITAS
Dining Columnist

"Years ago every parish was doing them," said Father Constantine "Dean" Botsis of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Niles. He's been participating in his parish's annual picnic for more than 30 years.

From July 20-22, St. Haralambos will be hosting the Big Greek Food Festival in Niles. Despite the emphasis on Greek culture, the parish community is diverse.

"If you look at the roster, you'll see Italian names, Arabic names, Turkish names ..." recounts Botsis. While the cultures may be different, they all share the common trait of what the Greeks call "philoxenia," that sense of hospitality and the desire to break bread with one's neighbor.

"Parishes are artificial communities. It used to be that a parish was the neighborhood church, but that doesn't happen for us anymore," said Botsis, noting that his worshipers now hail from Highland Park, Mt. Prospect and Lincolnwood, as well as Niles. He calls the festival a good opportunity for his parish to manifest itself as a community.

The Mediterranean feast is made by the parishioners and will include a multitude of delicacies like roasted lamb ($13/pound); bacalao "plaki," a baked cod specialty ($8); traditional Greek loukaniko sausage with pita bread ($4) and even a shot of ouzo ($5).

Cynthia A. Yannias of Morton Grove has been a steward of St. Haralambos since 1980. On Saturday and Sunday she will be conducting free cooking demonstrations beginning at 7 p.m. inside the church's community center.

First up, Yannias will be making Pastitsio, sometimes referred to as the "Greek lasagna." She makes it with macaroni and ground beef in an aromatic tomato sauce seasoned with cinnamon, a touch of garlic and wine. The layers are then topped with a sharp Kefalotiri cheese and finished with a fluffy layer of béchamel sauce, one of the basic sauces of French cuisine ($7).

To feed the more than 17,000 expected attendees, Botsis' wife, Presbytera Georgia and "an army of women friends" have made an additional 50 steam table-size pans of pastitsio, which they filled with some 160 pounds of ground beef and 72 pounds of macaroni.

On Sunday Yannias will demonstrate how to make dessert called Ecme, which has both Greek and Turkish roots. Made with a layer of shredded wheat "kataifi," it is covered with finely-chopped nuts, a sweet honey-like syrup and topped with a creamy custard and whipped cream ($2).

"People should come to our festival because we not only have the best food but a great friendly atmosphere. You will definitely experience the flavors and hospitality of Greece (and) everyone feels welcome and goes home well fed," said Yannias.

Follow Table Hopping on Facebook & Twitter.
Go | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13B


30: The Sweet Singers of Chicago will perform a program of Yiddish, Hebrew, Israeli and English songs with Jewish content at 3 p.m. at Congregation Ezras Israel, 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodchicago.org.

ART GALLERIES


SERVICES FOR ADULTS STAYING IN THEIR HOMES: Celebrating Experience: A Gallery of Art by Older Adults, 1123 Emerson, Suite 200, Evanston. (847) 864-7724. www.sasatohome.org. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays by appointment. Through Nov. 4: Works by Robert Leopold, Delores Rix and Howard Tyner.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Canzonieta Youth Orchestra is seeking musicians to audition for the 2012-13 music season. Directed by Hiel Kogan, Canzonieta is a chamber orchestra that offers specialization instruction for children interested in developing their orchestral skills. Training: Orchestra, for 7- to 10-year-olds with beginning orchestral experience, meets from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturdays. The Intermediate Orchestra, for 10- to 13-year-olds with more advanced training, meets from 3-4:30 p.m. Sundays. The Senior Orchestra, for high school students who are advanced musicians, meets from 1-3 p.m. Sundays. All three orchestras rehearse at the Wilmette Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road. There will be at least four concerts throughout the year. To make an audition appointment, call Hella Schramm, (847) 328-0570.

Chicago Master Singers will hold vocal auditions for the 2012-13 season Aug. 9, 14 and 21 in Palatine. Dedicated singers are invited to call (877) 825-5267 or send an e-mail to cmsg@chicagomastersingers.org for more information.

The Kohnline 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/WG5_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 crafters, artists, and high-quality chefs/bakers to fill positions at the 25th annual Victoria's Holiday Boutique, a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization, to be held Nov. 28-Dec. 2 at 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. Fee is $35-$55 per space, and each seller must donate 15% commission on sales. Duration of the event, crafters must commit to a minimum of five hours to working the sales. Hand-made or homemade items only. For more information, call (773) 631-6633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

BOOKS & POETRY

Mount Prospect Public Library, 10 S. Emerson St., Mount Prospect. (847) 255-5675. July 20-22: Mount Prospect Friends of the Library summer book sale. Friday is Friends Member Only night, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Annual memberships available at the door. General public, free entry sale from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday.

CHILD'S PLAY

Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the theater, call (847) 671-5100 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com.

Aug. 9, 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.: The Wiggles! Celebration Tour. $15-$25.

Imagined Family Series presents "Life of the Crocodile" at 7 p.m. July 20 and 27; 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. July 21 and 28; 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. July 22 and 29 in Northwestern University's Hal and Martha Hym Wallis Theatre, Theatre and Interpretation Center, 1949 Campus Drive, Evanston. Recommended for children age 5 to 10 and their families. Tickets: $10. Call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.nic.northwestern.edu.

Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277.
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FILM
Block Cinema, in the Pick-Laudati Auditorium at the Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-6000. www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/blockcine. Admission is $6; $4 for Block Museum members, students with ID and senior citizens, or as noted below. All films shown at 7 p.m., unless noted otherwise. July 12, 7:30 p.m.; Rarities Baseball Films: The Newsreels.

PIINTE AT ZANIES

John Pinette performs at 7 p.m. July 20, 9 and 11:15 p.m. July 21 at Zanies Comedy Club, 5437 Park Place, Rosemont. Tickets are $30; two-item food/beverage minimum. (847) 813-0484 or see www.chicago.zanies.com.
Hands-on love drives top ceramics artist

By Donald Liebenson
Contributor

Making ceramics is not brain surgery, but if it were, Cliff Lee would be good to go. Lee, a celebrated and award-winning artist whose intricate and meticulous porcelain works are included in the Smithsonian American Art Museum and other distinguished institutions, was a neurosurgeon before he discovered his true calling and gave up his practice.

