St. Haralambos parishioner John Harisiadis shaves off meat for gyros at the Big Greek Food Fest on July 21 in Niles.

**SHAVING THE DAY**

PAGE 12 | ERIC DAVIS FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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**OLYMPIC FARE**
Chef offers a taste of England

PAGE 22

**‘DAYLABOR DREAMING’**
Exposing stereotypes with humor

PAGE 1B

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West Nile-infected mosquitoes traps, they often are in or near not publicize the location of those Grove. Though the NSMAD does Nile virus in traps in Morton though by the capture of mos-

TIMES MEDIA

photo, a pool of mosquitoes from Streamwood is tested for West Nile virus at the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District office.

Mosquito spraying in Morton Grove was prompted by the capture of insects infected with the West Nile virus in traps in the village. In this file photo, a pool of mosquitoes from Streamwood is tested for West Nile virus at the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District office.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICE

Morton Grove traps turn up West Nile-infected mosquitoes

BY NICK KATZ

MORTON GROVE — The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District sprayed a large portion of Morton Grove last week after mosquitoes caught in traps tested positive for the West Nile virus.

The spraying was part of work done July 19 in Morton Grove, Niles and Skokie.

"They conducted adult mosquito control in most of the village last Thursday night," said Morton Grove Environmental Health Office Bonnie Burnett.

Burnett said the work was prompted by the capture of mosquitoes infected with the West Nile virus in traps in Morton Grove. Though the NSMAD does not publicize the location of those traps, they often are in or near

Cook County Forest Preserves. Burnett said the mosquitoes were trapped sometime between July 9 and July 16.

She noted that this summer's hot, dry weather has been particularly conducive to the growth of large numbers of mosquitoes.

"The hot weather makes them breed more quickly," she said.

In addition, when there is little rain the standing water in basins and other locations is not flushed out, which destroys the mosquito larvae. That allows them to grow into adult mosquitoes.

"This weather is bad from both points of view," Burnett said.

Infected mosquitoes also have been trapped in other area communities, including Skokie, Evanston, Glenview and Niles.

But according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention there have been no human cases of West Nile so far this year in Illinois.

That's far different than 10 years ago when an unusually hot summer allowed the West Nile virus to strike the Chicago area.

In Cook County alone there were 854 human cases and 41 deaths from the emerging mosquito-borne virus, which only three years earlier had first appeared in New York.

The tally from the Illinois outbreak — 884 human cases and 66 deaths — was the worst in the nation.

That was the year former Morton Grove Mayor Dan Scanlon became ill with West Nile encephalitis and his wife died from a West Nile-related illness. Scanlon, who died in 2010, remained in a wheelchair the rest of his life as a result of his illness.

Burnett said residents should clear away containers that collect standing water and regularly change the water in bird baths and swimming pools. Citizens also are urged to take personal precautions by covering up exposed skin when going outdoors and using a repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535 according to label instructions.

Burnett said anyone who finds standing water in such places as swimming pools can report it to the village. In addition, she said, residents who find dead birds can report those.

But birds are useful only if they have been dead less than 24 hours and show no signs that they died in some violent way. Of particular interest are crows and Blue Jays, she said.

DEATH INVESTIGATION

Man hit by train was set to marry fiancee next day

BY TRACY GRUEN AND NICK KATZ

MORTON GROVE — A 38-year-old Skokie man was rushing to meet the woman he was to marry the next day when he was struck and killed last week by Metra train.

Danny You, of the 1800 block of West Lee Street, on the evening of July 17 was crossing the tracks at 8300 Lehigh Avenue in Morton Grove when he was struck by a northbound commuter train.

"He was super-excited they were going to get married," said Darin Hanley, a funeral director at Bubb Funeral Home in South Bend, Ind.

Hanley said the couple were supposed to be married the next day, July 18.

Hanley said a representative of the funeral home was in Chicago and talked with You's fiancee, who said she was on one side of the platform and You was on the other.

You was hit by the train when he tried to cross over to be with her, Hanley said.

"She saw the whole incident," Hanley said.

A spokesman from the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office said You died as a result of "multiple injuries" from a "train striking pedestrian accident."

Metra Police said You was attempting to cross the train tracks where there wasn't a designated crossing area.

Metra Police on July 23 were still investigating the incident and had not issued a final report, the Metra spokesman stated.

The Metra spokesman said You was trying to cross about a quarter-mile from the Morton Grove Metra station.

You was struck and killed by outbound Milwaukee District North Train No. 241.

The train had left downtown at 5:30 p.m. and was scheduled to arrive in Fox Lake at 7:06 p.m., according to a Metra spokesman.

The accident delayed seven trains anywhere from 18 to 90 minutes and forced Metra to cancel three others, the spokesman said.

Morton Grove Police Cmdr. Paul Yaras said You had apparently left one of the factories in the area and walked across the tracks to catch a ride.

Yaras said he was not at a crossing and apparently did not see the train coming.

"He cut across the tracks and was struck by a northbound train," Yaras said.

Hanley said his family was from the South Bend, Ind., area and they held a visitation and cemetery service, but chose not to release an obituary.

Phone calls from Pioneer Press to You's father were not returned.
MAINE TOWNSHIP — Maine Township Clerk Gary K. Warner donated $1,000 in June 2021, and again June 28, 2012, to the Honor Flight Chicago program, according to a new release.

For the past eight years, the clerk’s office has been processing passport applications from within the township generating about $15,000 worth of annual revenue, the release stated. Warner is donating a portion of the yearly revenue to Honor Flight as a way to support local World War II veterans.

The donation funded the trip to Washington, D.C., for two veterans. Groups of veterans take part in Honor Flight Chicago several times each year. Veterans fly out of Midway Airport in the early-morning and return after a day in the nation’s capital.

The Honor Flight Chicago program is a nonprofit organization founded in 2008. The purpose of the program is to acknowledge veterans, and set aside a special day dedicated to honoring, remembering and celebrating their service. The veterans’ day with Honor Flight consists of a flight to Washington, D.C., visitsations of the World War II, Korean, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials, a tour of Washington, and a flight back where veterans are greeted by hundreds of citizens.

Warner himself is an Army veteran having served from 1962-54, the release stated. This year the Maine Township Board along with Warner is supporting the program.

For information on Honor Flight Chicago go to www.honorflightchicago.org.

VILLAGE PLANNING

Public input sought on environmental goals

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — Sustainability is high on the village of Niles’ priority list and resident input was encouraged at the first public meeting to create an environmental plan July 26.

Part of the village’s recently adopted 2030 Comprehensive Plan is to implement a sustainability plan to promote the importance of environmental issues and sustainable practices to residents, businesses and developers.

Residents have been asked to share their input on various topics, such as increasing recycling rates, biking, transit and walking, and ways to save energy at home and at work.

“This is actually a pretty unique action plan in the region,” said Kristin Ihnchak, of CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning). “Niles is one of the front-runners in terms of developing a plan that is specific environmental resources.”

CMAP is providing technical assistance to various municipalities, such as the village of Niles, and is acting as project manager.

CMAP received a $4-million federal grant to assist various towns with ways to ultimately advance the regional comprehensive plan.

“We’ll be looking for residents’ input on the goals,” Ihnchak said. She said neighbors’ comments and suggestions will help shape the recommendations of the plan.

“This document (the environmental plan) will give them some broad, overarching goals and achievable action steps,” Ihnchak said.
VILLAGE HALL

Hearings slated on fare, route changes to the Niles Free Bus

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — The potential for the Niles Free Bus being in need of a more accurate name is to be a topic of conversation during upcoming hearings.

A proposed charge of 25 cents per one-way trip for general riders and 10 cents per one-way trip for seniors age 65 or older will be discussed at the hearings, scheduled for 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive.

Under the proposal, children younger than 7 would ride free. The discontinuation of service on Presidents Day, Veterans Day and the village's Spring Holiday also will be discussed.

The temporary discontinuation of weekend service for the Route 413 South End Special is also slated for discussion at the hearing.

The courtesy bus system costs the village about $550,000 a year to operate. Village trustees had asked staff to reduce the cost of operating the system.

This year the cost of the free bus went $75,000 over budget, but the PACE suburban bus system reimbursed the village, Village Finance Director Scot Neukirch explained.

Neukirch said the total operating expense to run the free bus system was about $1,870,000, of which the village contributed about $643,000, but after the audit the amount was $658,000.

Neukirch said that the village is expected to contribute 86 percent of budgeted expenses for the Free Bus and PACE picks up the rest.

Mike Haws, fleet manager for the Public Works Department, said the proposed fees are anticipated to bring in about $65,000 a year.

"It's about trying to make it more efficient and sharing the load with the residents," Haws said.

Haws said route changes are also being examined but won't be discussed at the upcoming hearings. He said the bus routes haven't been updated since the inception of the Free Bus and certain routes may need to be changed to best meet the needs of riders.

"We are seeing areas we should be in and areas we shouldn't be in," Haws explained.

Patrick Wilmot, a PACE spokesman, said: "We'll go along with anything they need to improve the long-term viability of the system. They have the ability to change the fare."

"We're certainly understanding of their financial issues," Village Trustee Joe LoVerde said he was not in favor of fare changes at this time. He said he wants to see cost reductions first and see if officials can avoid charging a fee.

He believes they can make it affordable by changing routes and implementing other cost reductions without having to charge a fee.

"A lot of people depend on the bus," he said.

LoVerde said the board has been asking staff to look at several cost-saving measures to reduce operating costs of the Free Bus for the past few years and officials haven't yet received any such figures.

Route 411 serves Golf Mill, Notre Dame High School, Civic Center Plaza and Niles Public Library. Route 412 goes to the Golf Mill, Four Flags and Golf Glen shopping centers. The third route, 413, travels to the Leaning Tower YMCA, Pointe Plaza and Village Crossing Shopping Center.

Any person wishing to comment on the proposed changes is welcome to attend the public hearing, the village's website stated. Prior to the public hearing, written comments may be submitted to village of Niles, Public Services Department, 6849 Tushy Ave., Niles, IL 60714.

People with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations other than transportation in order to allow them to observe or participate in this meeting, are requested to contact the village of Niles at (847) 588-8002, the website stated.
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THEATRES

The Owens family — Richard, Jr., Richard, Sr., and Christine — saw the midnight release of “Dark Knight Rises” July 20 at AMC Theatres in Niles’ Golf Mill Center. NATAHASWINSKI-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

A CLOSER LOOK

Big evening for ‘Dark Knight’ fans at local cinemas

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

As dusk set in and the skies opened up, people began gathering in the shadows on the sidewalk adjacent to Prospect Avenue in Park Ridge. Dark dreary weather July 19 only enhanced the mood for those who stayed out late to see the highly anticipated release of director Christopher Nolan’s dark conclusion to his Batman trilogy.

Adam Sparks, 20, of Park Ridge and 150 other fans lined up outside the Pickwick Theatre as early as 10 p.m. for the midnight premiere of “The Dark Night Rises.”

“As a youngster I used to dress up with my cape and mask,” said Sparks, who wore a black T-shirt adorned with the superhero’s classic yellow crest.

“I still have my toys and everything,” he said, adding jokingly: “I should have been out there playing with them.”

Several others from the mostly young crowd said they grew up with the Dark Knight series. After the wild success of “The Dark Knight” in 2008, many said they couldn’t wait to see the concluding chapter.

“I’m expecting great things: great graphics, great plot line, great everything,” said Salvatore Rocco La Tragna, 16, whose group of teenage friends was the first in line for the midnight crowd.

Adam Sparks, 20, of Park Ridge, and 150 other fans had lined up outside the Pickwick Theatre as early as 10 p.m. for the midnight premiere of “The Dark Night Rises,” the theater’s fourth-largest opening-night crowd.

For Rachel Schwamberger, 18, of Chicago, and Catherine Carini, 17, of Lincolnwood, Christian Bale was reason enough to stay up and brave the rain outside the Pickwick.

Carini prepared for the night by rewatching the second installment the week before.

“I watch ‘The Dark Knight’ regularly,” she said. “You know what’s going to happen but the suspense kills me.”

Both were excited to see

in throngs of theatergoers, nowadays people rush to see the latest films as soon as they come out.

Vlahakis said that, whereas ticket-sale revenues used to drop 20 to 25 percent a week after a film’s release, that figure today is closer to 50 percent.

Picwick sold 640 tickets to the midnight premiere of “The Dark Knight Rises,” the theater’s fourth-largest opening-night crowd.

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“I watch ‘The Dark Knight’ regularly,” she said. “You know what’s going to happen but the suspense kills me.”

Both were excited to see
new faces in the latest film.
"I'm confident in the supporting cast," Carini said. "Anne Hathaway rocks. She'll be more like the classy Catwoman."
"She'll bring her own spin to it," Schwamberger added.
Alyssa Rathan, 20, of Chicago, also felt confident in Hathaway's ability to play Batman's feline frenemy.
"I think she's really versatile and can pull it off," she said.
At AMC Theatres in Niles' Golf Mill Shopping Center, Batman fans also trickled in for the midnight showing. By 11 p.m. the cinema had sold 900 of 2,100 tickets, according to theater staff.
Moviegoers Christine Owens and her husband, Richard, Sr., along with son Richard, Jr., came to the premiere in matching "The Dark Knight Rises" shirts.
Owens also carried with her a plush Batman and Catwoman, and wore a Batman-themed ring and bracelet.
The couple's son inspired their fanfare.
"Batman was like his third or fourth word," Owens said.
Richard, Jr. said he prefers Batman to other superheroes because of his ability to "stand up to the other guys without (having) powers."
Caped Crusaders and crooks made a showing at AMC Theatres in Niles' Golf Mill Shopping Center for the midnight release of "Dark Knight Rises" July 20. Pictured: Alex Conforti as Mr. Freeze, Joseph Welman as The Joker, Richard Calbrese as Bane, Sara Ortice as The Riddler, and Tatiana Thomas as Batman, all of Chicago.
The excitement of the film's opening was later overshadowed by news of a deadly shooting rampage at a sold-out Colorado theater that left a dozen people dead and nearly 60 wounded. Police identified the gunman as 24-year-old James Holmes.
A spokesman for AMC issued this statement: "We are terribly saddened by the random act of violence in Aurora and our thoughts are with the victims and their families. For the safety and security of our guests and associates, we are actively working with local law enforcement in communities throughout the nation and, under the circumstances, we are reaching out to all of our theatres to review our safety and security procedures. Being a safe place in the community for all our guests is a top priority at AMC and we take that responsibility very seriously."
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The three cars that struck Goldy, a 1-year-old Golden-doodle with a sense of adventure, left the Higginson family's pet with serious injuries requiring surgery.

