A goose comes in for a splash landing in a pond at the Wildwood Nature Center in Park Ridge on Aug. 4. Wildlife has been dropping in elsewhere, too, namely in neighbors' back yards as woodland creatures forage for food. PAGE 7. (TON DURR-SUN-TIMES MEDIA)
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AUTO ACCIDENTS UP

Auto accidents are up 9 percent over this time last year. Here, Niles firefighters the past spring had to remove the side of a car to extricate two people after their car was struck from behind in front of 8321 N. Milwaukee Ave. SUN-TIMES MEDIA FILE PHOTO

NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Law enforcement academy takes citizens behind the badge

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES - The 14th annual Niles Citizens Police Academy, a program giving residents an opportunity to get an inside peek at Niles Police Department and what its officers experience, kicks off another 12-week program on Sept. 6.

"It's a way for the community to learn about how the police department operates," Sgt. Robert Tornabene said of the program. Participants have an opportunity to go on ride-alongs with police officers, visit the firing range, see how evidence is collected and learn about community policing procedures used in traffic stops, DUI and traffic enforcement, gang awareness and more.

Tornabene said participants usually state that the class exceeded their expectations.

"I love to see the moment in the class when the participants have the light bulb go off in their head and their opinion of the police changes," Sgt. Ronald Brandt stated in an e-mail to the Niles Herald-Spectator.

Brandt said often the only view of police that people have is based on the portrayal of officers on television, in movies and in other media forms.

"Unless they personally know a police officer there is a large misunderstanding of why we do what we do and how we do it," said Brandt, who has been involved with the Citizens Police Academy for 10 years. "I always feel it is a great learning experience of where your tax dollars are going."

"It's the flagship for our volunteer program," added Tornabene. He said that the police department has found many of its volunteers for other programs from the pool of those who participate in the Citizens Police Academy.

Brandt said that a good percentage of the participants in the Citizens Police Academy who have volunteered in other capacities at the police department because they built good relationships in the class and believe in the department and their programs.

"Usually at the end of the class the participants can't believe how fast it went and don't want it to end," Brandt said.

Tornabene explained that each year the academy gets new instructors, some of whom volunteer. It is his belief that the Citizens Police Academy is a very valuable program in the community.

"They come away with a much better appreciation of what the officers do," Tornabene said of the participants.

According to Niles Police Officer Tony Scipione the Citizens Police Academy "provides a wonderful experience for Police Department personnel to become involved in a positive fashion with the community in which we serve. The academy allows for one-on-one interaction between public servants and concerned community residents."

The academy will meet for 11 Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Niles Police Department, 7000 W. Touhy Ave. It is open to Niles residents and employees of Niles businesses.

To apply for the academy or for more information visit www.niles.com and click on the Citizens Police Academy link under "News & Events" or contact Tornabene at (847) 588-6500.
MCYAF director leaving after decade deterring teen substance abuse

PARK RIDGE — In the past decade Margaret Polovchak has become the face of the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation and a leader in the group's efforts to deter teenagers from using alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

But Polovchak is now looking to a life beyond MCYAF as she joins Omni Youth Services, a youth-development, counseling and treatment organization based in Buffalo Grove.

"I'm really honored to have been part of this initiative and to do such important work in my own community," said Polovchak, MCYAF's director of operations.

Under Polovchak's leadership MCYAF adopted a number of initiatives aimed at preventing drinking, smoking and drug use among teenagers in Park Ridge, Niles, Morton Grove, Glenview and Des Plaines.

Using results from the Illinois Youth Survey answered by maine Township high school students, MCYAF launched the Social Norms Campaign, which promotes positive data from the surveys in an attempt to curb underage drinking, smoking and drug use.

The campaign led to the creation of school and community posters with messages stating that most teenagers choose not to drink, smoke or use drugs.

Polovchak, of Des Plaines, was also involved in the creation of MCYAF's "Sticker Shock" campaign across Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Niles, for which local teenagers volunteer each year to visit grocery and liquor stores, placing stickers on packaged alcohol warning buyers that it is illegal to provide alcohol to minors.

In addition MCYAF partnered with the Park Ridge and Des Plaines police departments to create "Text-A-Tip," an anonymous way for teenagers, as well as adults, to report underage-drinking parties and other suspected criminal activity.

Most recently Polovchak provided the Park Ridge City Council and Community Health Commission recommendations for how to best handle cases involving underage drinking and encourage youths to take part in assessment and counseling programs.

The recommendations under consideration by aldermen include reporting to the Illinois Secretary of State's Office anyone younger than 21 who has been charged with an underage-drinking offense and admits guilt before a Park Ridge adjudication hearing judge.

Suspension of the individual's drivers license will then occur.

IN PROFILE

at Niles Herald-Spectator

PUBLISHER’S NOTE TO READERS

You talked, we listened

Too many news providers have made the mistake of presuming what their readers want. Editors, though well-intentioned, have made decisions about what to place into print — or post to their websites — without much consideration for the customer.