Lee will discuss his work and his painstaking process at the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University on Saturday, July 21, at 10 a.m. The free event, a preview to the annual American Craft Exposition in August, is open to the public. A coffee reception precedes the lecture at 9 a.m.

It was "love at first touch" for Lee, 61, when he was introduced to potter's clay. He came to the United States from Taiwan in 1968. He attended medical school at the Hershey Medical Center, Pennsylvania State College and had been a neurosurgeon for seven years when one of his grateful patients invited him to her ceramics studio.

"I asked her what she does for a living," he recalled. "She said, 'I make pots.' Mistaking her work for something more illicit, he responded, "That's very illegal."

Legal pots

Not illegal, but somewhat addictive for Lee, who took at a turn at the potter's wheel. On his next sabbatical, he enrolled in a ceramics class at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. There, he met Holly, herself an accomplished jewelry designer, whom he would later marry. The transition from neurosurgeon to artist was a gradual one, he said, but he knew it was probably time to follow his passion when at one point he regarded a prepped patient whose head had been shaved for the operation and thought to himself that it resembled a pot.

One of the things that Lee initially loved most about ceramics was the meditative quality of the process. "This was something I never experienced," he said. "I love to work, and all I did was study, study, study, seven days a week to keep my grades up. (Working at the potter's wheel), you can work at shaping the clay and the hours go by without you knowing."

Lee decided that he wanted to make his living at ceramics. He thought it would be difficult to tell his parents. Somehow, though, they found out. When he called to tell them, his father joked, "You are a poor artist and can't afford overseas phone calls. I'll call you back."

And contrary to the "tiger mom" stereotype, his mother expressed nothing but support. "She told me, 'Regardless of what you do, you will do well,'" Lee recalled the conversation. "You still have your education, and no one can take that away from you."

Elusive yellow

Lee's years as a doctor prepared him well for his work as an artist, he said, especially the technical training, the meticulous attention to detail, and the experimentation required. One of the triumphs of Lee's career was his recreation of the long-lost centuries-old Imperial yellow Chinese glaze. It took him 17 years to perfect. "Everyday it was like I'm possessed," he laughed, "but the more challenging it got, the harder I worked."

The honor that first put Lee on the map was the selection of one of his pieces, "Peach Vase on a Pedestal," in the White House Collection of Contemporary Crafts in 1993. His work is also in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

His unconventional career path carries a universal message. "Do something you really love, that's the most important thing," he said. "If you work very hard, don't worry about money, the money will come. But there are many ways to measure wealth."
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Senior-citizen tax-assessment

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

- **Mondays, through July 30:** Employment counseling, by appointment.
- **Tuesday, July 17:** Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- **Wednesday, July 25:** Grief and loss support group (call first).
- **Saturday, July 14 and 28:** Legal counseling, by appointment.
- **Saturday, July 28:** Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, 10 a.m.-noon (no appointment needed).

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

Available by appointment:
Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property available. All services are offered at the Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, No. 310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, call (847) 823-0453 weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (The center is open only until noon on Fridays.) The Center of Concern also offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

Center counselors: Also available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-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-homeowner property-tax exemption.

**Civic**

- **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. Reports from the Cook County Sheriff’s Police, North Maine Fire Department, and the township’s Code Enforcement Department are shared, and residents are invited to ask questions and report any concerns or problems in their neighborhood.

**Arts/Crafts**

**Resurrection Fair:** Applications are available for crafters who are interested in participating in the Resurrection College Prep High School Arts & Crafts Fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 10 at 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. See www.rshs.org or contact Carol Marchetti at (773) 766-6161, Ext. 112, or cmarchetti@rshs.org.

**Classes**

**Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc.:** Offering “Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy,” dog training classes at various locations, including 60642 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Dorothy King at dhking@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

**Clubs**

**Polish American Congress:** Meeting at 7 p.m. July 23 at the Polish National Alliance Building, 6049 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago. Officer reports and information about upcoming events will be highlighted. Reports from the American and Polish Women Committees will be given. Speaker will be Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, who will discuss “Probate.” Call Kenneth Gill, (773) 652-8755.

**Sweet Singers:** Congregation Ezras Israel Sweet Singers entertain at nursing homes, retirement facilities and charitable organizations, meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the Rosenberg Auditorium of Ezras Israel, 7001 N. California Ave., Chicago. Those who enjoy singing are welcome to join. Call the Ezras Israel office at (773) 764-8320.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7172:** Meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7680 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernie Brealey, (773) 966-5679, e-mail: jamesbond54762@yahoo.com or call (773) 470-9890.

**Korean War Veterans Association:** Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Hendtoller, (773) 774-9671.

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

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

**Community**

**Birthday Party:** Celebrate Norwood Park’s 132nd birthday party from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 28. Festivities will occur on the grounds of the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. The birthday party includes something for everyone, from adults to kids of all ages. Most of the activities will be held outside. The museum will be open during regular hours, noon to 4 p.m. A special feature will include a large group of re-enactors who will portray members of the 10th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; they will set up camp, march, perform a firing demonstration, hold a presentation of arms, and conduct other drills. Free and open to the public; donations to support the Norwood Park Historical Society are appreciated. Call (773) 631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

**Polish American Night:** The first Polish-American Night of the New England Revolution at Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, starts at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18. Price of premiere tickets are only $20. Tickets can be purchased from the Polish National Alliance, (800) 621-3723, ext. 316; Polish Roman Catholic Union, (800) 772-8632, ext. 2601; Polish Falcons of America, (574) 289-2140; the Polish Women’s Alliance, (888) 522-1896, ext. 1208, or through Ed Kaczynski, (708) 496-1700.

**Japanese American Community Day:** Join the Niles Township Clerk Office, 1580 N. Northwest Highway, No. 310, in Park Ridge. The Post is open also on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernie Brealey, (773) 966-5679, e-mail: jamesbond54762@yahoo.com or call (773) 470-9890.

**Korean War Veterans Association:** Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave. Call Joe Hendtoller, (773) 774-9671.