The problem was the cost. At $3,000, it wasn't something the Park Ridge family could easily afford. Feeling compassion for Goldy's owners, veterinarian Piotr Warcholek decided to see what he could do.

"Sometimes in this situation I just think that maybe someone will help me," the doctor, based at Touhy Animal Hospital, said. "I did make a few phone calls to find the money. I was more than happy to offer them this help."

Warcholek, a veterinarian for more than 30 years, managed to secure the $3,000 required for Goldy's surgery which took place at Veterinary Specialty Center in Buffalo Grove. Less than two months later Goldy is healing and doing well, his owner, Sophia Zaffer Higginson, reported.

"He has been weaned back to doing his daily activities slowly," she said. "He seems to be doing really well. The prognosis seems excellent."

Warcholek, who shares his office with his own dog, a Maltese poodle named Kryspin, proudly showed thank-you cards he received from Higginson's children, Meghan, 10, and Eddie, 13, as well as classmates of Meghan's at Washington Elementary School in Park Ridge. The cards, both typed and handwritten, thank the doctor for helping Goldy after his accident, some sharing personal stories of their own pets being cared for by Warcholek and his staff at Touhy Animal Hospital, 2311 W. Touhy Ave.

"It was a very touching moment," Warcholek said of receiving the cards.

In addition to treating cats and dogs Warcholek also sees his share of guinea pigs, hamsters and ferrets. A native of Krakow, Poland, he worked with horses and other farm animals during his early years as a veterinarian.

At Touhy Animal Hospital, Warcholek and his staff offer preventive care, full examinations, vaccinations, lab work, dental care, spaying and neutering, microchipping, common surgeries like foreign-object removal, eye care, laser therapy and a number of other services.

Helping out a patient's financially strapped owners isn't something Warcholek can do frequently, he acknowledges, though he dreams of establishing a fund that would be available to those who need it in the future.

"We've lost trust in other people, but once in a while something happens," he said of his ability to secure financial help for Goldy's care. "It's most important for the kids to believe that something can happen, even the unexpected."
Sophia Karabatsos, of Chicago, holds a tray of gyros for her family at the St. Haralambos Big Greek Food Fest on July 21 in Niles. Karabatsos said she and her family make the drive up every year from their Midway neighborhood to attend the festival.

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — Volunteers worked hard as they do each year to make the past weekend’s Big Greek Food Fest of Niles even bigger and better than the year before.

From July 20-22, the festival returned to Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 Caldwell Ave.

The event is a long-standing tradition in Niles that features authentic Greek food made by volunteers.

Guests enjoyed homemade shish kabobs, moussaka, pastitsio, spinach pie, Greek pastries, wine and more. There was also live Greek music, and Greek dancers entertained crowds each night of the festival.

Volunteers of all ages came together to make about 10,000 pork-shish-kabob skewers and all of the food featured at the festival, which is the largest fundraiser for Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church.

“The money that we make helps the church the rest of the year,” said Elini Lanzourakis, public-relations chairman for the festival.

Lanzourakis said the church will be creating a new school and other facilities on property purchased next to the church. She said there is not yet a specific plan or project date.

“The bigger the better,” said Lanzourakis, adding that the event provides a friendly atmosphere where families can come and enjoy an authentic Greek dinner while their children are having fun in a family environment.

For the past five years, the festival’s Kids Korner has been providing a secure area where parents can bring their children to play and enjoy face-painting games, a balloon artist, crafts and more.

A lucky winner was slated to go home with either a new 2012 Chevrolet Camaro or a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle, or $20,000. There was also a second prize of $2,000, third prize of $1,000, fourth prize of $500 and fifth prize of $500.

For guests who really love what they eat at the fest, cooking demonstrations were on the itinerary, as well. There was also an area for shopping a movie about Greece and guided tours of the church.
Parishioner Gregory Uranas works the souvlaki grill July 21. I ERIC DAVIS-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Parishioners Vicky Callas, Arthur Demeros and Maryanna Calls work the lamb booth at the Big Greek Food Fest. | ERIC DAVIS-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Kosta Sotiropoulos, of the Hellenic 5, tunes up his Bouzouki before performing July 21 in Niles. | ERIC DAVIS-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Parishioner George Korkofugas rakes the coals in the souvlaki grill during the festival. | ERIC DAVIS-FOR SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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DISTRICT 219

Federal mediator assisting in district, teacher talks

BY NATASHA WASKINSKI

SKOKIE — A federal mediator is assisting Niles Township High School District 219 and its teachers union with settling next year's contract, according to a joint statement from the two parties.

The current teachers contract, which had been in place since 2009, is set to expire Aug. 20. Mediation services are provided by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service at no cost to the district or union, the release states. The mediator began meeting with the two negotiating teams last month. The statement notes issues that have remain unresolved since March, including matters involving teaching and learning, such as school day; teacher evaluation; salaries; benefits; pensions; and extracurricular pay.

Public employee pay has also been on the minds of residents as of late. Since the village issued property tax bills issued last month, District 219 has come under fire by residents upset with rate increases that fund the public school system.

According to expenditure data from fiscal year 2011, District 219 employee salary and benefits accounted for nearly 84 percent of the educational fund budget, for a total of $69.9 million. Property taxes that same year accounted for $164.4 million of district revenue.

Gatta named 'Educator of the Year'

Niles Township High School District 219 Superintendent Nanciann Gatta has been named Educator of the Year by the Illinois State Crime Commission/Police Athletic League of Illinois, according to a news release.

Gatta was honored at the commission's annual awards dinner on June 20 at Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, the release stated. Gatta was recognized, among other accomplishments, for the effective partnerships District 219 has established with local law-enforcement agencies, social service agencies and youth advocates to reach out to youth and prevent crime, through such initiatives as the Niles Township Youth Coalition.

The coalition meets monthly to share information related to challenges facing young people in Niles Township. "The coalition has been cited as a model of interagency cooperation, instituting such proactive programs as an alternative-to-suspension program that encourages at-risk youth to provide community service while they stay in school," the release stated.

Gatta was also recognized for the district's ongoing efforts to reach out to Niles Township's diverse constituencies, including a large immigrant community; families of District 219 students speak more than 80 different languages.

In accepting the award, Gatta told the audience: "What we have learned in partnering with all of my colleagues in education, law enforcement, government and social service agencies is that schools are safe, not through heavy police presence or metal detectors. Schools are safe when students connect to at least one adult and one program that gives them a sense of belonging and pride."

Gatta was one of two-dozen "leaders who make a difference." Other honorees at this year's ceremony included Chicago Police Department Superintendent Garry McCarthy, who won the Police Athletic League's Jesse White Award and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis, who received the Award of Excellence in the judiciary.

The Illinois Crime Commission is a not-for-profit organization committed to public safety and law enforcement. Its goal is "to offer insightful, creative legislative solutions and assist law enforcement agencies to prevent crime in our communities through a unique blend of awareness and activities."

Rull appointed chief financial officer

The Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education appointed Kristine RuIL appointed chief financial officer.
Rull, the district’s new Chief Financial Officer at its July 9 meeting, according to a news release.

Rull has more than 20 years’ experience in financial and operations management in the private, public and nonprofit sectors, the release stated.

Rull was most recently senior vice president and director of specialized markets at Urban Partnership Bank in Chicago, which is recognized for its commitment to community-development banking.

She also served as chief operating officer for Three Arts Club in Chicago, a nonprofit gallery and residence for women in the arts.

Rull served Bank One (formerly First National Bank of Chicago) in a number of roles from 1980 to 2001, including Foreign Exchange Trading manager, directing both the United States and London offices.

In public education, Rull served the Chicago Public Schools as Director of School Operations and Renovation. She was responsible for CPS’s $750-million budget for school-building renovation, day-to-day maintenance and operations. She started at CPS as deputy of Instruction and School Management.

“We are very excited to bring Kris to D219, since she has such big-picture experience in financial and operational management,” said Superintendent Nanciann Gatta. "Kris is a passionate advocate of public education who has shown time and again that she has the ability to identify and implement ways to improve system efficiencies to reallocate resources to the classroom. We are proud of D219’s strong fiscal health, and I believe Kris will help us take the right steps to maintain our financial stability.”

Rull holds a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and graduated with honors.

**North’s bass team takes second place in competition**

The Niles North High School bass fishing team earned second place out of 21 teams in the IHSA Sectional held in the spring at Carlyle Lake in Carlyle, Ill. Members of the team included: Sammy Pizzalato, Kevin Tong, Ismael Meza, and Umar Hassan. Kevin Tong caught the largest bass at 3.14 lbs. The coaches were Carol Herlocker and Pat Steeno. The boat drivers were Dave Leffleman and Hugh Flack.

**North artists in Great Frame Up Show**

The following Niles North High School artists were selected as the Best in Show winners in the 2012 Life Is Simply Art (LISA) Contest at the Great Frame Up, 2814 Central St., Evanston, held recently. Charmaine John, drawing; Sarah Sunahara, photography; Samantha Blank, graphic communications; and April Hernandez, 3-dimensional. The artists advanced to the Best of the Best Show held the past spring when they competed against students from 27 other schools for scholarship money.

**West STEM student earns symposium award**

Niles West STEM Inquiry and Research student Sebastian Chirayil competed at the Percy Julian Symposium held the past spring at Oak Park River Forest High School. Chirayil, a sophomore, won third place in the freshmen/sophomore division for his project “The pH Dependency on the Redox Potential of the Protein Cytochrome C.”

**Students take the national Latin exam**

Resurrection College Prep High School Latin students joined more than 148,000 students from all 50 states and 13 countries taking the 2012 National Latin Exam, sponsored by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League, designed to evaluate students’ long-term acquisition of Latin grammar, mythology, life, history, roots/derivatives and reading comprehension. Six students were recognized with the next-highest award, a Special Achievement Certificate, including Sofia Lyskanowski, of Niles, and Sarah Nolan, Elizabeth Mahoney, Elaine Wasylko and Erin Vasiladis, all of the Chicago area.
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

NILES
7538 W Kirk Dr: Damian Kosakowski to Michelle C Benko for $555,000 on June 4
7042 W Keeney St: Real Equities Inc to Vladmir Huante I for $285,000 on June 7
8149 N Grace Ave: Herbet Kusch Sr to Anthony J Geslick for $338,000 on June 5
8111 Parkside Ave: Grove Morton to Stella M Morton for $144,000 on June 1
8741 W Howard St: Ade-18
7414 W Howard St: Ade-18
5014 W Howard St: Ade-18

MORTON GROVE
9223 Menard Ave: Helene Abrams to Ahmed M Hashim for $310,000 on May 17
9116 Mansfield Ave: Prayat Kopesumbut to Erica Barraca for $390,000 on May 17
8111 Parkside Ave: Grove Morton to Stella M Morton for $210,000 on June 1

EVANSTON
815 Ridge Ter: Philip A Amerson to John B julia for $283,000 on May 25
1414 Ridge Ave: Charles W Pyne to Jeff D Harris for $878,000 on May 24
2430 Ridgeway St: Anne Koch to Scott Hays for $650,000 on June 4
949 Ridge Ave: Astfandyar Khan to Khayyam Khan for $500,000 on May 24
2653 Hillside Ln: Mark Knepper to Ellen Darned for $415,000 on May 23
2127 Lincolnwood Dr: Niles Township Jewish Congregatio Ezra-Ha-

GLENCOE
151 Park Ave: Robert Chane Jr to Joseph A Canepari for $2,225,000 on May 29
2306 Hastings Ave: Kevin Ball to Stacy Stonequist for $395,000 on May 28
2227 Payne St: Michael A Naeh to Brian Molitor for $300,000 on May 25
125 South Blvd: Susan J Jones to Devin Bell for $280,000 on May 24
2120 Cleveland St: Kelly D Janzen to Grant Waspi for $1,640,000 on June 7
2841 Waukegan Rd: Mary F Sethness to Ben Moe to Steven J Hoppe for $235,000 on May 23
313 Hawthorne Ave Unit 313E: Sean Well to Melame for $1,611,500 on June 1
313 Hawthorne Ave Unit 313E: Sean Well to Melame for $1,611,500 on June 1

LINCOLNWOOD
7121 Hamlin Ave: Martin H Fishman to Peggy J McMurton for $333,000 on May 25
7026 N Crawford Ave: Zorica Popic to Mary Jane Dulay for $250,000 on June 1

NORTHELF
2316 Clover Ln: Robert M Fishman to Slawomir Marek for $1,050,000 on May 25
3030 Arbor Ln Unit 3030204: Lois E Hennick to Robert L Snyder for $150,000 on June 1

SKOKIE
4021 Greenwood St: Shamir Otani to Meshe Mraz for $318,000 on May 22
5014 Church St: Saqid Afghan to Edim Kulis for $263,000 on May 25
WHAT'S IN MY PRICE RANGE?

GLENVIEW
$899,000
3614 Ari Laite
House Size: 3,536 square feet
Lot size: 10,000 square feet
Year built: 1989
Bedrooms: 5 Baths: 3 full, 2 half
Garage: 2-car attached
Most recent available tax: $10,792 (2010)
Agent: Maria Schneider, 847-657-3790
http://www.coldwellbankeronline.com/
ID/2723019

RIVER FOREST
$879,000
1311 Monroe Ave.
House Size: 3,326 square feet
Lot size: 9,400 square feet
Year built: 1938
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 3.5
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $20,830 (2010)
Agent: Michael O’Neill, 708-267-8995
http://www.bairdwarner.com/property/15555160/

PARK RIDGE
$875,000
433 S. Prospect Ave.
House Size: 3,614 square feet
Lot size: 8,600 square feet
Year built: 2001
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 4.5
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $17,195 (2010)
Agent: Gary Hauch, 847-384-7505
http://www.coldwellbankeronline.com/
ID/2858209

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: $21,202.87 (2011)
Agent: Pat Bell, 847-367-1171, ext. 248
http://www.kreuserandseller.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, 847-934-5065
http://934lakewooddrive.bairdwarner.com/

LA GRANGE
$866,000
30 North Brainard Ave.
House Size: 3,826
Lot size: 6,863
Year built: 2006
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/

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Suburban Chicago is a desirable place to live. The region is a network of communities that offers access to a world-class city. However, choosing a community from the dozens of towns and villages that surround the city can be challenging for homebuyers.

When it comes to real estate, there is no limit to the choices in the suburbs. Each week, What's In My Price Range? will feature six homes from throughout the area that fall within a certain price range. You can see just how much your money gets you throughout some of the most dynamic communities in the suburbs.