That's an outdated approach, and one that doesn't match our company's direction.

We have taken a different tack.

This summer, we were out in the communities we serve. We asked our readers — and non-readers alike — what they needed from a provider of local news. We asked what it was that they expected from their local newspaper, and what they would like us to improve upon.

Perhaps you participated in one of our focus groups, or took a moment on a street corner, outside a local mail or shopping plaza this summer, and replied to questions about how you currently receive local news and ways to improve your local news experience.

We wanted your advice, because ultimately you decide what's important and how you'd like to receive your news.

And if you participated in one of these interviews, thank you.

Whether you knew it then, the time you offered was helping us to understand your news needs and what we must do to create an enhanced experience for our print and digital audiences.

On Aug. 28, we will unveil an improved news experience — one that reflects what people in our communities have said they want from their provider of local news.

Thanks again for reading.

We can’t wait to show you what’s next.

Sincerely,

Chris Krug, Publisher
clkru@pioneerlocal.com
847-486-7201

IN PROFILE

MCYAF director leaving after decade deterring teen substance abuse

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UP CLOSE

NAME: Margaret Polovchak
BEST KNOWN AS: Director of operations for the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation
HOMETOWN: Des Plaines

At the time Polovchak was involved in a grant project called Project Success, which partially focused on substance-abuse prevention.

"It really grew from a 10-hour-a-week job to a full-time job with five employees and an organization that is considered a leader in the state and nation in what we do because of the positive and measurable outcomes we've been able to achieve," Polovchak said.

Through the answers local teenagers provide on the Illinois Youth Survey, the group is seeing "a reduction in teen alcohol use and tobacco use, which has been the primary focus of the campaign," Polovchak said.

MCYAF is now searching for a new director of operations and hopes to have someone on board by October.

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Early spring blamed for spike in backyard wildlife

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

Along with causing sweet-smelling flowers to bloom sooner the year's early spring triggered the arrival of a less-welcome aroma: skunk.

The tuxedo-colored creatures are making more appearances than usual this time of year due a shortened hibernation season and, now, record-breaking temps.

"Some years it's bad and some years you don't see any at all," said Peter Babikan, an operational-service officer with the Niles Police Department.

This summer "we're seeing more families of skunks roaming around," he said, adding that raccoons and opossums are also out and about.

Babikan said animals that reproduced in early spring might have two litters before the year is over.

As the number of critters increases so does the frequency of run-ins with residents, particularly during long stretches of hot weather.

"They are more desperate for food and water," Babikan said, noting it is common for wild animals to raid gardens and bird feeders, as well as frequent standing bodies of water.

Despite the apparent spate of skunks in neighboring communities, Laura Dee, the city of Park Ridge's environmental-health officer, said this is simply the season when skunks are out in abundance as mothers teach their spring-born young how to survive on their own.

"The skunks are going out with mom to figure out how to look for food and how to stay away from animals that might be dangerous to them," Dee said.

Skunks seen digging in yards are looking for grubs and insects, she added.

"It's all normal stuff," Dee said.

Local wildlife rarely stray in broad daylight. When they do it doesn't necessarily mean they are sick or rabid, Babikan said.

Young and small animals that wander don't know any better and "are still learning the ropes," he said. Adult animals make daytime appearances typically after getting uprooted from their shelter.

Babikan provides phone assistance to residents who encounter unwanted critters.

Before joining the Niles Police Department as a civilian officer a decade ago he worked as an assistant naturalist and veterinary technician, and undertook formal training with the National Animal Control Association.

He worked solely on animal control for the Police Department for a number of years before the village began downsizing the program in 2010.

Joe Penze, Niles Police Division commander of administration, reported that the Police Department in fiscal year 2011 had an animal-control budget of $14,620 and an officer dedicated to the work with an annual salary of $52,000.

Last year village officials eliminated the full-time position and limited the program's expenses to $9,000. This year's budget is $4,000.

The village of Morton Grove also lost its full-time animal-control officer due to budget constraints in 2011.

Community-service officer Shannon McMillon now serves part-time as the animal warden for the Morton Grove Police Department.

Niles reassigned Babikan to desk work related to criminal processing and record-keeper. He fields calls for help with wildlife and gives self-help instructions, but rarely goes on site himself to contain an unwanted animal.

He said most people are able to shoo away wildlife and prevent their return without extra assistance or equipment.

"Trapping and removal should be the last possible option," he said. "It just doesn't work."

Babikan had occasionally set traps when he was called in, though some situations warranted a private company's work — for instance when a raccoon was stuck in an attic.

"We don't go on a roof and that's where you set the trap," he said of the village's animal-control work.

He said raccoons that invade a house often get euthanized because of the likelihood that they'll try to return.

Skunks, the second-most-common carrier of rabies, are required by law to be euthanized if captured, Babikan said, and there are no restrictions on opossums.

"Animal-proofing" homes, garages and other places into which wildlife can sneak is the best way to curb unwanted guests.