**Communication**

**Birthday Party:** Celebrate Norwood Park’s 138th birthday party from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 28. Festivities will occur on the grounds of the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. The birthday party includes something for everyone, from adults to kids of all ages. Most of the activities will be held outside. The museum will be open during regular hours, noon to 4 p.m. A special feature will include a large group of re-enactors who will portray members of the 10th Illinois Volunteer Infantry; they will set up camp, march, perform a firing demonstration, hold a presentation of arms, and conduct other drills. Free and open to the public; donations to support the Norwood Park Historical Society are appreciated. Call (773) 631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

**Polish American Night:** The first Polish-American Night of the New England Revolution at Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, starts at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18. Price of premiere tickets are only $20. Tickets can be purchased from the Polish National Alliance, (800) 621-3723, ext. 316; Polish Roman Catholic Union, (800) 772-8632, ext. 2601; Polish Falcons of America, (574) 289-2140; the Polish Women’s Alliance, (888) 522-1896, ext. 1208, or through Ed Kaczynski, (708) 496-1700.

**Greek Food Fest:** Holy Taxiarhia and St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church presents the Big Greek Food Festival on July 20 to 22 on the church grounds at 7337 Caldwell Ave. in Niles. Hours are 5 p.m.-midnight Friday, 3 p.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday. Food includes lamb roasting on an open spit, homemade pastitsio, moussaka, tyropita, or spanakopita, souvlaki and Athenian chicken on the grills. After dinner, enjoy a variety of authentic Greek pastries (fest specialty, loukoumades). Then enjoy one of the Greek cooking demonstrations held each night. View films of the historic Acropolis and the scenic Grecian Isles. Also each night, enjoy live Greek music and an authentic Greek dance troupe. Parents and children are invited to the "Kid's Ko-ner" for face-painting, crafts, a clown balloon artist, games and more. Fest-goers may also enter the church and see the hand-carved woodwork and classic Byzantine iconography.
Events and facilities due to the new Hope Community Food Pantry, clothes for the WINES shelter, and books for Open Books in Chicago. Join in the assembly line of kits, which will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Shop the Ton Thousand Village booths for fair-trade crafts made by artisans from around the world. Food, raffle, prizes and children's activities are planned. Call (847) 967-6921.

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+), $18; students (ages 12-22), $8; children (ages 5-11), $6. Reservations required for programs. 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, treason, and deception that Americans have contended with since the founding of the republic. Opening day, July 15, features talk with Anna Sfar, director of exhibitions and programs, International Spy Museum.

Free with museum admission. July 18: Lecture "Seeking Justice" featuring Elie Rosenbaum, the longest-serving prosecutor and investigator of Nazi Germany and the Israeli treatment of its enemies, Nazi criminals and other perpetrators of human rights violations, 6:30-9 p.m. Free with museum admission. July 26: Lecture "The Future of International Justice," Leading authority on Holocaust law, University of Pennsylvania Law School Professor Harry Reicher will discuss additions to the armory of the international legal system, in relation to genocide and crimes against humanity, 6:30-8 p.m. Free with museum admission.

Solid Waste Agency: Northern Cook County has established a location for residents to drop off electronics on a weekly basis at no cost at the Glenview Transfer Station, 1151 N. River Road, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items will be accepted: Computers - PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals - mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, POAs - printers, VHS players, fax machines, DVD players, video game consoles, and DVR/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses, institutions or schools will not be accepted. Visit swanc.org/recycling/battery recycling.html.

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 the spiritual needs of the individual. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

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

CHICAGO

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5550 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)687-5944, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30 AM
Saturday Worship 6 PM
Lutheran Unity School - West
Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,
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Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2982
www.mgccpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Niles

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

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

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call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
SKOKIE

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

Temple Beth Israel
3601 W. Dempster St.,
Skokie, IL 60076
847-675-0951
www.tbiskokie.org

Devar Emet Messianic
7800 Niles Ave., Skokie 847-674-9146
www.devaremnet.org
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that Yeshua (Jesus) Is the Promised Jewish Messiah"

Congregation Bene Shalom
4435 Oakton, Skokie,
(847) 677-3330
www.beneshalom.org
No Service in July
Shabbat Services resume in August
Please call for more information
Rabbi Dr. Douglas Goldhamer
Asst. Rabbi Shari Chen
Cantorial Soloist Charlene Brooks

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie
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10:45 am Traditional Service with Choir
(Adult Classes in English & Assyrian)
Fridays 7:30-9:30 pm Assyrian Fellowship
Tuesday Evenings 7:15-8:45 pm New Lyle Youth Group
(fit Jr. & Sr High Youth)
2nd Saturday
Monthly 7:30-9:30 pm-DW Café
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Evanshire Presbyterian Church
4555 Church Street
www.evanshirepresbyterian.com
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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street & Laramie Avenue
847-673-8166
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
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Sunday School 9AM
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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 with kids, team and individual scores will be tabulated. Registration fee starts at $25 for adults, $15 for kids 12 and under. Visit jsomrc.org/bowl-arama or call (312) 590-8237. Proceeds benefit the Leukemia Research Foundation.

Like New Auto Spa, Inc.: 1050 W. Niles Rd. in Niles. Anyone who visits Like New Auto Spa, Inc. has introduced a special fundraising program specifically to benefit the Older Adults Service program of the hospital. Call Al Mee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8518; Steve Radakovic at Like New Auto Spa, (847) 823-9274; or visit www.lkenewautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is valid only with a purchase made in person.

Health

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital: LGH is hosting a monthly community Healthbeat lecture series. This month's topic is "Healthy Bones and Joints," led by orthopedic surgeons. All lectures will be held at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's West End Conference Center, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge, at 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Free valet parking is available and refreshments will be served. Admission is free, however, registration is required. Call 800-323-8622 and mention Class Code 8652 or visit www.advocatehealth.com/lfth, click on "I need a class or support group" and type in the class code — July 27 — "Memory Loss: Should I Be Concerned?" presented by Dr. Robert Moss, geriatrician. July 24 — "Looking and Feeling Younger: Skin Care through the Years" presented by Dr. Peter Johnson, plastic surgeon. July 31 — "Driving: When Is It Time to Retire Your License?" presented by Dr. Denise Fiducia, psychologist.