— John Puterbaugh, jputerbaugh@suntimes.com

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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.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
Matthew Glanakopoulos, 24, of 7233 Greenleaf Ave., Niles, was arrested July 17 at his home and charged with knowingly damaging property. The victim, a 59-year-old Niles man, said that when he got home from work he discovered the rear-entry door of his house was kicked in. The victim told police that his son, the suspect, had broken down the door. Matthew Glanakopoulos has an Aug. 28 court date.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE
A 63-year-old Niles man reported that someone smashed out the front window and driver-side windows, and slashed all four tires of a 2007 Toyota four-door vehicle between July 16 and July 17 on the 8700 block of Grace. An investigation was pending.

DOMESTIC DISPUTE
A 35-year-old Niles woman and a 46-year-old suspect got into a domestic dispute on July 19 at their apartment on the 7900 block of Caldwell Avenue. The suspect admitted to being angry about wasting air-conditioning by leaving the front door open and the victim said the suspect had slapped her.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
An 82-year-old Niles woman told police that a man called her on July 19 at home and reportedly pretended to be her grandson, and said he was in trouble in Canada and needed $1,000. The victim called her daughter-in-law and learned that the caller was not her grandson.

FRAUD
A 21-year-old Niles man told police he lost his wallet in Evanston and someone used his debit card 16 times, spending a total of $664 between July 13 and July 15.

GRADUATION
An 82-year-old Niles woman reported that someone had placed graffiti on the wall of his apartment complex on the 7400 block of Natchez Avenue.

THEFT
A report of a dog attacking a family member resulted in multiple stitches and a municipal citation.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man ticketed in pit bull's attack on relative
A recent report of a dog attacking a family member resulted in multiple stitches and a municipal citation.

Park Ridge police ticketed Maciej Milowicki, 26, of the 900 block of N. Lincoln Ave., for failure to control an animal July 8 after his 42-pound pit bull, "Bubbles," bit a 30-year-old relative.

The victim's puncture wounds required a dozen stitches, according to police. Milowicki was given an Aug. 14 adjudication hearing date.

Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen said police have a formalized process for documenting dog bites and the like in order to better track and take preventive action regarding dangerous animals.

Multiple reports involving the same pets may lead to an intervention by city's Animal Commission, he said.

"It's an issue we've tried
to deal with over the years," Jogmen said. "Even though it's a family member (who suffered a dog bite), it's a serious thing."

Officers' initiative leads to bicycle-theft suspect
Park Ridge police successfully tracked down a bicycle that went missing late last month and perhaps the culprit, too.

Roberto Rich, 27, of the 1400 block of S. Canal, Chicago, was arrested and charged with felony theft July 10 in connection with an incident that occurred two weeks earlier when an unattended bike was allegedly stolen from the first block of S. Summit Avenue in Park Ridge.

According to police the owner had parked the bicycle at 12:30 p.m. June 27 in an attached garage and left the overhead door open while he went inside the house.

He returned 10 minutes later and found his $425 Gary Fisher bicycle missing. Rich was charged with felony theft.

The owner filed a report with police, who investigated the matter, said Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen.

Detectives soon discovered the bike in a local pawn shop and were able to trace the sale back to Rich.

Jogmen credits the recovery to descriptive information about the bike provided by the owner to police, and to the responding officers' diligence in not writing off the crime as just another stolen bike.

"To toot our own horn, it was a nice job," he said. "They stuck with it."

Jogmen said Rich has not admitted to, nor been charged, in connection with other bicycle thefts. No bond or court information related to his July 10 arrest was available.

— By Natasha Wasinski

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Carrying a torch for English cuisine

BY VERONICA HINKE
Contributor

It's Olympics time, and the world is watching London — again. First, all eyes were on Will and Kate as they made their historical walk down the aisle at Westminster. Then it was the queen's golden jubilee. Now, on the tennis shoe heels of that more steadfast English event, Wimbledon, the world's gaze is again fixed on Londonium, as ancient Romans called her.

And as more modern day Americans turn their attention to England, they are learning about her time-honored cuisine. They're discovering that British classics go beyond Christmas puddings and steak and kidney pies (that's actual kidneys, not beans).

"Recent events in England have come across very well in the media; people began talking a lot about fashion, culture and tradition — and eventually, food," said Jerome Bade, executive chef at Courtright's in Willow Springs.

**English classics**

While working in London as a chef for two years, Bade, who lives in Oak Park now, developed an appreciation for classic English dishes, like lamb roasted with fresh mint lamb jus and bacon scones. "When these recipes are made right, they're very tasty, and bring a lot of good memories, too, from my time in London," he said.

Any English table in summer will include foods like fools made with fresh cream blended with berries or stone fruits. And nothing says Great Britain more than that hearty classic, Beef Wellington.

Then there is the Eton Mess. It's a fluffy dessert made by layering fruit, heavy whipping cream and meringue. The recipe is light-heartedly named after Prince William's prep school, Eton College in Windsor.

But perhaps the most fitting way to celebrate the Olympics is by bringing people together around an English summer pudding, bursting at the seams with fruit. "The games are among the most exciting competitions in the world. They bring emotions of joys and tears while bringing people back together to support their country. So, after all, why not celebrate around a summer fruit pudding?" Bade asked.

And, these puddings are remarkably versatile. They can be made with fruits or other sweets as a dessert or with savory ingredients as an appetizer.

**The late Two Fat Ladies chef Jennifer Paterson famously made a summer pudding using tomatoes. Other savory foods with higher sugar content, such as corn, sweet peas or carrots also work well in an appetizer pudding.**

**Into port**

Best yet, they're delicious. "Summer puddings are light and refreshing," Bade said. He especially likes how his Port Red Wine and Melon Summer Pudding exudes the flavor of its key ingredient: mint-infused red wine. He accentuates the flavor with melons.

"Like pairing melon and red port wine, which is traditional and not unusual as an appetizer. It's just a different way and interpretation to put them together, this time as a dessert."

Bade sticks less with tradition, holding his summer pudding together using gelatin rather than the more expected stuff of English puddings, bread without crust.

He'll use white wine or Champagne to make a summer pudding to serve at Courtright's during the Olympics. "White wine and red fruits or stones fruits are great to use as summer pudding," Bade said.

For her puddings and so much more, England persists as a world class culinary contender. "English chefs have taken England's cuisine to a different level, a higher level. And it's only the beginning," Bade promised.

Let the games continue!

---

**Red Port Wine and Melon Summer Pudding**
(Adapted from Jerome Bade)

- 1/2 small watermelon
- 1/2 cantaloupe
- 1/2 honeydew
- 1 1/2 cups red port wine
- 3 teaspoons gelatin powder
- 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 cups heavy cream

Cut melons, remove seeds and scoop melon balls. Reserve in refrigerator.

**Melon sauce:** Scoop remaining melon, measure two cups and place in sauce pot; add all but one tablespoon of sugar and heat on medium, bring to boil and cook for 15 minutes. Remove from heat, mix in blender, strain and refrigerate.

**Pudding:** Soak gelatin in cold water for 15 minutes. Boil wine in sauce pot over high heat and flame to burn the alcohol. When flame is gone, remove from heat and add chopped mint. Allow mixture to infuse for 10 minutes; add gelatin to hot wine. Whisk until dissolved; cool to room temperature. Divide melon balls into four martini glasses. Pour wine mix over melon. Refrigerate overnight.

**The next day:** Whisk whipping cream and remaining sugar in stainless steel bowl until thick. Refrigerate. Serve pudding topped with melon sauce and Chantilly cream.

To accelerate the setting process, cool port wine mixture in ice bath before pouring into glasses and allowing it to set for four hours.
Italian eatery celebrates 60th anniversary

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — For 60 years the Riggio family has been serving pizza, pasta and other authentic Italian dishes to hungry customers.

In 1952, Adriana Riggio and her husband, Pasquale, opened Caffe Pranzo in Chicago called Riggio's. In 1957 they opened their second restaurant, Riggio's, in Niles, and in 1972 they purchased the Red Star Inn and opened their third restaurant.

Today their son, Tony Riggio, and his wife, Trish, run the Riggio's restaurant at 7530 W. Oakton St. in Niles, and continue to use the same recipe as the original location.

In 1952 customers referred to Adriana Riggio as "Mama" and some of the original customers still stop in at Riggio's in Niles to experience the same flavors that had them hooked decades ago.

Tony and Trish Riggio stand in front of Riggio's restaurant, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in business July 14 in Niles. JOEL LEWIS/CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

Around Niles we asked, “What business do you think would be a good addition to Niles?”

“Another Starbucks Coffee closer to here.”
HAIM FITERSHTEIN, Des Plaines, at M&A Auto Service Inc.

“Something privately owned, more small businesses.”
JEFF WELSH, Palatine, at M&A Auto Services Inc.

“A Jamba Juice, because it is nutritious, healthy and green.”
KATHERINE PHILIS, Des Plaines, at New Hair Ltd.

“A frozen-yogurt place.”
MARINO STAMOS, Des Plaines, at New Hair Ltd.

“I think they should bring back Giordano’s. It was a really good restaurant.”
IWONA POMIAN, Arlington Heights, at American Travel Abroad Inc.

**POINER PEOPLE POLL**

Here are the answers to last week’s question: Who is your favorite “Batman” nemesis from the current film series?

- The Joker 87%
- Bane 3%
- Two-Face 3%
- Ra’s al Ghul 7%
- Scarecrow 0%

This week’s question: What is your favorite physical activity during the summer?

- Jogging.
- Walking around the neighborhood.
- Sports league.
- Swimming.
- Fanning myself on a deck chair.

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

**1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS**

Seeing oldest son off to work is job unto itself

My oldest son landed a part-time job this week. His new employer is a local grocery chain. He’ll be a bagger and all-around worker.

Before we drop him off for a training session, I inspect his haircut and ensure that he’s not dug out a Bob-the-BUILDER belt from the old toy box to wear with his black pants.

On a whim, I tell him to hold still. I plop two droplets of my husband’s aftershave onto my fingers, and dab it lightly around my son’s bristly jaw. I frown.

What am I doing here? Preparing my sweet sheltered son for the sequel to “Magic Mike”?

Then I wash off the aftershave but cannot completely remove the scent. I was so bad at waitressing that patrons tipped me to leave.

For his new job, my son must wear a white business shirt, a tie and dress slacks.

My oldest gets out of the van and strides for the entrance, and for seconds, he reminds me of my husband when he was younger, tall, slim, vigorous.

My youngest, Mr. Skeptic, heard the wobble in my voice.

“Oh, Mom, you’re not going to cry, are you?”

I wish him good luck.

He strides for the entrance, and for seconds, he reminds me of my husband when he was younger, tall, slim, vigorous.

My youngest, Mr. Skeptic, heard the wobble in my voice.

“Oh, Mom, you’re not going to cry, are you?”

Pioneer Press reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, and content. In order to be published, all letters sent by mail must be signed.
Politics is in a long dry spell, too

It is a very dry season.
And I'm not just talking about the weather, or the fact that we've had little rain this summer, or that the lawns in all the suburbs are a dull brown.

I'm also talking about the narrow minds that talk politics during this presidential election season. When it comes to issues that matter, this is a very dry season.

I can't wait for the Olympics to begin just to have some relief from the constant flow of stupid coming from politicians and their surrogates.

Sport may not be all that important, but it features people devoted to being the best, instead of people devoted to "Where's mine?"

Can I give you some examples?
U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh says a lot of goofy stuff, but the goofiness is criticizing his opponent Tammy Duckworth as un-American because she flew a helicopter in Iraq and lost both legs when it was shot down.

I don't know how much she talks about that on the campaign trail, but I do know that when war veterans turn politicians, they sure talk about it. From the Supreme Allied Commander of Europe to a lowly PT boat skipper. I suppose Walsh would, too, if there had been a war for him to go to when he came of age.

But let's move on.
Another big issue in Chicago is the looming Chicago Public School teachers' strike. I hear suburban news coverage to workers in the Philippines. More job elimination. (On the positive side, this gives the paper an opportunity to replace its old motto "World's Greatest Newspaper" with "Philippines Greatest Newspaper").

These are only two very recent examples of job elimination. I'm sure you can think of plenty more.

So, my confusion: How can any President create jobs when the rest of the country is hell-bent on eliminating jobs?

And what happens to America when most jobs are eliminated?

Because I have a great deal of faith in computer technology, I am confident that given enough time and enough thought, bright people will figure out how to replace most jobs with computers.

When that happens, who pays the taxes that fund our national, state and local governments? How do the police, firefighters, teachers get paid?

Who buys the goods that keep people employed to produce more goods that keep businesses in business?

I know who benefits when jobs are created. But who benefits when people are put out of work?

So, I'm confused. I can't reconcile the major theme of both presidential campaigns with what I see actually happening in America. Straighten me out, please.
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IL Lic #100376838
Sketch troupe hopes laughs lead to thoughts

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

Eric Scott Curtis is convinced that his "Daylabor Dreamin'" sketch comedy revue addresses universal themes. That's why, even though he is Jewish, Curtis felt comfortable writing the show about minority empowerment for Latino-focused Salsation Theatre Company.

It's a bonus that Curtis is a Skokie native and the show will premiere at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre.

"They're a very nice, talented group of people so I thought I'd give them first option with this show that I had the idea of," he said.

The show was inspired by Curtis' desire to draw attention to "things that I thought needed a voice. Often times minorities are looked upon as stereotypical. Through this show we try to fight the stereotypes." His goal is to show that members of minority groups "have the same dreams as everybody else."

"Salsation has always taken the stereotype and then empowered the stereotype to make fun of it," Velazquez emphasized. "We're not there to give you a civics lesson or an ethics lesson. We just want to get you to think about things. If we do that, we've accomplished a goal."

"And laughter is a great way to do that," Curtis added.

One issue addressed in the show is immigration reform. "A lot of the immigration reform that you hear today is, 'We want to make sure that everybody is legal in this country,'" Velazquez related. "The key word that they don't use is 'Make sure that you're not brown.' There's plenty of illegal immigration coming in from Eastern European countries. People will get visas and come here and those expire."

"Surprise"
Velazquez noted that the news seldom reports on that situation.

"There's a heavy implication that it's all coming from Mexico," he said. "When we show you who the Latino is, we're going to catch you by surprise."

The artistic director noted that women also have a voice in this show, "because they're a minority within themselves."

Curtis, who studied acting at the University of Iowa and Oxford School of Drama in England, performs in "Daylabor Dreamin."

He revealed that the rest of the cast was involved in the creation of the show. "I had seven or eight scenes to start with going into the show and we played with them. I changed those sketches based on the strengths of everybody else and how everybody played together," he said.