According to information from the Morton Grove village website, securing garbage lids, removing tree branches overhanging a roof and utilizing a chimney cap help minimize that possibility of an animal intrusion.

If a wild animal does make it inside a building, Babikan recommends keeping outdoor access points unobstructed and making a commotion to scare the animal into leaving voluntarily.

If that doesn't work, both Morton Grove and Niles recommend contacting a professional animal-control company.
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SUNDAY-THURSDAY 4pm - 9pm

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Served with choice of Soup; Substitute salad: $2.00 additional

MARIA FRANQUE, 13, PLAYS BASS GUITAR WHILE SPENCER MARKS, 12, SINGS THE AC/DC SONG “HIGHWAY TO HELL” DURING ROCK STAR UNIVERSITY JULY 25 AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN PARK RIDGE. ROB HART-SUN TIMES MEDIA

‘ROCK STAR UNIVERSITY’

Youngsters pursue advanced degrees — in awesomeness

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE — The budding musicians in Jared Skiba’s Rock Star University had to perfect their performance of Green Day’s “21 Guns,” learn the chords and choruses of two other rock songs and come up with their own original piece in a mere five days.

But, most importantly, they needed a name.

“Bucket List!” called out guitarist David Cather, 13, as the band took a break during a July 25 practice session at First United Methodist Church in Park Ridge.

“Bucket list,” someone explained to the other members of the group, is a list of things you must want to do before you die.

“But... none of us are going to die anytime soon,” replied Skiba, who works hands-on with his students, teaching them song structure, how to play established rock songs, how to write a song around a guitar riff and what to listen for in their performances.

They also learn the finer points of setting up on stage and how to use their instruments as a group.

As the owner of Allegro Music, Skiba got the idea for Rock Star University about five years ago through the National Association of Musical Merchants.

“Several stores have done it successfully as a summer program and found it to be a very beneficial thing,” he said.

“We’re doing it and we’ve expressed enthusiasm about it successfully as a summer program and this year took place from July 23 to July 27, concluding with a concert for family and friends.

“It’s basically learning how to be in a band,” explained Skiba, who works hands-on with his students, teaching them song structure, how to play established rock songs, how to write a song around a guitar riff and what to listen for in their performances.

They also learn the finer points of setting up on stage and how to use their instruments as a group.

The youths who dedicate six hours of their day to Rock Star U appear to feel the same way.

“Actually, that’s pretty apt,” Skiba remarked dryly.

Rock Star University is a summer rock ‘n’ roll camp offered for a one-week period by Allegro Music of Park Ridge. It is open to musicians in seventh through 10th grade and this year took place from July 23 to July 27, concluding with a concert for family and friends.

“It’s a lot of fun and it gives me a chance to play with other people,” said Mallerdino, who is in his third year of the camp.

“I joined this to get better as a guitar player. It’s helped me out for the past two years,” added Cather, of Park Ridge.

For vocalist and bass player Marie Francque, 13, of Park Ridge, Rock Star U is an opportunity “to play like a real band.” It can also lead to members forming their own bands outside the group, like Cather and Spencer Marks, 12, who performed in Lincoln Middle School’s variety show last year.

“I sign up for this camp so I can improve my instrumental skills,” Marks, who plays bass guitar, explained. “Plus, I have a lot of friends in the camp.”

Also making up the group of eight are Nathan Lin, 15, of Chicago and Jack Kuchera, 15, of Rosemont, on guitar and Hannah Warlick, 13, of Park Ridge, on electric viola.

Warlick described her instrument as “different from a regular viola because there’s a rock feel to it.” She also expressed enthusiasm about possibly learning Coldplay’s recent hit, “Paradise,” as once the band received the chords for it. Her fellow musicians encouraged her to perform vocals on the song.
Youth ministry boasts Bible study, Barbasol battles

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneertocal.com

PARK RIDGE — What would Jesus do in a field filled with teenagers armed with shaving cream? Maybe He would just join in the fun.

South Park Church in Park Ridge kicked off the summer session of its youth ministry program last month by hosting a major shaving cream fight on the grounds of the church at 1330 S. Courtland Ave. About 90 youths took part, trying to spread as much shaving cream on their peers — and adult volunteers — as possible.

“The purpose was fun,” explained Youth Minister Bob Anderson who coordinates South Park Church’s JAM 1:20 program. “It was part of our summer weekly evening with our kids. In the summer we can take the kids outside and it’s good, cheap fun.”

Even Anderson himself took part.

But the important focus of the evening was the Bible-study component and the coming together of local youths.

JAM stands for “Jesus and Me” and is open to children in seventh and eighth grades. It features a Bible lesson, games, small-group participation and worship.

High schoolers take part in the 1:20 section, which is named for the Philippians 1:20 Bible verse, “I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now, as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”

JAM 1:20 meets from 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and the summer component will take place through Aug. 15 with all activities occurring outdoors. The program is open to all youths with assistance from adult volunteers.