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

All lectures and the center's offerings will be held in the LGH of the Older Adults Service Program. The "Reading is So Delicious" program is open to all ages 0-18, and it offers free gifts for kids who read up to 30 hours a week. The program will run from July 22 to July 28. Visit www.leslieslibrary.org for more information.

Fresenius Medical Care: Located in the Milwaukie Clinic, 9371 N. Milwaukee Ave., Morton Grove, the program is open to all patients who have been referred by their primary care physician. To set up a consultation, call (847) 390-0160. The program offers a variety of services including: Free nutritional counseling, free medications, and free transportation to clinic appointments.

Kenison Madden, Development Director, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital (847) 492-6289. For more information, visit www.researchfoundation.org.

Like New Auto Spa, Inc.: 1050 W. Niles Rd. in Niles. This program is open to all ages 12 and under. Visit jsomrc.org/bowl-arama or call (312) 590-8237. Proceeds benefit the Leukemia Research Foundation.
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In Memoriam

Death Notices

Borgardt, Jeffrey A.
52, of Gurnee and Morton Grove, passed away on July 5, 2012 surrounded by the love of his family and friends. He was born on April 17, 1960. He attended St. Martha School and Niles West.

Beloved husband of Kubra S. Borgardt (nee Yaybulak); loving father of Jennifer and Allison Borgardt; cherished son of Henry and Marlon Borgardt; dear brother of Renee (Dave) Pokvitis; beloved son-in-law of Ayten Yaybulak; dear brother-in-law of Supa (Tanju) Hasanof; fond uncle of Gregory and Natalie Pokvitis, Erol and Sema Hasanof.

Jeff was a marvelous cook and avid sports fan. He loved building and flying model airplanes, golfing and so much more. Fun-loving and happy, he will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Visitation Monday, July 9 from 8 to 4 p.m. at Warren Funeral Home, 1475 N. Cemetery Rd. Gurnee. Funeral 9 a.m., Tuesday from the funeral home to St. Paul the Apostle Church, Gurnee. Mass at 10 a.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Esophageal Cancer Awareness Association, PO Box 55071 #15530, Boston, MA 02205-5071 appreciated. Info 847-855-2760

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

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.

SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Interview Questions for Employers
Choosing Between Great Candidates

By: Chris Davis

With the national unemployment rate remaining stubbornly high, you may have been faced with the daunting task of choosing from a pool of eligible applicants with the right interview questions. Some of these candidates may be overqualified. How can you choose a candidate that will fulfill the job’s responsibilities and be a suitable match to your company culture? By targeting your interview questions to align with your business’s needs. The following interview questions will help you navigate through a sea of gifted applicants, as you strive to hire top talent for your organization.

Sample Interview Questions: Tell me about the most significant challenges you have encountered throughout your career. How did you overcome these issues? What steps did you implement to resolve them?

As the owner of a home health care business based in Rochester Hills, Mich., Penny VanDette copes with the unavoidable challenges of many small business owners: project overload and staff shortages. In her interviews, VanDette focuses on the candidates’ perceptions of past challenges and how they utilized their problem-solving skills. “I am particularly interested in hiring candidates who are risk-takers and are able to creatively approach any problems they encounter on a daily basis,” she says.

Follow up with additional questions:
- Did you resolve past conflicts alone or with the assistance of fellow team members?
- Was there a positive outcome for both you and your former employer?
- How were you able to apply these lessons to other similar scenarios?

Sample Interview Questions: How did you contribute to the fiscal and business goals of your previous employers? How can you apply this experience to our organization?

Small business owners must often rely on employees who can assist with day-by-day operations, including office management and budget implementation.

Jill Morrone, owner of an educational supply company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, pursues a line of interview questions that illustrate the reasons behind the positive feedback. "I am generally interested in conducting further interviews with candidates who have positively contributed to past employers’ monetary and business objectives," says Morrone.

Potential follow-up interview questions to ask:
- Have you had the opportunity to assist with developing a budget?
- Did you offer to initiate cost-reduction strategies? How comfortable were you this role?
- Were your ideas implemented? What was the outcome?
- As a result, were you perceived as a reliable team player? If so, how?

Sample Interview Questions: How have previous bosses viewed your work? Why?

As the human resources representative of a product manufacturer in Troy, Mich., Herb Weidman pursues candidates who willingly convey positive working relationships with former supervisors. "Candidates should offer interviewers examples of evaluations they have received from past employers," says Weidman. "It is always very helpful for candidates to bring such evaluations with them to interviews. Ask the candidate to recreate scenarios that illustrate the reasons behind the positive feedback. Sample Interview Questions: What are your current career goals? Are you interested in long-term or short-term employment? Do you see your career goals changing in the near future?"

The hiring process can require significant time and resources to interview and employ suitable candidates.

For Anthony Alichwer, owner of a small photography business in Easton, Penn., that means knowing your own business’s needs and being sure that they align with the candidate’s personal timeline. "If I have a long-term position available, I must hire a candidate focused on a long-term commitment. The same principle applies to short-term positions," says Alichwer. "As an employer, you should fully know your candidates’ future goals and the ways in which these goals may positively or negatively impact your business."
Answers to Super Crossword

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ACHY ABABA ARIA AGORA
GEENA DAVID JERRY LEWIS
STEAM SEEPS EPA EEK
MOTH INSO ORWELL
GEO GE COTT ODIE
WED ISLE CATAN GRUMP
ENGULF ENDURES SHOVEL
STENO POSER RHETT BUTA
CLAY TEEV EVA ALAN
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BARRINGTON - 400 Dundee & Lin- coln, Roosevelt/Deer Park Rd. 9-11am. Fri-Sat. 7/20-21. yard sale, books, clothes, knick knacks, housewares. free items!

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BUFFALO GROVE 1206-1 1301 Westminster Ct. Thu-Sat 7:30- 7:00, Sun 9-1. Sale of Designer clothes, Kitchenware, bath, furniture, etc.