The artistic team, which included director Juan Carlos Pelayo, felt that the show was developing so well that they decided to lengthen it. Four additional sketches created by cast members were added.

"Laughter is great," Curtis concluded. "But you always want [audiences] after the show to be talking about it, to be thinking about it, to be discussing it. And hopefully, to come see more theater."
FAMILY FRIENDLY

Music sensation Ethan Bortnick, 11, brings his show to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie on Wednesday. KidzBop Kids will open.

Young musician promises surprise

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

A Guinness Book record holder is coming to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., and he's only 11 years old. Ethan Bortnick was recognized as the World's Youngest Solo Musician to Headline His Own Tour. The pianist, singer and composer will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

"It's a surprise," Ethan said of the selections he will perform. "It's all kinds of music — classical, jazz, pop, rock and roll, my own music."

The opening act will be the KidzBop Kids.

Ethan's musical career had an early start. "I really wanted to play piano," he said. "When I was 3, I asked my parents for piano lessons."

At first they resisted. "But on a little toy keyboard, I started playing everything that I heard," he related. Ethan got those lessons and has since headlined more than 100 shows around the world. Tickets are $34.50 to $49.50.

For details, call (847) 673-6300 or visit northshorecenter.org.

Sketchy details

More talented young people will be on stage during Sketchtastic! at 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, July 28 through Aug. 5, at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave. The comedy revue was created by and will be performed by kids ages 9 to 15. Topics range from school to families and pop culture. Tickets are $12.

For details, call (773) 598-4549 or visit gorillatango.com.

Ripe for the picking

Kindergartners through third-graders will pick some jumbo cherries during Life Size Hi-Ho Cherry-O at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

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

Assistance wanted

Award-winning children's singer Laurie Berkner will present a solo concert at Ravinia at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"I'll probably be asking the audience to help out a lot because it will just be me up on the stage," Berkner said.

Pavilion tickets are $15 and lawn seats are $5 for the Kraft Great Kids Series concert at Lake Cook and Green Bay roads, Highland Park.

For details, call (847) 266-5100 or visit ravinia.org.

What's cooking

Carmen Ensalada and Candy Delight are a couple of performers featured in "Puppet Soup," a delicious blend of entertainment presented by Dave Herzog's Marionettes from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday at the Skokie Public Library, 6255 Oakton St. Pick up free tickets for the marionette variety show at 3:30 p.m. that day.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or visit skokiepubliclibrary.info.
MOVIE REVIEW
Rise and fall of romance in 'Ruby'

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

RUBY SPARKS
★★★

A beguiling but by no means reassuring romance with classical underpinnings, this second feature by the directors of "Little Miss Sunshine" muses on the ephemeral nature of romantic relationships—particularly their tendency to go painfully awry.

Even when they literally have been made to order.

Inspired by the myth of Pygmalion (the legend of a sculptor who falls in love with one of his statues, which also inspired George Bernard Shaw's play of the same name and the musical "My Fair Lady"), "Ruby Sparks" is the story of a lonely, isolated and rather insufferable young novelist named Calvin (Paul Dano), whose imagination concocts a dream girl who comes to life.

After writing a best-seller at the age of 19 that has made him rich and famous while hobbling him creatively with a reputation for genius, Calvin has written nothing but a handful of short stories for 10 years.

Friendless except for a scruffy little dog he acquired on the advice of his psychiatrist (a nice cameo role for '60s/'70s star Elliott Gould), Calvin spends his days staring at a blank sheet of paper in his manual typewriter while his agent and publisher grow increasingly impatient and a troubling new tone begins to emerge from the admirers he condescendingly tolerates at personal appearances. "Is it weird for you that you used to be so successful?" one asks.

So his relief is exultant and infectious when inspiration strikes. After dreaming of a beautiful young girl named Ruby with red hair and blue eyes (Dano's real-life girlfriend Zoe Kazan, who also wrote the screenplay), who teases him for having passive-aggressively named his dog after F. Scott Fitzgerald, Calvin types for days in a creative frenzy, writing an elaborate character profile that begins to take on a strange new dimension.

"It's like I'm writing so I can spend time with her," he tells his shrink. "And that wish comes true in a big way when Ruby's shoes and undergarment and personal hygiene products begin to materialize in his house. That's just before she appears in the flesh one morning, wearing nothing but one of his shirts and offering to make him eggs for breakfast.

This is all delightful (especially as seen through the eyes of Calvin's worried brother Harry, played by Chris Messina), because Kazan's initial take on the situation (as writer and actor) is to play it for comedy. Calvin and Harry are initially convinced that he has lost his mind. But after discovering that Ruby really does exist, and that Calvin can alter her with a few words on his typewriter (their first test has Ruby switching from English to fluent French without noticing any change), they are content to accept her as a gift from the gods.

However, Harry has different ideas about the potential benefits of having a tweakable girlfriend who can be made to think, feel and act any way at all.

"For men everywhere," he implores, "tell me you're not going to let this go to waste."

But noble Calvin has a higher ideal of love—at first. "I will never write about her again," he says.

And so it goes, during the first rush of infatuation, when they fulfill each other's every need and appear to be ideally matched. Until, gradually—perhaps inevitably—that first glow begins to fade and Ruby begins to find Calvin controlling and their isolated life stifling.

So, what does Calvin do when things stop going his way in the relationship? He goes back to the typewriter, of course.

That's the point where Kazan's ambitious script takes a big risk and switches gears from frothy comedy to grim contemplation of the darker side of the interpersonal dynamics in romantic relationships as both parties struggle for power.

She and Dano and directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Parise make it work, for the most part (despite occasional logical gaps and a jarring shift in tone), as Calvin's adjustments make Ruby veer in various disastrous directions.

She's unbearably clingy one moment, unbearably happy the next and Calvin is increasingly dissatisfied until his frustration culminates in a thoroughly unpleasant scene in which he demonstrates his total dominance. At his worst, Calvin is not above making Ruby crawl on all fours and bark like a dog.

Fortunately, there's more to "Ruby Sparks" than that—more than its potentially dead-end juxtaposition of infatuation and disillusionment, honeymoon and hell on Earth. It's something along the lines of if you love something, let it go.

To see whether or not it comes back.

And if it does, what do you do with it then?
**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING CLIPS**

**KILLER JOE**
Rated: Rated NC-17 for graphic disturbing content involving violence and sexuality, and a scene of brutality
Stars: Matthew McConaughey, Thomas Hayden Church, Emile Hirsch, Juno Temple, Gina Gershon
When a gambling debt puts his life in danger, a young man (Hirsch) hires a hit man (McConaughey) to kill his evil mother (Gershon) for her insurance money. William Friedkin ("The Exorcist") directed the crime drama.

**RUBY SPARKS**
Rated: Rated R for language including some sexual references, and for some drug use
Stars: Paul Dano, Zoe Kazan, Chris Messina
The life of a young novelist (Dano) is complicated when a female character he creates (Kazan) comes to life and moves in with him. Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris ("Little Miss Sunshine") directed the romance from a screenplay by Kazan.

**THE WATCH**
Rated: Rated R for some strong sexual content including references, pervasive language and violent images
Stars: Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill
A neighborhood watch patrol of suburban dads winds up fending off an alien invasion. Akiva Schaffer ("Hot Rod") directed the action comedy.

**STILL PLAYING**

**FAREWELL, MY QUEEN**
Rated: R for brief graphic nudity and language
Stars: Diane Kruger, Lea Seydoux, Virginie Ledoyen
There's a certain fascination in this servant's-eye view of the final days of Marie Antoinette, but a fair amount of frustration as well. Veteran French director Benoît Jacquot ("A Single Girl") sets this story during the four days surrounding the storming of the Bastille and tells it from the point of view of the queen's young reader Sidonie (Seydoux, the female assassin of "Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol"), a no-nonsense young woman with a fiercely protective love of Antoinette (Kruger), who is more worried about her unrequited love for the Countess Polignac (Ledoyen) than the prospect of her head tumbling into a basket. Strong performances keep things interesting (along with a revisionist view of Versailles as a health hazard full of dead rats and mosquitoes), but the intelligence and drive Sidonie brings to the story eventually dissipate because her marginal view of court life is so limited — at times missing pieces of the tale are supplied by her dreams. As a result, "Farewell, My Queen" is up-close and personal but also oddly detached and unengaging. We can only see what Sidonie sees and feel what she feels, and in the end, while that's intriguing, it's not quite enough.

**ICE AGE: 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 courtesy of the Scrat the acorn-obsessed squirrel, but there's little on display in this creatively bankrupt fourth installment except desperation — and greed. Manny the mammoth (Romano), Diego the saber-tooth (Leary) and Sid the sloth (Leguizamo) try to make their way back to 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.

**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 compete 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 to manage The Kid's attraction to the destruction as the business. Beefcake abounds, but the real attraction is an assortment of convincingly, Twilight-inhabiting characters, especially McConaughey (back to baring his chest, and then some) as devil-in-training club owner Dallas.

**KATY PERRY: PART OF ME**
Rated: PG for some suggestive content, language, thematic elements and brief smoking
Stars: Katy Perry, Shannon Woodward, Lucas Kerr, Glen Ballard
The pop star's life on and off stage is the subject of this documentary directed by Dan Coudert and Jane Lipsitz ("Justin Bieber: Never Say Never").
SHOWTIMES

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

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

Farewell, My Queen (R) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-5:45-8:10; Mon-Thurs 3:45-8:10
The Magic of Belle Isle (PG) Fri-Thurs 2:30-5
Bernie (PG-13) Fri-Sun 12:30-7:40; Mon-Thurs 7:40
To Rome with Love (R) Fri-Sun 12:40-5:20-8; Mon-Thurs 7:40-10:40

**HIGHLAND PARK**
445 Central Ave.
(847) 432-3300

The theater is currently closed for maintenance.

**RANDHURST**
324 Theater Way, Mount Prospect
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www.amctheatres.com

**SHOW PLACE 12**
501 Golf Mill Center, Niles
(800) 326-3264
www.amctheatres.com

A Birthday Celebration: The Grateful Dead Movie Event (NR) Wed 7 p.m.
The Watch (R) Fri-Sun 10:15-12:45-3:15-5:45-7:15-9:45; Fri-Thu 1:20-7:20

**BOWLING GREEN**
5341 Main St.
(419) 356-6656
www.amctheatres.com


**ROSEMARIE**
1020 W. Howard St.
(847) 435-1000


**ROSEMONT PREMIER**
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont
(847) 447-1030


**WILMETTE**
1122 Central Ave., Wilmette
(847) 251-7431


**NORRIDGE**
4250 Harlem Ave., Norridge
(888) 267-4386
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**PICKWICK**
5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge
(847) 664-2234
www.pickwicktheatre.com


**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT**

Tom Hardy is featured as Bane in “The Dark Knight Rises.”

PHOTO BY ROY PHILLIPS

**THE WATCH**

1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40; Mon, Tues

**ROSEMARIE**

1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40; Fri-Sun

**VILLAGE CROSSING**

7000 Carpenter Road, Skokie
(847) 262-4386
www.amctheatres.com

Total Recall (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:10-12:10-2:10-4:10-6:10-8:10-10:10
Step Up Revolution in 3-D (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:10-12:10-2:10-4:10-6:10-8:10-10:10

**ROSEMONT PREMIER**

9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont
(847) 447-1030

Total Recall (PG-13) Thu 12:10
Step Up Revolution in 3-D (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:10-12:10-2:10-4:10-6:10-8:10-10:10

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**NEW ON VIDEO**

**Disco death knell**

By Bruce Ingram

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO**

* * * 1/2

Blu-ray debut

Rated: R for some elements involving sexuality and drugs

Stars: Kate Beckinsale, Chloe Sevigny, Mackenzie Astin, Chris Eigeman

The final chapter in writer/director Whit Stillman's "doomed bourgeois in love" trilogy (after 1989's "Metropolitan" and 1994's "Barcelona"), "The Last Days of Disco" takes a fairly serious (considering this 1998 film's wealth of witty dialogue) look at a group of recent Ivy League post-grads trying to navigate early career moves and contemplating settling down as the '70s morph into the '80s. Considering their advantages, this is an oddly awkward and even unlikable group of friends (especially womanizing club manager Eigeman and passive-aggressive ice-queen Beckinsale), firmly in denial of their yuppy-hood. Stillman summons a certain amount of sympathy for all of them, though, as they flounder their way through early adulthood. This Criterion Collection release features a new high-def restoration, supervised by Stillman, plus audio commentary, four deleted scenes, and a stills gallery.

**MYSTERY MEN**

Blu-ray debut

* * *

Rated: PG-13 for comic action violence and crude humor

Stars: Ben Stiller, Janeane Garofalo, Paul Reubens, Hank Azaria, Geoffrey Rush

This wonderfully silly super hero parody, based on the cult comics by Bob Burden, is all the more welcome now that blockbuster movies based on comic book heroes have become such common currency. When Captain Amazing (Greg Kinnear), going missing from Champion City, is the only way for evil Casanova Frankenstein (Rush) to take over the town, he fails to reckon on The Mystery Men, a team of wannabe heroes with semi-super powers that reside mostly in their imaginations. Even so, when Mr. Furious (Stiller) throws a hissy-fit, evil-doers beware! Extras include commentary by director Klina Usner (best known for his talking-chihuahua Taco Bell TV commercials).

**RECENT RELEASES**

**CASÍA 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, Kristin 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 Hallström ("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.

**ALSO NEW THIS WEEK**

**THE DEEP BLUE SEA**

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

Stars: Rachel Weisz, Kevin Whately

The wife (Rachel Weisz) of a British judge falls in love with a Royal Air Force pilot (Tom Hiddleston) during World War II. Terence Davies ("The Long Day Closes") wrote and directed the drama. Extras include a collector's booklet, commentaries and interviews with Weisz, Hiddleston and Davies.

**INSPECTOR LEWIS FIVE**

Kevin Whately returns for a fifth season as Inspector Lewis, solving crimes in the deceptively quiet academic enclave of Oxford. This two-disc set features four full-length Brit TV mysteries.

**JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI**

A documentary on 85-year-old Japanese sushi master Jiro Ono and his relationship with his son and heir as he prepares to hand over his life's work. David Gelb ("A Vision of Blindness") directed.

**MASTERPIECE MYSTERY! ENDEAVOUR**

This prequel about the early years of "Inspector Morse" celebrates 25 years of the British mystery series by going back to the young detective's rookie year in 1965.