Anybody’s welcome. It’s not limited to people who go to our church on Sunday,” Anderson said.

The topics that are discussed during each series include issues important to teenagers and their respective age groups.

“We’ve done a series on fear, your relationship between you and your parents, sexual relations. We don’t want to run away from topics that are difficult to talk about,” Anderson explained.

In discussing such topics, participants are provided with a biblical perspective, specifically “what God says about those things,” Anderson said.

There are also skits that are acted out in order to better introduce the topic that is being discussed. Live bands and gym games are also featured.

“It’s just a lot of fun to be with the kids,” Anderson said of the youth ministry, which also has a Sunday-night component with an in-depth Bible study teaching youths how to read the Bible on their own.

Fall JAM 1:20 begins Sept. 12. For more information about the program call Anderson, (847) 825-5507, ext. 32.

Deborah Kaminsky gets ready to throw a ball of shaving cream during a kickoff event for South Park Church’s summer student ministry program. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]
Catholic school names new principal

PARK RIDGE — Joe Leppert, a nine-year Catholic-school administrator, has been named the new principal of Mary, Seat of Wisdom School in Park Ridge.

Leppert, who grew up in Park Ridge, was most recently principal of St. Andrew School in Romeoville. Before that he led St. Joachim School in Costa Mesa, Calif.

“I am in Catholic education for the long haul and feel Catholic schools are making comebacks across the nation. Parents know what to expect with us,” Leppert said.

The new principal shared that what drew him to Mary, Seat of Wisdom was the school’s solid reputation for learning in a Catholic environment.

“A long-standing hallmark of Catholic education is an atmosphere where Christ is the model for staff and students,” he said. “Our Catholic values are on display and the faith-based atmosphere lends itself to high standards of behavior and superior academics.”

Leppert is a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Niles and has an undergraduate degree from St. Norbert College, as well as a graduate degree from Loyola University, Chicago. In addition to serving in a school leadership capacity, Leppert has taught English and literature, coached basketball and baseball, and worked as a school athletic director.

Leppert is joining MSW following the retirement and subsequent death of principal Judy Schutter.

“I am pleased with Mr. Leppert’s acceptance of this leadership role and with his vision for Catholic schools in the 21st century,” said the Rev. Jerry Gunderson, pastor of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish.
education classes offered through the Oakton Alliance for Lifelong Learning to enhance professional development without leaving home.

Teaching Students with Autism: Strategies for Success (TCR 009-300)
- Today, children with high-functioning autism and Asperger's Syndrome are taught alongside their neuro-typical peers. Reaching and teaching students with autism takes a delicate balancing act: understanding how their brains are wired, helping them turn challenges into opportunities, and learning to enjoy the rich perspective they bring to the classroom.

Survival Guide for New Teachers (TCR 001-300)
- This course will provide all the time-tested tools, tips, and tricks to make a teacher's early years in the classroom a breeze.

Teaching Smarter with SMART BOARD (TCR A12-300) - SMART Board is revolutionizing today's classroom. Learn to use this exciting, interactive whiteboard to create multi-media lessons that engage students.

Explore a Career as an Administrative Medical Assistant (MED A51-300)
- This class will help one determine which aspects of medical information management suits them best and sets them on the path to a rewarding career.

Explore a Career as a Pharmacy Technician (MED A52-300) - Examine this exciting career opportunity by learning key pharmaceutical terms, studying the common categories of drugs, becoming familiar with the laws that govern pharmacy dispensing, and reviewing the steps to become a certified pharmacy technician.

Featured courses cost $124 ($75 for in-district seniors) and run from Aug. 15 to Oct. 5. All registrants will be charged an $8 nonrefundable processing fee at the time of registration. For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, visit www.oakton.edu/all or call (847) 982-9888.

Oakton Community College campuses are at 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines and 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie.
Hardware store crafts: Celebrating function and form

BY BETH ENGELMAN
Mommy on a Shoestring

Ease your way back into 'school mode' with hardware store-inspired projects that pay homage to both function and form.

Sisal rope bowl
Turn some rope and an old coffee can into a rustic, yet elegant bowl. Best of all, it's the perfect depot for storing pens, pencils and other items that are often needed once homework time begins.

You need:
Recycled coffee can or jar
Sisal rope (⅛- to ¼-inch thick)
Strong adhesive (such as Gorilla Glue)
Paintbrush

Directions:
Use a paintbrush to cover can with a thin layer of adhesive. Starting at the bottom, carefully wrap the can with rope. Be sure to pull the rope tightly so as to avoid any gaps. Wait several hours for it to dry before using.

Personalized light switch plate
How's this for a bright idea? Replace the light switch plates in your kids' rooms with ones they create themselves. It's the perfect project for tweens, teens and even college-age students.

You need:
Wooden switch plate (available at most hardware stores)
Non-toxic acrylic paint
Paintbrush
Mod Podge
Magazines, comic books, assorted pictures, etc.