BUFFALO GROVE Community Garage Sale. Kits. clothes, collecting, kitchenware & much more. Sat, 8am. 5pm. 307 N. Leavitt St., IL 1. 60043. 773-731-9746.

BUFFALO GROVE Garage Sale. Kits. clothes, collecting, Kitchenware & much more. Sun, 8am. 5pm. 307 N. Leavitt St., IL 1. 60043. 773-731-9746.

BUFFALO GROVE Garage Sale. Kits. clothes, collecting, Kitchenware & much more. Sun, 8am. 5pm. 307 N. Leavitt St., IL 1. 60043. 773-731-9746.
Etmwood Park, 1811 Garden Apt.
Cook County - Suburban

In addition to the Illinois Human Rights Act prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin in the sale, rental or financing of housing.

The property will NOT be open for inspection prior to confirmation of the sale. The property is subject to a common interest community, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will evidence the purchaser's purchase of the unit at the foreclosure sale. The purchaser will be entitled to a return of any earnest money deposits, if any, and a prorating of any assessments due and owing for the period of time the purchaser has owned the property.

The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. If the sale is not confirmed the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the mortgagee or the mortgagee's assignee. The purchaser of the property shall have no further recourse against Plaintiff and in AS IS condition.

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
The sale is further subject to confirmation in accordance with all of the aforementioned statutes and the rules of court. The sale will be held at the Cook County Circuit Court, 300 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois 60603, at 10:30 am on July 26, 2012.

The real estate is subject to a judgment of foreclosure in the amount of $340,916.80. The judgment amount was due and payable as set forth below, the following descriptive real estate:

**NOTICE OF INTEREST IN JUDICIAL SALE**

**ANTHONY LARUS, JUDICIAL Sales Corporation**

**357-21-045-1038.**

The sale is further subject to confirmation on May 8, 2012, an agent of the Condominium Property Owners' Association, Inc. The judgment amount was due and payable as set forth below, the following described real estate:

**NOTICE OF INTEREST IN JUDICIAL SALE**

**ANTHONY LARUS, JUDICIAL Sales Corporation**

**357-21-045-1038.**

The real estate is subject to a judgment of foreclosure in the amount of $340,916.80. The judgment amount was due and payable as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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The real estate is subject to a judgment of foreclosure in the amount of $340,916.80. The judgment amount was due and payable as set forth below, the following described real estate:

**NOTE:** Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that this notice is intended to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

**Notice to Bidders**

A copy of the notice and any information obtained will be made available for inspection by any interested party at the office of the Cook County Circuit Court, 300 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois 60603, at any time during regular business hours.

**Public Notice**

For information contact: Park Forest, IL 60466, 219-846-0100. You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.ijsc.com or call 312-372-1400.

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**Public Notice**

For information contact: Park Forest, IL 60466, 219-846-0100. You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.ijsc.com or call 312-372-1400.
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Village of Norridge, Illinois, a body corporate and politic, and one of the parks and recreation districts of Cook County, Illinois, is hereby giving notice to all interested bidders of an open invitation for bids for the purchase of materials and issuance of contracts for the construction of the Village of Norridge "Lavender Avenue East Water Main Replacement Project, Village of Norridge, Illinois." Bids will be received by the Village of Norridge at the office of the Village Clerk, 4000 North Norridge Avenue, Norridge, Illinois, 60656, until 11:00 A.M. (CDST), August 29, 2012, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Norridge, Illinois, is accepting bids for the purchase of materials and issuance of contracts for the construction of the Village of Norridge "Lavender Avenue East Water Main Replacement Project, Village of Norridge, Illinois." Bids will be received by the Village of Norridge at the office of the Village Clerk, 4000 North Norridge Avenue, Norridge, Illinois, 60656, until 11:00 A.M. (CDST), August 29, 2012, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

NOTICE OF BIDDING

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Norridge is accepting bids for the purchase of materials and issuance of contracts for the construction of the Village of Norridge "Lavender Avenue East Water Main Replacement Project, Village of Norridge, Illinois." Bids will be received by the Village of Norridge at the office of the Village Clerk, 4000 North Norridge Avenue, Norridge, Illinois, 60656, until 11:00 A.M. (CDST), August 29, 2012, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act of the State of Illinois, that Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc.

11:00 am. On the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to adjournment.

10:30 am. On the premises where said property has been stored, which are located at Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc., Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to adjournment.

12:00 pm. On the premises where said property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to adjournment.
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Monster and Pioneer Press now work together, making your job search in suburban Chicago almost as much fun as the city itself. Your calling is calling—find it at pioneerlocal.com/monster.
Employment, Sports fans know all about walk-off home runs, but how about a walk-off hole in one? It's only happened once in PGA Tour history, at the 2010 Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospital Open. Jonathan Byrd was on the fourth hole of a playoff with Martin Laird and Cameron Percy when he teed off last and promptly nailed the ace on a par 3, ending the tournament.

The Charlotte Bobcats ended the strike-shortened 2011-12 NBA season with the worst winning percentage in league history at .370 (7-59). Any guesses as to which teams in the three other major North American sports hold that dubious distinction? In major league baseball, it's the 1973 Philadelphia As at .255 (36-117). In the NHL, it's the Washington Capitals of 1974-75 at .371 (131-485). And in the NFL, it's the 1988 Detroit Lions, who went 0-16 for an all-time-low rate of .000.

Niles Senior Center: The center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 589-8420 for an application.

Planning for Retirement: James Goldman of Morgan Stanley presents "Living Your Way: Planning for Income in Retirement," at 10 a.m. July 25. He will discuss a game plan incorporating sound investment strategies and current retirement realities. Free, but registration is required.

Help downloading eBooks: Go to www.nileslibrary.org/contact us and click on eBOOK HELP. Help or click on the Overdrive Download link on the home page to find step-by-step instructions for different eBook readers as well as how to get started.