**MEETING EVIL**

A mysterious stranger (Samuel L. Jackson) takes a weak-willed young husband-and-father (Luke Wilson) on a murderous ride and forces him to go to desperate lengths to save his family. TV director Chris Fisher wrote and directed the thriller.

**AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK**

Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton feud it up in the History Channel hit "Hatfields & McCoys," vintage G-Men police the early days of TV in the 1950-55 ABC series "Federal Men," and Bill Cosby has a hey-hey-heyday with "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids: The Complete Series."
go.

What to do.
This week and beyond.

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FAX: (847) 486-7451.

SUMMER CONCERTS

July 26: Maxwell Street Klezmer Band showcases music of Jewish Eastern Europe.

Live at the Lake Summer Entertainment Series, 7 p.m. at Lake Park Memorial Pavilion, 2200 Lee Street at Fargo Avenue, Des Plaines. Shows will be canceled in the event of rain. Call (847) 391-5705.

July 26: Jin & Tonic.


Norridge Park District concerts will be held at 4631 N. Overhill on select Thursdays. Visit www.norrisgepark.com. July 26, 7 p.m.: Luck Of The Irish Night with Trinity Irish Dancers and musicians.

Aug. 3: Party in the Park with music by The Stingrays, face painting and balloon animals.


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Aug. 3: Party in the Park with music by The Stingrays, face painting and balloon animals.


“One of the most anticipated shows of the summer!”

- Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

“The King and I,” presented by Footlighters Theatre Co. at 7:30 p.m. July 27-28 and Aug. 2-4 and 2 p.m. July 29 and Aug. 5 at Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker, Des Plaines. $15. Call (847) 397-5711.

“Time After Time: The Songs of Julie Styne,” presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at 7:30 p.m. July 26; 8 p.m. July 27-28; and 7 p.m. July 29 at the No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood (Rogers Park), Chicago. $29-$34. Optional dinner package available for an additional $20 (plus tax and tip). Call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.theoubique.org.

STAGE


“Umbrella,” presented by Footlighters Theatre Co. at 7:30 p.m. July 27-28 and Aug. 2-4 and 2 p.m. July 29 and Aug. 5 at Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker, Des Plaines. $15. Call (847) 397-5711.

“Little House by the Shores of Silver Lake,” based on by the Shores of Silver Lake by Laura Ingalls Wilder, at 7 p.m. July 28 at Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. $11; $9 for students and seniors. Call (773) 598-4549 or visit www.gorillatango.com.

“Man of La Mancha,” presented by Light Opera Works Aug. 11-26 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performances at 8 p.m. Aug. 11, 17-18 and 25; and 2 p.m. Aug. 12, 15, 19, 22 and 26. $48, $68, $77, $92 for main floor; $32, $48, $68, $77 for balcony; half-price for ages 21 and younger. Call (847) 920-5360 or visit www.LightoperaWorks.com.

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago will offer a free performance of “50-Minute Romeo and Juliet” at 7 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge. A discussion with the actors will follow the performance. Pre-registration is required by calling the library at (847) 825-3123.

Spectralia Theatre 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 Prairie Lakes, 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.

“Time After Time: The Songs of Julie Styne,” presented by Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at 7:30 p.m. July 26; 8 p.m. July 27-28; and 7 p.m. July 29 at the No Exit Cafe, 6970 N. Glenwood (Rogers Park), Chicago. $29-$34. Optional dinner package available for an additional $20 (plus tax and tip). Call (800) 595-4849 or visit www.theoubique.org.

SEE GO, PAGE 12B
Rannazzisi stands up for stand-up

BY DAN PEARSON

You don't have to know anything about fantasy football to enjoy the stand-up comedy of Steve Rannazzisi at Zanies Comedy Night Club in Rosemont this weekend.

On the FX channel sit-com, 'The League,' Rannazzisi plays Kevin MacArthur, a lawyer and sports nut who grew up in Winnetka (Rannazzisi is really a New York native) and still lives there with his wife and child.

But the Zanies gig will be all about laughs.

"I do talk about the show, but I want people to see me being a stand-up," he said. "You have to make them laugh or else they're not going to come back anymore."

Happy to be there

Rannazzisi is psyched to be performing at the new club in Rosemont.

"I was honored that they asked me to come be one of the first guys to do it. The people in Chicago and the surrounding area love our show so much. They feel ownership of it, so they embrace us with unbelievable amounts of vigor."

Like the "The League," Rannazzisi considers at least some of his stand-up to be "semi-scripted."

"I'll ask questions and engage the audience, but for the most part I know what jokes I want to do. Not necessarily, the order, but I know what I want to talk about," he explained. "I have a wife and two kids and there are a lot of elements of that experience in my material. But for the most part is just sarcastic, observational, dry humor."

Rannazzisi considers just about anything fair game for comic fodder.

"Stand-up is one of the last forms of free speech," he said. "If you don't like it, you have the ability to stand up quietly, turn around and walk out. What you do not have the right to do, is tell me what I can and cannot say on stage, or what I can or cannot think is funny. I've sat through things in church that have offended me, but I don't ever stand up and start shouting stuff back."

Rannazzisi credits his wife, then his girlfriend, with steering him into stand-up comedy after an open mike night in 2000. "It was horrifying and probably the best thing that ever happened to me."

Eventually, he was tapped for "The League." Outside of the show's creator, Rannazzisi was the only cast member to have participated in a fantasy football league prior to getting the role.

"I played some sports but I wasn't very good at it. So watching sports and being knowledgeable was how I participated," he said.

"We decided to create our own league in real life so the cast could learn the ropes."

He's found, the hard way, that knowledge isn't skill. "As we start our fourth season," said Rannazzisi. "I've never won, and everyone holds it over my head because I'm supposed to be so knowledgeable. It's the bane of my existence."

Steve Rannazzisi

Zanies Comedy Nightclub, 5437 Park Place, MB
Financial Park, Rosemont
8 and 10:15 p.m., July 27-28
Tickets are $30 with a two drink/food minimum
(847) 813-0484 or visit www.zanies.com or www.steverannazzisi.com
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Roberts spreads joys of ‘friendly jazz’

BY DONALD LIEBENSON

Judy Roberts, Chicago Jazz icon, is performing this Friday at the Northbrook Public Library. That bears repeating: Judy Roberts, Chicago Jazz icon, is performing this Friday at the Northbrook Public Library.

For free.

Roberts, accompanied by her husband Greg Fishman on saxophone and flute, will be performing her signature “friendly jazz” at 7:30 p.m.

This is one of two of Roberts’ North Shore appearances during her annual summer homecoming during which she takes the stage of some of her favorite venues, including the Jazz Showcase and Andy’s Jazz Club. Also up north, she’s performing — without Fishman and with singer Petra van Nuis — Aug. 29 at Glenview’s Laughing Chameleon.

Roberts is particularly jazzed also about her Sunday and Tuesday night appearances at Chambers Restaurant in Niles, and praises the owners for their commitment to presenting live jazz.

And then there’s the Northbrook Public Library, where she and Greg appeared years ago. “It was really fun,” she said. “The people were nice and the atmosphere was intimate and relaxed. I could introduce a song by Duke Ellington and the audience wouldn’t scratch their heads over who he was.”

American favorites

The evening will feature selections from her vast repertoire, drawn mainly from the Great American Songbook (and in the case of Antonio Carlos Jobim’s “The Girl from Ipanema,” she famously once joked, “That’s like saying ‘I used to play saxophone’” before making a joke she finally regrets). She performs five nights a week at a club called Remington’s with another transplant, Chicagoan, pianist Danny Long.

She performs five nights a week at a club called Remington’s with another transplant, Chicagoan, pianist Danny Long.

But Phoenix was not a good fit for performer, jazz educator/author Fishman, who has a thriving practice teaching music in Chicago. He moved back in 2010 and Roberts maintain their long-playing, long-distance relationship. They have been married 10 years.

Surviving

Roberts is a jazz survivor. She laments the dearth of jazz radio in Chicago (“There’s more in Phoenix,” she said incredulously) and the bygone days of great “wall-to-wall” jazz rooms, where legendary artists such as Dizzy Gillespie or George Shearing would play two or three week stands instead of one-nighters.

“She performed twice a week. She was a part of the community,” she said. “I’ve had to be open to playing anywhere, not knowing who Michael Jordan is.”

Nothing against modern-day crooners such as Michael Buble (she famously once said, “Just because Frank Sinatra is dead is no reason to listen to Michael Bublé”), but Roberts can’t help wonder why audiences would listen to “imitators” when, “If you have a CD player or can log on to YouTube, you can hear the original artists.”

Go to the source, is her mantra, not just to budding jazz fans, but musicians as well who seek her out for advice.

“I listen to some new artists,” she said, “but you can’t get better than Stan Getz, Ella, Sarah Vaughan, and Johnny Hartman.”

The same can be said for Judy Roberts.
"A Touch of Class," 7:30 p.m. July 27 and 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. July 28 at the Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago. $15. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Hal Chastain Memorial The- spian Scholarship program at Maine South High School. For reservations, contact David Downing at (847) 825-4148 or dejh@comcast.net.

"With A Song In My Heart: The Romance of Richard Rodgers," 7:30 p.m. July 27-28 and 2 p.m. July 29 at Northwestern University's Ethel M. Barber Theater, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $30; $27 for seniors; $10 for students. Call (847) 491-7828 or visit www.tic.northwestern.edu.

POP/FOLK/JAZZ

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

- July 25-26, 8 p.m.: Diva, $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, Nov. 17, 8 p.m.: Australian Pink Floyd.
- 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 information, visit www.allstatearena.com. Parking is $20, cash only.
- Aug. 3, 7 p.m.: Summerland Tour 2012 featuring Everclear, Sugar Ray, Gin Blossoms, Lit and Marcia Playground. $39.50, $49.50. Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m.: System Of A Down with Deftones. $50. Oct. 11, 7 p.m.: "Twins Of Evil Tour," featuring Rob Zombie and Marilyn Manson, with special guest Devin The Predator Townsend. $80.
- Aug. 22-23, 7:30 p.m.: The Max. $75. Aug. 22-23, 7:30 p.m.: The Max. $75. Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m.: The Max. $75. Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m.: The Max. $75. Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m.: The Max. $75. Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m.: The Max. $75. Aug. 26, 7 p.m.: Gary Numan and Plena Libre with Chicago Afro-Puerto Rican Ensemble (CAPRE). $20-$30. Aug. 30, 8 p.m.: The Del Moroccos. $12.

GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8B

Small Town, Big Dreams: "It's a Grand Night for Singing," at 7:30 p.m. July 28 and 1 p.m. Aug. 2 at the Ethical Humanist Society of Evanston, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave. (at Howard), Skokie. $30; $27 for seniors; $10 for students. Call (847) 677-3334 or visit www.ethicalhu-

Evanston's Susan O'Halloran is one of five local storytellers performing in "JustStories," the world's first-ever racial harmony online storytelling festival that takes place Aug. 1-3. During the three-day festival, participants can log onto the JustStories Facebook page at www.facebook.com/JustStories, to watch videos from different professional storyteller every hour on the hour, for 3 a.m. to midnight each day.

In addition to O'Halloran, Jane Stenson and Syd Lieberman of Evanston, Anne Shimoo of Morton Grove and Arif Choudhury of Northbrook will share stories of their ethnic backgrounds. In all, 48 tellers from around the country are on the program. Throughout the festival, storytellers will be online to answer questions and respond to comments and anecdotes. This means you can watch the videos, then comment on them and tell your story, too, and read other people's comments — from Australia to India to Africa to Ireland to the United States.

O'Halloran, a co-producer of the festival, says her favorite part of the festival is a great way to get people to discuss racial issues, which can often be hard to talk about. "Stories can be entertaining, engaging and emotionally touching," O'Halloran says. "When you hear other people's stories you realize how unique each person and group is, which is a great way to get us all to walk in each other's shoes, even for a few minutes, a stranger becomes a friend."

Complete information at www.facebook.com/JustStories.

Show listings is helpful. Call (847) 955-4748 or visit www.americansocietyofartists.org.

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 Marxchetti 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 Victorian Holiday Tour, a fund-raiser for the nonprofit organization, to be held Nov. 28-29 at 2562 N. Newport Ave., Chicago. Fee is $35-$65 per space, and each seller must donate 15% commission on sales. During the event, crafters must commit to a minimum of five hours to work the sale. Hand-made or homemade items only. Call (773) 631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistorical society.org.

Crafters are sought for the Christmas in Park Ridge Boutique, sponsored by The Center of Concern, to be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 7-8 at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, Crescent and Bel-
Encore performance

Table Fifty-Two and Takashi chefs return for another shot at 'Top Chef Masters' honor

BY LORI RACKL
For Sun-Times Media
lrackl@sun-times.com

Chicago restaurateur Art Smith is back for more "Top Chef Masters." But this time, there are 120 pounds less of him.

When the colorful, quick-witted chef competed in 2009 in the Bravo series’ debut, his popularity grew. So did his waistline.

"I wasn’t feeling very good at that time; my diabetes was flaring up," said the Table Fifty-Two owner, a Southern comfort food specialist who tipped the scales at 325 pounds.

"People love a big, funny, fat chef — particularly a big, flaming gay one," he added. "I was afraid if I lost the fat, I’d lose the funny!"

A trip to the emergency room convinced Smith that was a chance he’d have to take. He started exercising and began eating — and cooking — healthier.

"I realized that if I didn’t do something, I would never make another TV show," said Smith, 52, one of two local toques vying for the "Top Chef Masters" title and $100,000 prize for charity. Now in its fourth season, the TV show features a dozen contestants cooking their way through a series of timed challenges in hopes of avoiding elimination each week by the judges.

Smith, a celebrity chef living up to both parts of that title, also will appear on ABC’s "Time Machine" as host, along with returning judges James Oseland and Ruth Reichl. They’re joined by rookies Krista Simmons, a food and travel journalist, and Francis Lam, features editor of Gilt Taste. Dropping in at the judges’ table will be boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard, the folk rock music duo Indigo Girls, burlesque performer Dita Von Teese, party rockers The B-52’s and Olympic gold medalist Brian Boitano.

This time, Smith is facing half as many contestants as he did in season one, when Chicago’s Rick Bayless won. Smith was sent packing after a challenge that called for making a vegan, gluten-free meal for "New Girl" star Zooey Deschanel.

Back then, "I didn’t speak vegan," Smith said.

When offered another shot at the show, he didn’t hesitate to come back for seconds.

Before breaking into the restaurant world, Smith spent several years as Oprah’s personal chef.