Directions:
Paint and decorate light switch plate as desired. Seal design with 1-2 coats of Mod Podge. Wait several hours until dry. Mount to wall.

Sandpaper letters
This craft comes straight from my days as a kindergarten teacher as it's an excellent way to reinforce sound/symbol correspondence through multi-sensory learning.

You need:
Alphabet stencils (or print out letters A through Z on your printer using a 175-200 point font)
Sandpaper
Scissors
Dark cardstock or cardboard

Directions:
Trace the letters on the back of the sandpaper, making sure the letters appear right-side up on the sandpaper side. Glue letters to cardstock or cardboard.

To use:
Have child trace letter with finger while saying the letter sound aloud. For example trace the letter B while saying the "b" sound.

Free hands-on workshops for kids
Did you know that Home Depot and Lowe's offer free project-making clinics for kids? Each store offers workshops where attendees make toys, games and more using real tools and materials.
Recently my 6-year-old attended a clinic where he made a wooden racecar and spinning top. I was impressed with the caliber of the project as well as the opportunity these workshops afford kids as they learn about tools, safety and construction.
For more information including August's upcoming schedule visit Lowe's Build and Grow Clinics (www.lowesbuildandgrow.com/pages/default.aspx) and Home Depot's Kids Workshops (www.homedepot.com/webapp/catalog/servlet/ContentView?pn=H1_WS_KidsWorkshops).

Paint chip book marks
A fun, colorful and inexpensive way to mark your words (or at least your page) while learning about the various shades of blue, green, yellow or orange.

You need:
Paint chips (available at most hardware stores and paint stores)
Scissors
Ribbon
Hole punch

Directions:
Cut paint chip to desired size. Punch hole at the top and add ribbon.
**CLASSY CUT CATERING**

One-woman caterer brings home-cooked passion to party

**BY TRACY GRUEN**

**UP CLOSE**

**NAME:** Classy Cut Catering  
**SPECIALTY:** Food for parties of all types and sizes  
**ADDRESS:** 6028 Dempster St.  
**WEBSITE:** classycutt Catering.com

Robin Hoppenrath is the owner of the catering company at 6028 Dempster St. The business was previously called Nancy S. Watson Cook, Inc. About five years ago Hoppenrath bought the company when the previous owner retired, and three years ago she changed its name. "I do everything," Hoppenrath said. "I can do anything and I'll work with anybody with any kind of budget." Classy Cut Catering provides food for large parties, cocktail parties, small private affairs, showers at someone's home, corporate events, Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs and weddings.

Hoppenrath has always had a strong passion for cooking. She attended culinary school at Kendall College. After working in an office of a small company she knew that wasn't for her and catering was what she truly enjoyed doing. Both of her parents worked, so Hoppenrath started cooking dinner at a younger age and she has loved it ever since.

"I really love cooking," she said. "I just love creating appetizers." Classy Cut Catering's extensive appetizer menu includes zucchini pancakes, asparagus puffed pastry twists with lemon tarragon dip, Tandoori eggplant squares, mini crepes, shrimp in bacon and other creations.

The menu offers a wide variety of entrée options, including roasted salmon with cucumber dill sauce or mango salsa, marinated beef brisket, chicken vesuvio, jambalaya, pesto shrimp and more. The company also offers a corporate-catering menu and one for real-estate broker's open house events.

Hoppenrath is truly a one-woman show. She is the only chef at the business, but if she's in need of an extra hand or two she calls one of her stay-at-home mom friends and they're right there to assist her.

Hoppenrath said she meets with clients and talks about their likes and dislikes, and they work together to create the best possible menu within their budget. She said she can work around obstacles such as allergies, as well.

Nancy S. Watson Cook, Inc. operated for more than 20 years before Hoppenrath purchased it. Hoppenrath kept the original name for a couple of years because people were familiar with that business. Today's menu consists of new items and some of Nancy's longtime favorites — but with Hoppenrath's own unique twist.

Classy Cut Catering shares a building with a Filipino bakery that also has a retail space.

"The location is great for me," the Skokie resident said.  "I love my neighbors."

**NEIGHBORS**

It's down hill for skier, 78, after knee replacement

**BY NICK KATZ**

**NAME:** Classy Cut Catering  
**SPECIALTY:** Food for parties of all types and sizes  
**ADDRESS:** 6028 Dempster St.  
**WEBSITE:** classycut Catering.com

MORTON GROVE — For Harvey Brin the worst part of having worn-out, painful knees was that it kept him off the ski slopes.

The 78-year-old Morton Grove resident had tried to get past the pain, but skiing was something he could just no longer do. "I'd been skiing in pain. I could ski for two yours pain-free, then the aching started," Brin said. "I think the skiing is the everything."

Brin tried "every injection you can think of" and anything else that might help, but nothing did.

Finally, in March of last year he took two weekends skiing in Colorado. "I couldn't make a (ski) run," Brin recounted.

He saw a doctor in Colorado who told him his knees were pretty much shot, just worn out from a lifetime of use. The doctor recommended that Brin have his knees replaced one at a time.