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

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

Chicago Chapter of SCORE: Weekly, counselors from SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, will be at the library to help small business owners and anyone considering starting a small business. SCORE counselors are successful executives and business owners who can help with a wide variety of business issues. These experienced businesspeople offer private one-hour sessions of business coaching.

SCORE is a nonprofit association of volunteers. Weekly sessions are held on alternating Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Sessions are free but an appointment is required. To set up an appointment online, visit the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org. If there are questions, call (312) 353-7724 or e-mail info@scorechicago.org.

Golf Maine

Senior Center

Sponsored by the Churchill Centre, will present a talk on "Churchill: Daniel Myers from Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Rd. Mather’s More Than a Cafe: Seniors members; $17, nonmembers. Register by July 23.

Burger Lunch: Build a burger with favorite toppings, accompanied by coleslaw, watermelon and an ice cream sundae at noon July 20. Then enjoy a cappella quartet, Route 66. Reserved seating. Cost is $12, members; $37, nonmembers.

Seniors

Mather’s—More Than a Cafe: Mather’s, 7134 W. Higgins Ave., invites adults 55 and older to experience professionally taught, free-to-moderate-priced programs such as lifelong learning programs, fitness classes, free blood-pressure checks and health screenings, free consumer seminars, special-interest workshops, special events and day trips.

Senior Classes - All classes are four weeks and meet once a week for two hours. Begin with level one and advance through to level four. Classes are regularly forming and are offered every month, $10 each. Dinner Theatre: The Solid-Aire duo will perform classic rock, oldies, Celtic, folk, and pop songs at 4:30 p.m. July 13. Meal cost is $10. Entertainment suggested donation is $8. Retirement Accounts: Laurie Samuels, attorney at law and retirement consultant, will address how to protect and maximize retirement accounts at 1 p.m. July 16. Learn how to effectively protect 401Ks from losses, create retirement funds that last a lifetime, and understand the tax consequences of retirement accounts. Light refreshments will be served. Free.

Jane Austen’s Influence: A look at her legacy at 1 p.m. July 20 with Vy Chazen from the Jane Austen Social Club. Tea, sandwiches and sweets will be served. Cost is $5. Winston Churchill: Daniel Myers from the Churchill Centre will discuss Churchill’s life and times, including rare photos and brief excerpts from his speeches. At 1 p.m. July 26. Suggested donation is $6.

Support

Diabetes support groups: "Advocate Medical Group offers support meetings in the Nessel Pavilion, 1775 Ballard Road, Park Ridge. Adult Type 1 support meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. July 30 (Skin Care Tips for Sun Safety) and Aug. 15 (Diabetes Bingo). Adult Type 2 meets from 6-7 p.m. July 30 (Skin Care Tips), Aug. 23 (Diabetes Bingo). To register for any class, call (847) 318-2500.
Vols eager to run Chievous all over the court

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — This is a big week for Notre Dame high alum Quinton Chievous. After redshirting during his freshman season at University of Tennessee, Chievous is looking to see quality minutes for the Volunteers hoops team this season, which essentially began Monday.

On Aug. 4, the Volunteers head to Italy for a 10-day trip, where they will take on several Italian professionals teams. The NCAA allows a handful of practices before playing overseas.

"Today is our first official practice," Tennessee's second-year head coach Cuonzo Martin said. "I'm quite lucky to start fighting to be in the starting lineup and get minutes. I'm quite sure he's excited.

The team will visit Rome, Florence and Pisa.

"I think it's going to be a great experience, bonding with the team and getting a chance to play on the court," Martin said. "I really think that I can get a chance to play over there.

"He's (Chievous') chance to start fighting to be in the starting lineup and get minutes. I'm quite sure he's excited."

Martin said hours before the workout, "It will be (Chievous') chance to start fighting to be in the starting lineup and get minutes. I'm quite sure he's excited.

"I don't even get to play exhibition games last season," Chievous said.

"Off the court, it will be fun learning as much about the (Italian) culture and maybe trying different foods."

The 6-foot-5, 201-pound guard said he's made improvements to his game since he arrived in Knoxville last summer.

"I would say the main thing is my shooting. I'm a knock-down shooter, and I didn't do that when I came in," said Chievous, who averaged 21 points and 10 rebounds as a senior at Notre Dame. "My defense is a lot better and I've gone from 16-percent body fat to like 7.5 percent. So, I've toned up.

Despite his success at Notre Dame, there were some questions surrounding Chievous' ability to be a high-major college player. He only began playing organized ball as a freshman, and his guard skills still were developing after he played post early in his career. St. Louis University of the Atlantic 10 was one of high-profile teams to offer a scholarship.

But then in the spring of 2011, the opportunity at Tennessee arose after Martin took over for Bruce Pearl, who had been fired after violating NCAA recruiting rules. Martin, the former East St. Louis star who played at Purdue, needed to find unsigned high school seniors, and Chievous fell into that category. He committed in May, long after most of the Class of '11 had made their college decisions.

Chievous said he was surprised when Martin approached him after Tennessee's first exhibition game in the fall and said he was hoping to redshirt him.

"At first I was a little disappointed," said Chievous, whose father Derrick starred at Missouri in the 1980s before playing for the Houston Rockets. "I thought I was doing the right things, waking up at 5:30 a.m. and going to work out when everybody was sleeping. But coach (Martin) explained that I still needed to improve my overall knowledge of the game."

Martin also said it would have been hard to guarantee consistent minutes for Chievous behind fifth-year senior guard Cameron Tatum.

Chievous said conversations with Martin, his own family and Tatum, who had redshirted as a freshman, helped convince him sitting out was the right thing to do.

Chievous practiced and worked out with the team last winter and said he learned a lot about from regular film sessions. Early on, most of his reps in practice were with the scout team. But late in the season, the Chicago native began mixing in with the regulars as Martin started to building toward 2012-13.

Tennessee (20-15), which went to the NIT, holds higher expectations this year, and Martin said he's looking forward to incorporating Chievous into the mix.

"In our offense, he could be all over the floor, playing different positions," the coach said. "He can play two, three or four, if we are playing a four-guard offense. If a big guy is on him, he can step out and make shots, but he can post-up a smaller guy. Defensively, he can spread out (and guard the perimeter), but is physical enough to guard a bigger guy.