"One thing I was taught by Oprah Winfrey is you never want to look not pretty in public," he said, speaking metaphorically. This season, "you’ll see some not-so-pretty" by certain contestants, Smith hinted. In other words, the oven mitts are off.

Aussie chef Curtis Stone is back this season as "Top Chef Masters" host, along with returning judges James Oseland and Ruth Reichl. They’re joined by rookies Krista Simmons, a food and travel journalist, and Francis Lam, features editor of Gilt Taste. Dropping in at the judges’ table will be boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard, the folk rock music duo Indigo Girls, burlesque performer Dita Von Teese, party rockers The B-52’s and Olympic gold medalist Brian Boitano.

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JACKIE TAYLOR’S

MARVIN GAYE

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Free Wisconsin museums

BY GARY KNOWLES
For Sun-Times Media

Wausau
The Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum hosts one of the world’s most highly anticipated exhibits of bird art each year. Birds in Art opens the first Saturday following Labor Day and continues for nine weeks. An updated 1931 English Tudor period Cotswold-style residence houses the museum. Grounds cover four acres highlighted by the Margaret Woodson Fisher Sculpture Garden. There are up to ten changing exhibits each year as well as storytelling, lectures, videos, demonstrations, and bus trips. Don’t miss OctoBIRDfest, the world’s most highly anticipated festival of the year. 700 N. 12th St., Madison, WI 53706 (608) 262-1412. www.geology.wisc.edu/museum

Maison: In 1962, a smoldering hunk of the Russian Sputnik IV satellite crashed into the street in front of the Rah-West Museum, and a plaque marks the spot. (SUPPLIED PHOTO)

Manitowoc: In 1962, a smoldering hunk of the Russian Sputnik IV satellite crashed into the street in front of the Rah-West Museum, and a plaque marks the spot. (SUPPLIED PHOTO)

Sheboygan
John Michael Kohler Arts Center will stretch your artistic muscles. Devoted to innovative explorations of contemporary American art, the museum is nationally acclaimed for its exhibitions as well as its visual and performing arts. The new 100,000-square-foot arts center has ten galleries, an intimate theatre, flexible interdisciplinary performance space, studio-classrooms, meeting spaces, the ARTspace shop and the ARTcave. See the artsy restroom! 608 New York Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081 (920) 459-6144

BY GARY KNOWLES
For Sun-Times Media

Taliesin
Taliesin is the life-long masterwork of America’s most noted architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. The prairie-style house, located at County Hwy. C at Spring Green, embodies Wright’s energy, technique and creative vision. It is the longest on-going project of Wright’s career. The visitor center was also a Wright-designed building. (877) 588-7900. www.taliesinpreservation.org

House on the Rock
The House on the Rock, off Hwy. #33 overlooking Wyoming Valley between Spring Green and Dodgeville, seems like an architectural mash-up of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Falling Waters, Playboy Mansion, Camelot, Star Gate and Dante’s Inferno. It’s filled with astounding collections of dolls, organs, glass, music machines and wonders. Alex Jordan’s masterpiece, an 80-foot carousel, features 269 fantasy creatures, a booming calliope and other music machines and wonders. Alex Jordan’s masterpiece, an 80-foot carousel, features 269 fantasy creatures, a booming calliope and other music machines and wonders. It’s raised and lowered to control temperature and light. (414) 224-3200. www.mam.org

Tom’s Burned Down Café
Travel to Bayfield on the shore of Lake Superior, catch a ferry to Madeline Island and walk about a block to discover one of Travel and Leisure’s America’s Best Beach Bars. Tom’s burned Down Café is a kind of tiki-bar-bistro, northern exposure nightclub and shrine to creative individualism hunkered under a canvas awning in little La Pointe. The walls are covered with wise and wiseacre sayings painted on bits of board. Under the floor is a project of Wright’s career. (SUPPLIED PHOTO)
Civil War sites

BY GARY KNOWLES
For Sun-Times Media

1) Camp Randall and the Memorial Arch, Madison: The plot of land where the University of Wisconsin football stadium stands was the training ground for farm boys and volunteers who became Union troops. The only piece of Camp Randall that is left is a small, wooden shed.

2) Wisconsin Veterans Museum: See the exhibition of the Iron Brigade called From Paper to Iron. The museum has artifacts, dioramas and displays. Visitors with Wisconsin relatives that served in the war can buy a detailed Certificate of Service. www.wisvetsmuseum.com/exhibitions/civilwar/

3) Kenosha Civil War Museum: This museum focuses on the upper Midwest's contributions to the Civil War and personal stories. www.thecivilwarmuseum.org

4) Soldier's Monument: The monument stands 46 feet high and weighing 80 tons.

5) Confederate Spy Grave: One of the most notorious, storied and celebrated spies for the Confederacy, Belle Boyd is buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery in the Wisconsin Dells. After the war ended, she made a living by traveling the country, telling her story and supporting the concept of one nation.

6) Old Abe, the war eagle, historic marker: Old Abe was an eagle mascot that traveled with Wisconsin's troops. He earned a reputation for flying and screeching ferociously over the battlefield. Chippewa Indians captured him in northern Wisconsin and sold him to a local farmer. Old Abe served in 42 battles and lost only a few feathers. After the war, Old Abe lived in Madison at the Capitol. Old Abe is on the 101st Airborne Division logo, on the Case Tractor logo and as a replica statue in the Wisconsin State Assembly Chambers. The marker is located at Hwy. #138 near Jims Falls.

7) Victorious Charge, Milwaukee: John S. Conway's bronze sculpture is known for realistic depiction of the intensity and horror of battle. Read more at specialsections.suntimes.com/lifestyle/travel

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Old Orchard art festival in expansive mode

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Contributor

You can add fine art to your shopping list this weekend as the expanded North Shore Festival of Art returns to the Westfield Old Orchard mall in Skokie with more artists and an extra day for browsing.

More than 150 juried painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, printmakers, furniture makers and other artisans from around the country will set up shop Friday through Sunday in the inner courts of the mall. In addition to the art on display, attractions will include live music from three stages and a children’s area.

“When people support a show and it thrives, it starts to develop a good reputation among artists—and that’s what’s happened here,” said festival organizer Amy Amdur. “We have a lot of new artists coming in this year because they’ve heard it’s such a successful show.”

Great setting
One reason for that, Amdur added, is that people are attracted to the ease of enjoying art while ambling through the mall.

“It’s such a pleasant environment,” she said. “The setting is so beautiful. There are trees, fountains, fish ponds, shelter if it rains and shade if it’s hot, and plenty of places to sit and relax along the way.”

Artists travel from as far as New York and Miami to exhibit in the North Shore Festival of Art, but the Chicago area is also well-represented.

After making a career change from advertising to art a few years back, Debbie Yost of Park Ridge has been winning awards and developing a following for her large-format, macro photography of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Her “Ice Silhouettes” series of black-and-white magnified shots of frozen plant life is especially popular.

“What I’m trying to do is capture the shapes and forms and details of plants and flowers, from an abstract viewpoint,” she said. “It’s become a real passion.”

Mosaic artist Michelle Davidove of Lincolnshire has a similar passion for her art, which involves the artful placement of colored mosaic tiles on pretty much anything imaginable.

“Tables, picture frames, vases, belt buckles, anything you might think of, I do,” said Davidove, whose work is also available in area stores under the name Mosaics by Michelle D. “I love it because I can put things together anyway I like. It’s like putting a puzzle together that I make up as I go along.”

Found art
Patrick Carr of Evanston focuses on found objects for images he sometimes calls “accidental still lifes.”

“I like to shoot unusual things that people have lost, old signage, toys that have been thrown away, interesting things I find laying on the ground or in an abandoned show window or hanging from the sides of buildings,” said the photographer, who shoots on film and does traditional black-and-white darkroom printing. “Things that have been left behind and forgotten, that take on a new meaning after they’ve been abandoned.

“It’s a visceral thing. There’s a kind of beauty, I think, in the way things decay over time and develop a patina.”

NORTH SHORE FESTIVAL OF ART
Westfield Shopping Center, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., July 27-29
Admission is free
(847) 926-4300 or visit www.northshorefestivalofart.com
Cabell sings Rachmaninoff at Ravinia

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

Nicole Cabell, named BBC Singer of the World in 2008, makes her home in Chicago, but to appear at the Ravinia Festival Aug. 2 she has to fly from the Santa Fe Opera. “I’m singing Leila in ‘The Pearl Fishers’ on July 31,” Cabell explained. “I’m coming in between Santa Fe performances, so I am just doing one number at Ravinia.”

At Ravinia, she will sing Rachmaninoff’s glorious “Vocalise” Opus 34, No. 14, a showcase for female singers. She is quite a festival favorite, having appeared in either the pavilion or the Martin Theatre five times between the summers of 2002 and 2008.

Cabell grew up in Southern California in the beach town of Ventura, but she resisted the style of a California girl. “I wore black and tried to create the fantasy that I lived in New York,” she said, laughing at the memory. “Now I live in Chicago, but I regard myself as a California girl. I love to go back there. I love the water.”

Her early years were not particularly musical, but when she was about 16 years old, teachers, family and others began to notice the operatic timbre of her lovely soprano voice. Soon she was taking voice lessons and she went on to graduate from the Eastman School of Music.

Lyric training

In 2002 she joined the apprentice program at the Lyric Opera School for American Artists, now the Ryan Opera Center, where she studied with important doors, including the artists’ concepts and techniques employed as well as the artists’ concepts for the various pieces. The park is handicapped accessible but the tours require walking between the sculptures, so people who have difficulty are encouraged to bring a wheelchair. All tours begin promptly at 1 p.m. No reservations are required. For information, call (847) 679-4265. Aug. 4 and Oct. 20. “Evaston’s Lakefront,” Aug. 18 and Oct. 6. “Architectural Evanston,” a walk through the original town of Evanston, with a view to the architectural styles of different eras and how they reflect the growth and change of the city. Sept. 1. “Evaston Women’s History,” Sept. 15.

The Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park, located along the east side of McCormick Boulevard, between Dempster and Main streets on the east side of McCormick Boulevard. Sept. 23: Section II, park in the canoe launch on Oakton, just east of McCormick, and walk over the channel bridge to McCormick to begin the tour. Oct. 28: Section IV, park in the lot in the park, between Howard and Touhy.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. (847) 663-6045. www.nileslibrary.org. Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Niles Songwriters group meets. Area songwriters are invited to bring original songs to share and get feedback.

Skokie Art Guild offers drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

Monday Night CarShows, 5-9 p.m. every Monday, through Sept. 10, in the west parking lot of Westfield Old Orchard shopping center, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Cars on display will include classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods, motorcycles and vintage military vehicles. There will also be music, food and hourly raffles. Visit www.mondaynightcarshows.com.


MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-6889. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through Jan. 6, 2013: “Spies, Traitors and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America,” a creation of the International Spy Museum. The exhibit explores how the United States should balance civil liberties and Individual rights during times of conflict, crisis and fear. At interactive stations following the themes of the exhibition — revolution, sabotage, hate, radicalism, world war, subversion, protest, extremism and terrorism — visitors are able to record their opinions and compare their reactions to those of past Gallup polling results. Aug. 19, 1:30 p.m.: Screening of “Eulogistic Justice,” a PBS documentary about the more than six decades-long commitment to apprehend Nazi war criminals and place them on trial for crimes against humanity. Free with admission; reservations recommended.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions for Community Calendar are required 14 days preceding the date of publication. Send to: Niles Managing Editor, Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. Information may be faxed to (847) 486-7495 or emailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 823-0453, calendar of events includes:
- Mondays, through July 30: Employment counseling, by appointment.
- July 28: Legal counseling, by appointment.
- 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, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (The center is open until noon on Fridays.) The Center of Concern offers housing counseling for seniors and others seeking affordable housing, programs designed to prevent homelessness, friendly visitors for the homebound, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. See www.centerofconcern.org.

Center counselors: Also available to help eligible residents apply for Illinois Circuit Breaker property-tax relief grants and license-plate discounts, Illinois 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 registration and temporary handicapped parking placards. To schedule an appointment at Niles Township in Skokie, call (847) 677-9300.

Maine Township Neighborhood Watch: Meets at 7:30 p.m. 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 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 & Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 10 at 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. See www.rshs.org or contact Carol Marchetti at (773) 775-6616, 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 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Doris King at dhking@yahoo.com or call (847) 877-8900.

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 Galasso, (847) 965-9920.

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 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. Newmark 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 (847) 631-4633 or email info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

Polish American Night: The first Polish-American Night with the Chicago Fire vs. the New England Revolution at Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, starts 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18. Price of premiøre tickets are $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, (688) 522-1896, ext. 1208, or through Ed Kaczynski, (708) 496-6784. See www.pna-znp.org.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center: 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie; information: (847) 967-4800; reservations: (847) 967-4889, www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Museum admission prices: General Admission, $5; seniors (65+), $3; students (ages 12-22), $3; children (ages 5-11), $3. Reservations required for programs. Through 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 days of the republic. July 26: Lecture, "The Future of International Justice" — Leading authority on international law, University of Pennsylvania Law School Professor Harry Reicher will discuss additions to the armony of the international legal system, in relation to genocide and crimes against humanity, 6:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

Solid Waste Agency: Northern Cook County, recently established a Battery Recycling Program for household batteries.
Training, but there are no audi-through patient care volunteer opportunities generally traditional or simple. The bedside of those who are included in the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care program. Alkaline (AA, A, C, D and 9V) and rechargeable (NiCD, NiMH, lithium ion, lithium polymer). Before dropping off rechargeable batteries, residents need to tape the contact points on each battery or place in an individual self-locking plastic bag to avoid sparks. Local drop-off sites include: Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 587-7900, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 1010 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8000, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays; Park Ridge Public Works, 400 Busse Highway, (847) 318-5240, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Additional drop-off sites are posted at swancc.org/recycling/batteryrecycling.html.

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

Threshold Singers: Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 687-0020. Practices are held on two Thursdays each month starting at 6:45 p.m. in Park Ridge. Threshold Singers are trained to sing in groups of two and three at the bedside of those who are sick and dying. The songs are generally traditional or simple rounds, chants, lullabies and hymns that can be chosen to respond to musical taste and spiritual direction. Singers go through patient care volunteer training, but there are no auditions; only requirements are a love of music and a desire to serve others.