But Brin, eager to get it done, didn't want to have one knee replaced and then return to the hospital a few months later to have the second surgery. He found another surgeon, Wayne Goldstein at the Illinois Bone and Joint Institute, who was willing to replace both knees at the same time.

He had it done May 17, 2011, at Skokie Northshore Hospital and was out of bed already the next day. "I had heard horror stories. But the pain was minimal," he said. "The horror stories you hear about the extreme pain (after surgery) are exaggerations. They get you on your feet the next day."

One thing that helped, he said, were classes the hospital offered for patients planning to undergo knee replacements before the surgery.

He spent a few days recovering at the hospital and then went to Alden NorthShore Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Skokie. He spent three weeks there, receiving physical therapy two times a day and occupational therapy once a day, six days a week.

Brin and his wife had checked out several rehab facilities before he had surgery. He liked what they saw at Alden. In addition to free popcorn and ice cream the facility offered the kind of intensive therapy that Brin thought would help him get back on the slopes as soon as possible.

He also liked the friendliness of the staff.

Just seven months after the surgery he was back at Steamboat Springs, Colo., hitting the slopes — this time without the pain that had marred his last trip.

"In December I went to Steamboat and skied for six solid days" Brin said. "It was such a joy to ski without pain. I felt like an 18-year-old with so much energy."

Brin credits the time at Alden, as well as his own determination to get well quickly for his rapid recovery.

He said he would get up at 6 a.m. for his first physical-therapy session before most other patients even woke up.

"I was a star pupil because I wanted to get on the slopes," Brin said.

In fact, he said, one of the first things he did after that first day of skiing was calling his physical therapist at Alden to tell him the news.

"I had to share my achievement with him and the rest of the Alden staff," he said.

"Everyone (at Alden) was very caring. It just felt like part of a big family," Brin said.

On a recent visit that was apparent, as one staff member rushed up to Brin to show him her engagement ring. She and her fiancé had been dating when Brin was a patient, and she wanted to share the good news.

With his new knees Brin makes few concessions to his age, though occasionally it catches up with him.

He's made two more ski trips since the first one in December. On one of those he took his 16-year-old grandson and for the most part was able to keep up.

"We skied six consecutive days. We skied straight from 10 (a.m.) to 4 (p.m.)," Brin said. "On Day 6 I got up and I was wiped."

Harvey Brin, 78, skied black diamond runs at Steamboat Springs seven months after double-knee-replacement surgery. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Will We Find What You Have To Offer?

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

MORTON GROVE — When George Alpogianis was a child he loved cooking with his mom using recipes from a Mickey Mouse cookbook and his passion for cooking has stayed with him ever since.

Alpogianis’ father, Gus, and his partners have owned Kappy’s restaurant since 1979. In 1997 he and his brother, Manolis, took over the business and paved the way for Alpogianis’ father to retire.

Many of the customers are regulars who have been enjoying meals at Kappy’s, at 7200 W. Dempster St., in Morton Grove, for decades.

“There have been people that have been eating here since the day we opened our doors,” Alpogianis said.

Kappy’s prides itself on being a friendly neighborhood restaurant with a wide variety of menu items ranging from sandwiches, soups and breakfast dishes to Athenian chicken with Greek-style potatoes, chipotle-crusted tilapia with pineapple-mango salsa, and a salad with blue cheese, candied pecans and sun-dried cranberries.

The Niles resident worked for various restaurants such as Terczak’s on Halsted, Tuttapoto, Kiki’s Bistro, South Gate Café and Rosebud on Taylor Street. Alpogianis also worked at Lawry’s restaurant in California.

Alpogianis said he has worked with some talented chefs who have inspired him and influenced his recipes.

“I was able to bring all that back to Kappy’s,” Alpogianis said, adding that he has cooked for Mel Gibson, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Frank Sinatra and other celebrities during his career.

Alpogianis and his family also own America’s Dog restaurants in a few locations, and Carnelli’s Deli and City Porch at Navy Pier.

Making fresh food every day using products from local farmers is very important to Alpogianis.

“If we all help each other we can make it through these difficult times,” he said, noting that the restaurant pur-

chases certified angus beef from downstate. He said about 85 percent of his business’s products are fresh goods.

In 1997, Alpogianis and brother Manolis bought out his father’s former partners.

Alpogianis said he loves working with his family.

“My father is a wealth of knowledge,” Alpogianis said, also boasting that his mother has always been a phenomenal chef.

Many of the employees at Kappy’s have been just like family, as well, with about 15 of the employees working at Kappy’s for more than 25 years in various capacities.

“My father and mother were very insistent on an education,” said Alpogianis, who attended culinary school at Kendall College.

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Hookah bar hopes patrons have a smokin’ good time

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

MORTON GROVE — For some people of legal age and exotic tastes, where there’s smoke, there’s fun.

Argila Hookah Bar, at 6323 Dempster St. in Morton Grove, is a popular spot for people to come to socialize and smoke a hookah.