"He's done a great job in the classroom and his body looks great."

Papaioannou patient with incoming players

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

PAPA RIDGE — High praise for batters is they have patience at the plate. But Maine East baseball coach Ron Clark praises senior catcher Phil Papaioannou for his perseverance in the dugout and behind the plate this summer.

The Blue Demons, who took a 2-12 record into this week's IHSSCA playoffs, are young after returning just three starters from last spring's team, which finished 12-19.

As one of the veterans, Papaioannou could have been frustrated by the team's experience, especially on the pitching staff. But that has not been the case.

"He's really patient and smart," Clark said. "He's going to take some of the younger guys under his wing. He's a leader and we're really counting on that to continue, and it will. He's the kind of kid and leader who can help us grow quickly, especially on a team as young as the one we have this summer."

Papaioannou said he sees some raw talent, but knows it will be a while before the youngsters are comfortable on the varsity.

"There is definitely a lot of people to work with, but it will take a little time to get them ready for to play at this level," he said. "But I know what they're going through. I had a transition (to varsity) my sophomore year. I'm just trying to be patient, while pushing them to be better."

Papaioannou is not just the team's emotional leader; he's also an emerging star. He hit over .300 during his all-conference performance in the spring of 2012. According to Clark, the 6-foot-2, 160-pounder is one of the area's best defensive catchers and capable of playing in college.

"(Papaioannou) has been outstanding. I can't say enough good things about his defensive abilities," Clark said. "I don't see too many who are better than him at blocking the ball, and his calling the game is tremendous.

"His offense is really coming around. He is hitting the cover off the ball for the high school team and his American Legion team this summer. His on-base percentage (in the spring) was high and I see him hitting it up to the next level. I see him getting better in the offseason and just being a monster in the spring. He's going to play college baseball somewhere."

Papaioannou is doing his best to get seen. He's playing for the Mount Prospect Bulldogs legion team and was selected for last month's Stevenon Showcase, where he threw out a runner trying to steal.

Maine East has question marks all over the rest of the diamond.

Prospective center fielder Greg Davis missed much of his junior season and the entire summer with a stress fracture in his lower back.

Incoming senior A.J. Pisa logged several innings on the mound last season and is expected to be the team's No. 1 starter in 2013. Mitch Brion, another senior, is a first-base/pitcher who played his best ball late in the summer.

Junior Tyler Schnobrich, a first baseman, and Will Heins, a middle infiellder/pitcher and leadoff man, have shown they are capable of making the transition from the sophomore team.

"This past week or two, we've been playing cleaner games, making progress," Clark said. "I do see improvement, and next week we should be a better team after we do our work in the offseason."

Maine East catcher Phil Papaioannou tries to block Hinsdale South base runner D.J. Deolitis from scoring during the Stevenon Showcase. | ROB DICKER-SUN TIMES MEDIA
**Grunst carries big plans into final year with Wolves**

BY ERIC VAN DRIL

SKOKIE — Niles West senior Kirsta Grunst enjoyed a slew of new experiences with Energy 17 Rox during her just-completed club season.

Many of those events figure to have both a positive effect on her final high school season and help her land a college destination.

Energy 17 Rox qualified for USA Volleyball Junior Nationals, the top club tournament in the country.

Grunst, a 5-foot-7 outside hitter, was also named to the 2012 Windy City Power League all-region team.

Those accomplishments were exciting moments for Grunst. Now, as she works with her Niles West teammates during the squad’s summer camp, Grunst is preparing to take on greater responsibility as an outside hitter while also growing accustomed to what could become a new role in the fall.

“We’re thinking about putting me in an outside (hitter), but I also want to learn how to play setter, too, and maybe be a backup setter for my team,” said Grunst, whose team lost a 6-foot-2 setter for the season. “I’m trying to get a little better at it. I feel comfortable.”

On the surface, being 5-7 would seem to be too short for an outside hitter who will face 6-foot blockers in the CSL South.

Knowing that, Grunst spent much of the last seven months with the coaches at Energy 17 Rox working on becoming a more effective and explosive hitter.

“I feel like I’ve improved greatly,” said Grunst, who played with Niles West teammate Monika Cieszynski on Energy 17 Rox.

“I’ve gotten a lot better at playing different positions. I’m kind of short, so it was hard for me to be a strong hitter, but my coach helped me increase my vertical (jump). I also learned how to hit harder and hit around the block. It helped me a lot and it helped me improve.”

Being named to the all-region team, along with playing in front of college scouts at junior nationals in Columbus, Ohio, fueled interest from three colleges she’s interested in attending.

Grunst has been in contact with Carthage College, North Central College and St. Mary’s (Minn.) this summer. She’s planning on visiting the St. Mary’s campus next week and meet coaches.

“It is really exciting thinking about potentially playing there and seeing the campus,” Grunst said of her visits this summer. “I really like it.”
Kolar shows she is fluent in swimming

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

LINCOLNWOOD — Jamie Kolar dropped into the pool like a rock at the start of the 50-meter backstroke at the Italian National Olympic Committee Youth Games in Salerno, Italy, and waited for the "take your mark" command she heard so many times before the start of a race.

Instead, the starter spoke in Italian — a language Kolar doesn't understand — and then she heard a whistle.

"The whistle went off and I was looking around and I was like, 'What, we did everything wrong?,'" Kolar, a 13-year-old from Lincolnwood who will attend Loyola Academy in the fall, said. "I was like, 'Oh, I probably should have left.' I went out, went after it and I still won, so I was very fortunate!"

Kolar overcame the language barrier and a two-to-three second deficit at the start of the 50 backstroke to win the race by a comfortable margin. Kolar's excellence continued in her other three events — the 100-meter backstroke and two relays — and she won each of her events for CONI USA, a group of four girls and four boys of Italian heritage who swim against athletes from other countries who also carry Italian roots.

For those who have followed her young swimming career, seeing Kolar succeed on an international stage wasn't surprising. She recorded three times that were among the top-10 fastest times in the United States for her age group last year, including the sixth-fastest 100-meter back, the fifth-fastest 100 free and the third-fastest 200 back.