Avenues Thrift Shoppe: Offers great prices and specials on gently used clothing for infants, children and adults, shoes, household items, books and small furniture. On Wednesdays, seniors 60 years and older receive 10 percent off all regularly priced items. Main shop is at 7710 W. Touhy Ave., and the "boutique" shop at 7700 Touhy Ave., features upscale clothing, outerwear, collectibles and fine merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and 1-8 p.m. Thursdays. Donations accepted 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays only. Donate only gently used clothing; broken or obsolete electronics cannot be accepted. Purchases help adults with developmental disabilities. Avenues to Independence is a nonprofit organization based at 515 Busse Highway in Park Ridge that offers a variety of programs to enhance an individual's work, social, and daily living skills. For information on donations or to volunteer, contact Michael Frustini, (773) 631-6230.

Fundraisers
Like New Auto Spa, Inc.: 1050 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, has introduced a special fundraising program that benefits Advocate Lutheran General Hospital/Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital. Anyone who visits Like New to have their family car detailed or buys a gift card from the company and also asks for the Lutheran General discount will receive a price cut for the service, with a portion of the proceeds going specifically to benefit the Older Adult Services program of the hospital. Call Aimee Madden, Lutheran General Development Office, (847) 723-8515; or visit www.likeneuwautospa.com. The fundraising program is featured on the home page with a link to a more detailed flyer containing the discount and donation matrix. This offer is not valid with an outside wash only, or any other promotion/program.

Health
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is hosting a free skin cancer screening from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 8 for early detection and prevention of skin cancer. The visual screenings will take place on the first floor of the hospital's Center for Advanced Care, 1700 Luther Way, Park Ridge. Physicians will perform the screenings, and will give participants their results immediately. The physicians will also recommend follow-up care, if necessary. Free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, call (800) 323-8622 and mention event code "BCCO3" or visit www.advocatehealth.com/luth click on "I need a class or support group" and type the class code (BCCO3) in the keyword box. Participants may park for free, with validation, in the parking garage adjacent to the Center for Advanced Care.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital: LGH is hosting a weekly Community Healthbeat lecture series. This month's topic is "Healthy Bones and Joint pain," led by orthopedic surgeons. All lectures are 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 BCCO3 or visit www.advocatehealth.com/luth click on "I need a class or support group" and type in the class code — July 31: "Driving: When Is It Time to Retire Your License?" presented by Dr. Denise Fiducia, psychologist.

Advocate Medical Group South Elgin: Providing immediate care and occupational health services at the Advocate Medical Group Patient Center, 7255 N. Caldwell Ave. in Niles. This will provide convenient, quality medical care including treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses such as: Cuts and burns, sprains and bruises, eye injuries, flu symptoms, sore throats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, ear aches, respiratory and urinary tract infections. The center provides easy access to X-ray and laboratory services to assist in diagnosis and treatment of these and other ailments. In addition, the clinic provides international travel medical services including for those planning a trip out of the country. Office hours are 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. weekdays and Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call, (847) 647-0355.

Golf Mill Hearing Aid Center: 8856 N. Milwaukee Ave., offering free hearing evaluations. All who come in will receive a comprehensive
Your Local Worship Guide

Central Zone

CHICAGO

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631
(708)967-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

MORTON GROVE

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

NORTHEAST

Willow Creek Community Church
North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Road
847-441-6599
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 am
Promiseland (Infants-Gr5): 9 & 11 am
Elevate (Grades 6-8): 11 am
Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm
For more information visit www.WillowNorthShore.org

NORWOOD PARK

St. Alban’s Episcopal
Family-friendly church for every kind of family.
Single? Partnered?
Spouse and kids?
6240 N. Avondale,
near Devon & Harlem
Communion every Sunday, 9:30
stalbanschicago.org

NILES

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

NORWOOD PARK

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

To showcase your House of Worship here
call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
SKOKIE

Central United Methodist Church
8237 Kenton 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 Synagogue
7800 Niles Ave., Skokie
847-674-9146
www.devaremess.org
Join us for Shabbat Services at 10am
"A Community of Jews who believe and teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Promised Jewish Messiah"

Evanshire Presbyterian Church
4555 Church Street
www.evanshirepresbytedan.com
Every Sunday at 11AM

SKOKIE

St. Timothy Lutheran Church
9000 Kildare Ave, Skokie
847-676-1300
www.StTimothySkokie.org
Worship: Sundays at 10AM

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

Aramaic Soloist Chaene Brooks

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie
WE'RE GROWING & MAKING CHANGES!!
9:30 am Praise and Celebration Service with Praise Band
Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Sunday School (All ages)
10:45 am Traditional Service with Choir
(Adult Classes In English & Assyrian)
Fridays 7:00-9:30 pm
Assyrian Fellowship
Tuesday Evenings 7:15-8:45 pm
New Lyfe Youth Group
(for Jr & Sr High Youth)
2nd Saturday
Monthly Shabbat dinners at 6:30PM
Religious School Wed & Sat;
Rabbi Jeffrey Weill
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski
Rabbi Neil Brief, Emeritus

KEHILLAT SHALOM
An Egalitarian Conservative Congregation
Lay Led Shabbat Service, 9:45AM
8610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie
847-679-6513
www.kehillatshaIom.org

KOL EMETH Conservative Congregation
Rabbi Barry Schechter
5130 Touhy, Skokie
(1 block west of Eden's)
847-673-3370

STOCKIE CENTRAL TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION
Traditional Service - Mixed Seating
Services led by:
Rabbi Dr. Michael Gottesman
Minyons: Mon. & Thurs. 8:00 AM
Kabbala Shabbos-Sep. to June at candle lighting time
Saturday 9:00 AM Followed by Kiddush
Sunday 8:30 AM Followed by breakfast
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4040 Main Street, Skokie, Illinois
847-674-4117
www.wix.com/skokiecentral/shul

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Tell Me About a Time When...

Be Ready for the Behavioral Interview Questions

By Carole Martin, Monster Contributing Writer

As soon as you hear the words, “Tell me about a time when...” you should be aware that your interviewer is probably using a behavioral interviewing technique.

This technique uses your past experiences and behaviors as an indicator of your future success. In other words, if you can demonstrate through examples that you accomplished something before, the interviewer may have the tendency to believe you may do it again.

For example, if you saved your company money by streamlining a process and you relate that experience to the interviewer, he will become interested, because there’s a strong possibility you could save his company money, too.

Be Specific

Sometimes it’s difficult to come up with a specific illustration, because the situation, such as managing multiple tasks at once, occurs regularly in your line of work.

For example, when a candidate who had worked in publishing for seven years was asked, “Tell me about a time when you had to juggle priorities to meet a deadline,” she almost laughed out loud. “Juggling priorities is a way of life in the publishing business,” she answered. “There’s not a day when I don’t have to work under that kind of pressure.”

Her interviewer persisted, asking for specific examples of this type of demand.

“I could tell you five incidents that happened this week alone,” the candidate replied. “I had one person on the phone, received three emails with project changes and had two deadlines to meet. And that was only on Monday.”

In this scenario, the interviewer is seeking information about how the candidate handles priorities and deadlines, how she works under pressure and how flexible she is.

Since this candidate had a lot of experience in these areas, she would have satisfied the interview question by telling about a specific time when she demonstrated those organizational skills. She could have shown how she gets things done, no matter what it takes, by saying, “There was an incident last month when I received a frantic phone call from one of the managers, and I had to drop everything to get a change processed. What he asked was almost impossible, but with some help from my team and working some extra hours, I was able to accomplish the goal. The department manager commended me for pulling off the changes and meeting the tight deadline.”

Write Your Stories

Preparing your stories is one of the most beneficial exercises you can do to become focused before your interview. If you say you’re good at something, prove it with a story. You should be able to back up anything you say on your resume or in an interview with a story or an example of how you soared in a sticky situation.

Potential Behavioral Interview Questions

The exact behavioral interview questions you might be asked are virtually limitless. But here are a few examples of the types that you could face:

- Tell me about a time when you felt it was you against everyone else. You thought you were right and that everyone else was wrong. What did you do?
- Tell me about a time when you were working with someone who wasn’t pulling their weight, and they had a different value system than yours. How did you deal with this person?
- Tell me about a time when you suffered a setback. What happened, and how did you recover?
- Tell me about a time when you succeeded. Give a specific example.
The Village of Lincolnshire seeks a professional, dedicated individual to provide full-time general administrative and office support. Duties include human resources functions such as coordinating employee recruitment, orientation, and training; maintaining personnel files; and administration of employee benefit programs such as health, dental, and life insurance and employee wellness fair. The Administrative Assistant also assists in preparation of memorandums, public notices, agendas, and documents for execution; filing; mail opening/distribution; and updates to the Village Code as required. This position provides support to the Mayor and Board of Trustees & other general office duties. High energy and personable individual with excellent customer interaction & telephone etiquette skills is a must. Ability to handle multiple tasks & to be highly organized, detail oriented, and possess good office skills.

Must be proficient in the operation of a desktop computer; basic human resource management activities; and composing routine letters and memoranda without dictation. Must maintain a high level of confidentiality. Prefer 6 yrs. professional office exp, performing similar duties. The Village offers a competitive pay and benefit package. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a drug screen.

Applications will be accepted through August 3, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. at the Village Hall in Lincolnshire, One Olde Half Day Road, Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069. For a complete job description and application, visit the Village’s website at www.village.lincolnshire.il.us or click on the “Employment” tab. Completed applications may be faxed to 847-933-8508 or e-mailed to Leslie Ulibarri at luUiba@village.lincolnshire.il.us.

The Village of Lincolnshire is an equal opportunity employer.
Garage Sales

B services 3031 FL. Wilmette. MAJOR QUAN. TIES SELL! $1.95 a box, for sale clothes, linens and more. 9755 905 4 pm.


Lakewood Large Sale 9001 Long Ave. Wilmette. 915 935-2854. 1000 items in stock. 3rd Sat. 9-4. Call 9755 905 4 pm.

Lake Forest Large Sale 900-5114. 1000 items. New. Used. 3rd Sat. 9-4. Call 9755 905 4 pm.

Lake Zurich Large Sale 900-5114. 1000 items. New. Used. 3rd Sat. 9-4. Call 9755 905 4 pm.

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Judicial Sales-Real Est.

Add a notice in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois circuit court division of the department of the county of Cook, Illinois, in accordance with the provisions of section 9-10 of article 9 of the civil rights act of 1961, to sue for the recovery of sums due thereon.

The property is located at 1250 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60605, and is subject to the following terms:

1. The property will be sold for cash only.
2. The buyer must provide payment in full at the time of sale.
3. The property is offered "as is, where is." No warranty is made as to the condition of the property.
4. The buyer waives any and all claims or defenses against the seller.

For more information, contact the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, at (312) 263-6975.
The Illinois Classified Advertising Network (ICAN) provides Pioneer Press and the Doings with advertising of a national appeal.

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

Both Pioneer Press and the Doings recommend discretion when responding. Please refer questions and comments directly to ICAN.
Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause on May 24, 2012, an agent of the Judicial Sales Corporation, will hold a public auction to the highest bidder, for real estate located as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 9828 S. EKA Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 Property Index No. 36-1944-005.

TheJudicial Sales Corporation, 107 North Osceola Avenue, Suite 700, Chicago, Illinois 60602, will hold the auction on August 31, 2012, at 10:30 AM, at 205 W. Rand Road, Suite 1300, Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169. The highest bid will receive a Certificate of Sale which will entitle the purchaser to own the property subject to the assessed taxes, special assessments, and any liens or charges that are due but not yet paid. The purchaser will then have the right to own the property in fee simple after a period of 30 days from the date of the auction.

The property is located at 9828 S. EKA Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077. The property is subject to liens and judgments against the former owner. The listing price is $1,100,000. The purchaser must pay a minimum deposit of 10% of the successful bid, which is due within twenty-four hours of the auction. The balance of the purchase price is due within thirty days. The purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale, which is a legal document that entitles the purchaser to own the property.

For more information, please call 847-998-3400 or visit our website at www.judicialsales.com.
Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY Giventhat, by Ordinance No. 2012-131, adopted June 11, 2012, by the Board of Trustees of the Lincolnwood Public Library District to levy an additional 0.25% of the value of all taxable property in the District, as equalized or assessed by the Board of Review, for the purchase of sites and buildings, the construction and equipment of buildings, the rental of buildings required for library purposes, and maintenance, repairs and alterations of library buildings and equipment, and to the extent necessary to levy said special tax for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

WHEREAS, the amount of said special tax is 0.25% of the value of all taxable property in the District, as equalized or assessed by the Board of Review, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the purchase of sites and buildings, the construction and equipment of buildings, the rental of buildings required for library purposes, and maintenance, repairs and alterations of library buildings and equipment, and to the extent necessary to levy said special tax for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED AND DETERMINED by the Board of Library Trustees of the Lincolnwood Public Library District to levy the said special tax for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

FURTHER, that a copy of this ordinance shall be published in the Lincolnwood Review newspaper within fifteen (15) days after the date of adoption of this Ordinance, in Form 1-A of the Illinois Code of Local Governmental Procedures.

FURTHER, that this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 19th day of July, 2012, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYE: Bennett, Ream, Flaks, Gintel, Klaton, Martel TOTAL 7

VOTE: NAY: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Said Ordinance to GO into effect August 6, 2012.

CERTIFICATION
I, CHRISTOPHER M. MARTEL, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I am the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Lincolnwood Public Library District and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of the Lincolnwood Public Library District at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on the 19th day of July, 2012, and that the foregoing Ordinance is in all respects in accordance with the requirements of the Illinois Revised Statutes, Title 65, Chapter 11, Article 11, Section 23.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois this 19th day of July, 2012.

[Seal]

CHRISTOPHER M. MARTEL, Secretary

COUNTY OF COOK

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Public Hearings

VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, August 13, 2012, at 7:00 PM, a public hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Lincolnwood, Cook County, Illinois, in the Council Chambers Room of the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 100 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois, for the purpose of considering the following:

Property Owner: DOUGLAS L. ROBERTS

Property Location: 2621 W. 60th St., Lincolnwood, Illinois

Applicant: DORIS L. ROBERTS

Nature of Request: To change the use of the property from residence to storage and to allow the property to be used as a mini-storage facility.

All persons desiring to be heard on this application are requested to appear at the public hearing to be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 13, 2012, at the Village Hall, 100 N. Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

FURTHER, THAT a copy of this ordinance shall be published in the Lincolnwood Review newspaper within fifteen (15) days after the date of adoption of this Ordinance, in Form 1-A of the Illinois Code of Local Governmental Procedures.

FURTHER, that this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 19th day of July, 2012, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois this 19th day of July, 2012.