The hookah, also known as narghile or shisha, is an instrument for smoking flavored tobacco. It is popular in Middle Eastern countries, South Asia, Central Asia, North Africa and parts of Europe.

“It’s a social activity,” said Manager Steve Zawada noting that Argila’s location in Morton Grove is ideal because there aren’t many other hookah bars in the area.

Zawada has been the manager of Argila Hookah Bar for more than three years. Argila has been in business about four years, and before that the business was under different ownership.

Zawada said Argila can get crowded later in the evening, and the scene is mostly young people who come in with a group of friends to hang out.

The hookah bar offers more than 100 flavors to choose from and Zawada said patrons may choose to mix flavors, as well.

Customers must be 18 or older to enter the hookah bar, which is filled with comfortable couches for groups of friends to come in, hang out and have a smoke.

A couple of areas in the bar are more private, separated by a curtain, and seats can be reserved.

On the weekends customers are treated with music provided by disc jockeys, and the goal of the hookah bar is to provide a relaxing atmosphere, Zawada said.

Some of the flavors customers may purchase for $9 include: banana, blueberry, cherry, coconut, cola, mango, raspberry, mint and lemon.

The $12 exotic flavors include: apple, candy apple, mango salsa, paradise island and sweet peach.

House mixes for $15 include cherry bomb, mystic dream, superman, X-factor, exotic mist and good times.

There are daily specials such as a free-refill night, buy-one-get-one-free night and ladies night. No food can be purchased at the bar, but customers are allowed to bring in their own food.

Next door to the bar is a store where customers can purchase hookahs, glass pipes and various other tobacco products.

According to published reports, smoking hookahs has become increasingly popular with new hookah cafes opening in places with large Middle Eastern populations and near college campuses.

A statewide ban prohibits smoking in all public places. But “hookah bars” are exempt from the Smoke Free Illinois Act if they meet the requirements for a retail tobacco store.

These requirements prohibit the sale of food and alcohol, and call for the establishment to earn more than 80 percent of its revenue from the sale of tobacco, cigarettes, pipes and other smoking devices.

In recent years a number of hookah lounges have opened within the city of Chicago. A website called hookahchicago.com provides a directory and ratings of dozens of hookah establishments in Chicago and surrounding suburbs, including Niles, Skokie and Deerfield.
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

NILES
6519 W Carol St: North Shore Holdings Ltd to Yordan P Petrov for $725,000 on May 26
9078 Heathwood Dr Unit 90783M: Wallace P Hong to Clifford R Harper for $106,000 on June 18
7011 W Touhy Ave Unit 210A: Robert M Maslowski to Christian Edinburgh for $105,000 on June 18

MORTON GROVE
9536 Oleander Ave: Dream Homes Lic Series 9536 Oleander to Thomas J Cahill for $356,000 on June 28
300 S Cumberland Ave: Michael J Ekizian to Gareth Kennedy for $982,600 on June 14
1901 Brophy Ave: Kathleen M Calamet to Christopher Story for $610,000 on June 26
1143 Tyrrell Ave: Nemon Taylor to Daniel J Randolph for $316,500 on June 18
1520 Hoffman Ave: Christopher R Zrorna to Nagu Meyyappan for $271,000 on June 12
1012 S Delphina Ave: Ernesto J Argues to Anthony Stec for $300,000 on June 8
1008 Bonnie Ave: Teresa M Varona to David Tantillo for $289,000 on June 18
1438 Hoffman Ave: Robert E Bayer to Jaclyn P Graney for $271,000 on June 12

DES PLAINES
1631 Whitcomb Ave: Mark Walker to Nicole Stancevscu for $480,000 on June 8
184 Dulles Rd: Jack Lamoine to James W McNulty for $250,000 on June 9
184 Dulles Rd: Jack Lamoine to James W McNulty for $250,000 on June 9

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012
WWW.PIONEERLOCAL.COM
WHAT'S IN MY PRICE RANGE?

NORTH BROOK
$419,995
2307 Crabtree Lane
House Size: 1,962 square feet
Lot size: 10,414 square feet
Year built: 1943
Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 1.5
Garage: 1-car attached
Most recent available tax: $8,599.23 (2011)
Agent: Ann George, 847-446-4000

HIGHLAND PARK
$429,000
925 Judson Ave.
House Size: 1,600 square feet
Lot size: 9,250 square feet
Year built: 1921
Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2.5
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $9,996.52 (2011)
Agent: Maiie Bmoks, 847-266-4708

RIVER FOREST
$419,000
329 Franklin Ave.
House Size: 2,250 square feet
Lot size: 8,010 square feet
Year built: 1921
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 1.5
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $13,089.58 (2011)
Agent: Robin Phelps, 312-506-0200

MORTON GROVE
$400,000
9508 Normandy Ave.
House Size: 2,690 square feet
Lot size: 12,081 square feet
Year built: 1954
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 4
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $9,798.95 (2011)
Agent: Debbie Geavaras, 847-8-6036

LAKE ZURICH
$434,900
544 Regency Drive
House Size: 2,800 square feet
Lot size: 26,136 square feet
Year built: 1989
Bedrooms: 4 Baths: 2.5
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $10,685.95 (2011)
Agent: Sis Jones, 847-465-3631

What can I get for $400K-$450K?