After competing in the 11-12 age group last year, Kolar decided that turning 13 and moving up a bracket presented the perfect time to travel outside of the country and compete in an event offered to only 11-13-year-olds.

"I wanted to focus on my age group last year because I was at the top of the world," Kolar said. "Hey, we'll do something fun because I'm at the bottom." Kolar said. "This would have been my last year to compete, so I said, 'Let's go to Italy!'"

Once there, Kolar and the other seven swimmers on CONI USA not only represented their country, but they got to tour areas of Southern Italy. Kolar and her teammates traveled to downtown Salerno, Grotte di Padula and saw some of the country's ancient ruins.

While the experience of visiting Italy for the first time and swimming remarkably well for the United States is something Kolar isn't likely to forget, the Italian National Olympic Committee Youth Games represents one exciting, high profile meet in a year which has included many.

Kolar recently competed at the University of Notre Dame July 6-8 with NASA Wildcat Aquatics. Kolar also swam at IUPUI this summer, and, in February, the 13-year-old competed at the Missouri Grand Prix, a meet comprised of Olympians, state champions and swimmers who were much older than she.

The experience of swimming a Grand Prix event, along with competing against so much quality competition in her young career, had a particularly positive effect when Kolar was in Italy.

"It really calmed my nerves knowing that I've gone up against college kids or Olympians like Missey Franklin," Kolar said. "It definitely helps knowing I could compete against them and hold my own."

At the Speedo Illinois Swimming Senior Championships at the University of Chicago last weekend, Kolar won the 100 backstroke in 1:05.62 and placed fourth in the 200 freestyle.

Alec Hayden, her coach at NASA Wildcat Aquatics, believes Kolar can continue adding to her impressive résumé.

"Five years from now, we'll be looking at her probably being a Division I swimmer and going to the next Olympic Trials," Hayden said. "She's already set some state records, so hopefully she can continue to do that."

Lee encouraged by 3-day total at Junior Am

BY PAUL JOHNSON
Contributor

GENEVA — Highland Park junior Patrick Flavin entered the third and final round of the IJGA-CDGA Junior Amateur at Mill Creek in Geneva five strokes off the lead, meaning he would need a huge final round to catch the leader.

As it turned out, Flavin did all he could on Friday to win the crown. He shot a 2-under 69 in the final round, the best of the day, and tied for the lowest of the entire tournament. Since he was so far off the lead, however, he had to wait over an hour to see if his three-day total of 217 would stand.

"It seemed like today once I got a birdie putt on the 16th green during the final day only one stroke off the lead," Flavin said. "I just wanted to make the cut," Flavin said. "Today, I knew I could shoot low, so I just came out and played my game."

After playing baseball as a freshman and sophomore, Rohrbach didn't make the team his junior year. He still had designs on playing baseball at Carleton in the fall, but now will be turning 13 and moving up a bracket.

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"It was hard, but I just tried to keep my mind off it," Flavin said. "I got a snack and I went and hit a couple puts. I knew there were a lot of great golfers behind me, but I thought I may have a chance."

After everybody finally finished, Flavin wound up in a four-man playoff for the lead, after his final-round 71. "I just wanted to make the cut," Rohrbach said. "Today, I knew I could shoot low, so I just came out and played my game."

After playing baseball as a freshman and sophomore, Rohrbach didn't make the team his junior year. He still had designs on playing baseball at Carleton College in Minnesota. But when he picked up golf and quickly learned he could compete, he changed his mind. He all head to Carleton in the fall, but now will be playing golf.

"I started playing in October and I've worked it every day since then," Rohrbach said. "Today, I knew I could shoot low, so I just came out and played my game."

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ROSS finally feels Pirates really want him

BY MIKE CAMERON
Contributor

BRADENTON, Fla. — After the equivalent of a checked swing, Kevin Ross was expected to formally sign his contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization by today (Thursday).

Ross, who was selected by the Pirates in the eighth round of the MLB draft in June, only reluctantly agreed to terms on Friday before the 5 p.m. signing deadline. That's just a verbal commitment, with the actual signature of a contract normally to follow.

The former Niles West star shortstop was unhappy with the offer of $130,000, which was $8,200 below the amount recommended for his slot. Frustrated, Ross talked openly of honoring his verbal commitment to play for the University of Michigan, although even the Wolverines knew he was likely pro-bound.

"It wasn't just the money. I was strongly leaning toward pro ball, but I needed to feel like the Pirates wanted and valued me. I decided I should make the trip and talk with them face to face and get to know them," said Ross, who flew on Monday with his father, Gerald, to Pittsburgh's rookie camp in Bradenton, Fla.

As of Tuesday, Pittsburgh did not increase its offer on the signing bonus. But the club did substantially pad the total package by agreeing to cover the taxable portion of Ross's college costs if he attends school.

"If Kevin goes to college, that could be $200,000, with taxes up to $60,000," said Gerald. "So it's a big help that they agreed to pick up that portion."

Ross hit more than .600 in two years at Mather. After transferring to Niles West, he batted .432 his last two seasons. In the summer before his senior year, he earned best-player honors at the Area Code Games, a showcase for top prep talent. Scouts from all 30 big-league organizations watched Ross display his five-tool talents this spring. He was projected to be drafted in the top five rounds.

The waters then turned choppy. Ross suffered a thumb injury in the last game before the IHSA playoffs. One major league club wanted him in the third round, but only as a catcher. Other teams told him they wanted him in the fifth round, and then changed their plans.

As an eighth-round pick, he was squeezed from both ends by the new collective bargaining agreement. Teams had a spending cap on their first 10 picks, and allotted lion's shares to their top selections. There was less constraint beyond the first 10 rounds on high-ceiling, hard-to-sign players.

"My timing and the way things developed worked against me. I think one thing after another got to me a little bit," Ross said. "It's not my nature to point fingers. No one is really to blame. It's just the way the process went.

"I'm a ballplayer. That's who I am, and what I want to do. I am going to use this experience as motivation to drive me more on the field."
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