[Seal]

CHRISTOPHER M. MARTEL, Secretary
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**Calendar**

**Summer Reading Program:** Learn about the Niles Public Library's Summer Reading program. The "Reading Is So Delicious" program is open to ages 0-18, and offers free gifts for completed reading achievements. The program boasts a popular teen attraction for ages 12-18. For every reading log teens complete, they will receive a to-go cold cup with a built-in straw. The cup will contain a voucher redeemable at the mall for a free admission and Xtreme Bugs exhibit pass. Teens will be eligible for the weekly restaurant giveaways and a drawing at the end of the summer for a grand prize – an Apple iPod touch.

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

**Help downloading eBooks:** Go to www.nileslibrary.org/contactus and click on eBook Help or click on the Overdrive Download link on the home page to find step-by-step instruction sheets for different eBook readers as well as how to get started on My Media Mall. My Media Mall titles are now available for the Amazon Kindle.

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

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

**Smart Solutions:** The Niles Public Library's Smart Solutions initiative for adults 50 and older offers a program about credit scores and breakfast, which runs through November 2013. Be the first to hear about how to successfully manage your money and retirement future by attending programs, going online to the Smart Solutions' website (www.nileslibrary.org/smartsolutions), and viewing interactive and paneled displays on the library's third floor. A representative from the Consumer and Family Economics, University of Illinois Extension Services will explain the purpose of a credit report. Patrons also learn how a credit score is used, how to order a free copy, and read and dispute errors. Reserve a spot by calling (847) 663-1234 or online at nileslibrary.org/calendar.
**Egofske puts playoffs as goal for Vikes**

**BY MATT HARNESS**

mharness@pioneerlocal.com

**SKOKIE —** Mark Egofske thought he was done as a head coach. That all changed when Scott Smith left Niles North to become the athletic director at McHenry High School following the football season.

After spending the last six seasons as an assistant with the Vikings, Egofske was named the new head coach of the program.

"It happened so quickly," said Egofske, who's been running the team throughout the offseason. "I didn't know if I wanted to get back into it because I was enjoying spending time with my family and coaching travel softball for my daughters."

Egofske was Niles West's coach from 2000-2005 and led the Wolves to the playoffs four years in a row. He takes over for Smith, who went 20-34 in six seasons.

The last time the Vikings qualified for the postseason was in 1993, under coach Paul Gliambelou.

"That's our goal," he said of a winning season and spot in the playoffs. "I think we have a good group of kids, a good senior core. We also brought up a bunch of kids, and we are trying to fit them in in the best way possible."

Bill Votik, Eugene Edmond and Dan Fricano are a few seniors Egofske believes can turn around the program, which has qualified for the playoffs just twice in team history and hasn't won more than three games since 2009.

Both Edmond and Votik are coming off junior seasons cut short by injuries. A quarterback, Votik missed a majority of the games with a concussion, while Edmond, a linebacker, was out all year with an ACL injury.

Votik is healthy and back under center and will be the leader for Egofske's spread offense.

"He has a knack for making plays," the coach said. "He's been a wonderful surprise after last season. He's had an outstanding summer."

Fricano is a player no one wants to face. The senior will line up at defensive end and also is projected to play receiver and running back.

"He has that motor, and he's a kid who can play at the next level," Egofske said. "We are really expecting big things from him this season."

Niles North wraps up its summer camp this week and breaks until Aug. 8.

**Smith carries Force into WFA title game**

**BY ERIC VAN DRIL**

Contributor

The Chicago Force coaching staff assessed its team's talent at the beginning of the season and knew a showdown with defending Women's Football Alliance champion Boston Militia likely loomed in the playoffs.

The first-year WFA franchise, who had played in the Independent Women's Football League the previous eight seasons, elected to rest their star player for when they needed her the most.

Melissa Smith didn't play a game for six weeks during the middle of the season, a strategy which benefitted the Force when it earned its biggest win in franchise history.

"Based upon our film study throughout the season and our scouting, we thought that we could get Melissa an opportunity to rest her legs," Force coach John Konecki said. "We took that opportunity. We rested her legs for six weeks because we knew (the conference championship) was where we were going to end up. She was always ready to go in emergency situations, but we just didn't need her."

While the Force may not have needed Smith as it won its first 10 games by a 42-34 scoring margin, she was vital in Chicago's National Conference championship game Saturday against the Militia—which also won the IWFL title in 2010—at Evanston's Lazier Field.

Konecki called Smith's number 31 times against Boston en route to the 35-34 victory. The stout, 5-foot-6 running back was particularly effective in the first half. She ran the ball 21 times for 101 yards and four touchdowns.

The Force (11-0) will play the San Diego Surge (11-0) for the 67-team WFA championship on Aug. 4 at Heinz Field, in Pittsburgh.

"It couldn't have been better than that," said Smith, a 32-year-old Oak Park resident.

**O'Neills relish traditions of Race To Mackinac**

**BY ERIC VAN DRIL**

Contributor

Shawn O'Neill (left) and his crew on Eagle have been competing in the Race to Mackinac for the past 34 years. [COURTESY OF SHAWN O'NEILL]

Shawn O'Neill (left) and his crew on Eagle have been competing in the Race to Mackinac for the past 34 years. [COURTESY OF SHAWN O'NEILL]

**Chicago Force running back Melissa Smith (87) carries the ball uphill during the National Conference Championship game against the Boston Militia at Evanston Township. [MICHAEL JABECKI FOR SUN TIMES MEDIA]**

**Shawn O'Neill**

"I'm like, 'Yep, that's it. OK, we'll have it ready for you. What time do you want it tomorrow?'"

The O'Neills have experienced large amounts of success in the Race to Mackinac. Eagle has won the overall title three times, a rare feat considering the quality of the other boats and their crews.

The crew aboard Eagle constantly has high expectations for itself because of lofty past results and its members' experience. Reading wind patterns remains difficult for the ship's co-captains and it was especially challenging on Sunday of this year's 104th race.

"We had a really good day Saturday, the wind wasn't cooperating with a change of direction on Sunday, so we made some mistakes whether to go in or out," said O'Neill after finishing in 40 hours, 21 minutes and 36 seconds. "Then Sunday night and into Monday, we were really solid and the boat was going well. We made some good choices."

"When you do well in other races, you have high expectations, but this is a sailboat race where you have to deal with Mother Nature. The reality is that you just don't really know exactly how the wind is going to change and when it's going to change. We go with the odds, do what we can and live with the results."

O'Neill and Eagle's crew spend the majority of its weekends during the summer sailing. O'Neill estimates the average number of races to be around 24, yet the Race to Mackinac is the one that constantly stands out.

Sharing in the post-race traditions on Mackinac Island is one thing O'Neill and his crew enjoy, as too is the uniqueness of the destination.

Another thing that makes the race unique is the beauty and challenge of the race. The night sky is much clearer on Lake Michigan and allows sailors to temporarily escape from Chicago's lights and hazy skies. The race from the Chicago Lighthouse to Mackinac Island typically stretches over the course of three days and tests sailors, like Lake Bluff resident Doug Warren, unlike any other race the crew will experience this season.

"You're spending two, three days—maybe even longer than that—working really hard to make the boat sail fast," said Warren, who has sailed with the O'Neills for 28 years. "And then also, Mackinac Island isn't really special place to come to. It's really unlike any other place I've been to."
Maine East's Orion Yamat, from Niles, survived the cut at the Junior Players Championship at Indian Lakes and took 46th. | ROB DICKER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Goldstein keeping a short-termsd approach

BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

BLOOMINGDALE — Jonathan Goldstein no longer tries to imagine himself, while standing on the first tee box, making birdie on the 18th hole.

These days, the rising senior at Glenbrook North does his best to concentrate on the shot in front of him.

"I don't want to get ahead of myself anymore," the Northbrook resident said. "I want to focus on the task at hand, instead of letting my mind float away. That was my biggest problem in the past."

The newfound approach carried Goldstein to a tie for second place last week at the AJGA's Midwest Junior Players Championship at Hilton Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale.

Goldstein shot 70-68-73 for a 5-under 211 and finished one shot back of winner Jakob Garstecki, from Germantown, Wis.

Two of Goldstein's teammates at Glenbrook North also made the cut. Harrison Marick tied for 16th (78-70-71), and Brian Ohr tied for 19th (71-77-72).

New Trier's Austin Rendell tied for 39th (78-72-77), and Maine East's Orion Yamat finished 46th (76-74-76).

On the girls side, Loyola's Isabella Kane took fifth after shooting 72-77-77. She was the only North Shore player to make the cut.

The tournament was held the same week as the U.S. Junior Amateur at Glenbrook North and was the last major event for the Spartans, and he's playing the best golf of his career.

"That's a fair statement," he said. "My ball-striking's improved a lot, and I'm so much better from a mental standpoint. I now have a pre-shot routine, and I am now more committed to each shot."

Goldstein showed last week he has the talent to contend in major tournaments, a good sign when Glenbrook North gets going next month.

"I have bigger goals after last week," he said. "But me and Harrison talked about not getting ahead of ourselves. We want to execute what we have coming up. We want to take that approach this year."
Schiappa joins nation’s best at showcase

BY MATT HARNESS
mharness@pioneerlocal.com

LINCOLNWOOD — Ever since he started playing lacrosse in grade school, Mike Schiappa always was a Loyola fan.

In the spring, the soon-to-be senior got a rare opportunity to help his favorite team to a championship.

A starter on the defense alongside standout Dylan Harris, Schiappa was instrumental in Loyola’s 6-4 win over Lake Forest in the state final that ended a six-year streak of runner-up finishes for the Ramblers.

“It was really incredible,” said Schiappa, who lives in Lincolnwood. “We knew it was our year, but we knew we had to work for it. It really was a process for us, and it was great for it to pay off in the end.”

Schiappa is regarded as one of the best players in the country and was selected to the Champion All-American Showcase this week at ESPN’s Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

One of three players from Illinois, along with recent New Trier graduate Jack Connelly, to earn the honor, Schiappa is among the nine non-seniors in the field of 96 players.

Connelly, who’s off to play at Providence, was a three-year starting goalkeeper for the Trevians.

“When I got the e-mail back, I was surprised,” Schiappa said of making the team. “It’s a real honor. Coach (Rob) Snyder helped me out a lot, and I definitely am thankful to him for that.”

Schiappa’s first summer with the Midwestern all-star club, and he’s enjoying the experience of playing with others from different states.

“The lacrosse IQ of some of the kids is on another level,” Schiappa said. “These are the best kids from these states. You learn how to share the spotlight as well as learn other things about the game.”

Once he returns from Florida, Schiappa will continue training in the offseason to prepare for another bid at the state title with Loyola in the spring.

“There are barely any days I don’t go out and do something with lacrosse,” he said. “It definitely comes down to how much the seniors want it and want to push the younger guys, how much we are willing to give.

“We also have a lot of faith in our coaches. They showed us they can help us succeed. They now have higher expectations for us after we won the state championship.”

Ross jumps right into Pirates training camp

BY MIKE CAMERON

BRADENTON, Fla. — Kevin Ross is only 18 years old and already working 60 hours a week outside in the Florida heat.

He wouldn’t have it any other way.

The gifted shortstop, who graduated from Niles West and was selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the eighth round of the MLB draft in June, formally signed his contract on July 17 and got right down to the business of playing professional baseball.

At rookie camp in Bradenton, Ross gets up at 6 a.m., eats breakfast, gets taped, works out, practices in the morning and plays a game in the afternoon. He’s usually done by 4 p.m.

“I’m lovin’ it,” said Ross. “You realize right away it’s a lot more hours and longer days, but that’s no big deal. I’ve been working that hard forever.”

After turning heads with a series of 400-plus-foot bombs in batting practice the first few days, Ross doubled in his first game Friday and was robbed of a triple on Saturday by his roommate, who scaled the high wall in center field.

The Pirates brass already has asked Ross to play in the Instructional League this fall. Not all the 25 position players and 25 pitchers in camp will be invited.

“I’ll get more one-on-one instruction in the fall. We have so many players now,” said Ross, who’s no longer wearing a wrap on the thumb he injured in Niles West’s last regular-season game. “I don’t feel overmatched at all. I like the faster pitchers. I’m learning it’s all about hitting where it’s pitched.

“The facilities are top-notch. Our living quarters are hotel-style. We have four fields, and one is (prescription) turf, so we’ll never miss a day.”

Ross’s father and lifelong baseball mentor, Gerald, joined his son the first three days and plans to lease an apartment in Bradenton within the next month. The elder Ross helped Kevin sort through his initial misgivings about the signing bonus.

Pittsburgh would not budge from its below-slot offer of $130,000, but numerous players were similarly affected by a new spending cap on teams’ first 10 picks. As expected, Ross chose to pursue his pro dream and pass on a full-scholarship offer from the University of Michigan.

“I needed a few days to process everything. I was unhappy with how things went, but had to get past that,” said Ross. “I know I’m doing what I’m supposed to be doing.”
NILES — Before heading down to South Carolina for last weekend's Nike Peach Jam AAU Tournament, Notre Dame junior-to-be Duante Stephens received what he felt was valuable advice from a former high school teammate.

"I talked to (Tennessee redshirt freshman) Quinton Chievous about how big the tournament was going to be," said Stephens, who played with the Chicago Mac Irvin Fire Ul6s. "(Chievous) told me that a lot of the (college) coaches at the tournament would not be looking for scoring but for the small things. He said, 'The coaches know what you can do, but you have to show them the things that don't show up on the stat sheet, like diving for loose balls.'

"I feel like I did (those things)."

Stephens, a 6-foot-3 shooting guard, and the Fire head to Las Vegas this weekend, where they once again will play in front of hordes of college coaches.

Not that the attention and scrutiny is anything new. Stephens received his first recruiting letter when he was in seventh grade and, his freshman year, then-Illinois head coach Bruce Weber attended one of his high school practices.

"I guess Weber saw a video of our game against Whitney Young, and like two days later he was in our gym," Stephens said. "It was then I realized my hard work was paying off. Colleges were starting to look at me. I got used to it after awhile. But I'm still surprised by (the attention). But I feel blessed to have those things."

Weber has moved on to Kansas State, but Illinois remains interested in Stephens, who averaged 11 points and seven rebounds as a sophomore last season. Two weeks ago, Miami (Ohio) became the first school to offer Stephens a scholarship. He said schools like Iowa, DePaul, Northwestern, Toledo and UW-Green Bay continue to show a high level of interest.

"I told him I wanted to play college basketball and he said he would push me as hard as I could take it, but that I had to realize he just wanted the best for me," Stephens said. "I'm pretty much adjusted to it and to playing the way he wants me to play."

Notre Dame incoming junior guard Duante Stephens (33) already has an offer from Miami (Ohio). JOEL LERNER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA
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