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 Peterbaugh, jputerbaugh@suntimes.com

WESTERN SPRINGS
$449,000
5612 Lawn Drive
House Size: 1,874 square feet
Lot size: 10,463 square feet
Year built: 1968
Bedrooms: 3 Baths: 2.5
Garage: 2-car attached
Most recent available tax: $8,558.62 (2011)
Agent: David Ricordati, 630-321-1212

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"MORTONAIRE" BEAUTY
Morton Grove... New Listing! Custom ranch with large 4 bed/3 bath, 1.5+ acre lot, 2,660 sq ft, fully finished basement, 2-car attached garage, and beautiful landscaping.
BUSINESS BRIEF

New frozen yogurt store opens in Niles

NILES — The president of the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce Board, Theresa Olson, of Resurrection Health Care, cut the red ribbon in celebration of the grand opening of Yogli-Mogli Frozen Yogurt at 8200 W. Oakton Ave. in Niles, according to a news release.

Several board members attended, and after the ceremony self-serve yogurt and all the toppings was enjoyed.

Owners Jyoti Bhatta and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Davis flew in from Georgia to participate in the ribbon-cutting.

Yogli Mogli is a premium frozen-yogurt store that offers a variety of nutritional yogurt flavors in a self-serve environment.

Patrons also have the choice to top off their yogurt with a variety of options from fruits to nuts to gummy worms.

“With 16 flavors and more than 40 different toppings to choose from each delicious yogurt creation is unique,” the release stated.

“Everything is self-serve, and is priced by the weight, so you get exactly how much of a treat you want at the price you want.”

GRAND OPENING

Sephora comes to Golf Mill mall

NILES — Sephora, which bills itself as “the ultimate beauty destination,” will open Aug. 10 in the JCPenney department store at Golf Mill, according to a news release.

The first 50 clients to show up at the grand opening will dip into a stash of Sephora gift cards with mystery values worth up to $100. Plus, Sephora is giving away 750 giveaway bags stuffed with samples.

According to the release, each 2,200-square-foot Sephora inside the JCPenney location, situated prominently in the center of the store, will feature hard-to-find favorites such as Hello Kitty, Urban Decay, Make Up For Ever, NARS, Sephora by OPI and Smashbox; innovative skin-care lines including Philosophy, Murad, Peter Thomas Roth and Ole Henriksen, as well as fragrance offerings from brands such as Dior, Gucci, Marc Jacobs and Dolce and Gabbana.

Plus, Sephora has its own collection of makeup, tools and accessories, and a skin-care collection featuring the exclusive plant-derived ingredient HydroSenn in a line of products to cleanse, treat, moisturize and protect, the release stated.

For more information go to www.sephora.com.
Phone follies finally phased out, with friendly neighbor's help

Dear Fixer: I'm writing on behalf of my friend and neighbor, who's had the same telephone number for close to 45 years.

Wanda is 85 years old and doesn't hear well enough to call the phone company on her own, so I did for her. She's had AT&T for local calls and MCI for long distance here and overseas.

I called AT&T the first time on June 15 to inquire what their rates would be to have all services through them. Their rep said that for $42 per month, my neighbor could have unlimited local calling, with nationwide and worldwide services for a nominal additional fee. This sounded good, but then the nightmare began.

By June 19, I called again to inquire if the changes had taken place. I got a new rep, who couldn't find any record of my previous call. She said she would enter everything in and gave me a confirmation number. She gave specific costs per minute for Italy, Croatia, Poland, Australia and Brazil, where Wanda calls her friends and relatives.

That man assured me everything would be fixed by 8 p.m. but — you guessed it — nothing was.

You told us that in addition to her hearing issues, your neighbor's English isn't perfect. That surely exacerbated this.

We got in touch with AT&T spokeswoman Mollie West and put our heads together. With you again acting as translator, their customer service folks began chipping away at this. It took a couple of weeks and a few glitches, but Mollie stayed with it as they made sure Wanda got the best plan for her needs and won't get billed for stuff she doesn't want. Her new monthly rate, including her new international calling plan, will be $33.53 plus taxes and surcharges. You told us her caller ID is now working as she wanted, which is good news. Let us know if she has any more problems with this.

Costly lesson

Practically any time we're online, we see an ad promising a free trial of some fabulous new product. Problem is, the consumer is often the one who feels she's on trial. That's what happened to Dee of Oak Lawn, who was hooked by an ad for a teeth-whitening product. It seemed like a good deal:

The sample was free and Dee only had to pay $1.95 for shipping. "You were supposed to be able to try the product and if you were not happy within 10 days, you could cancel your future shipments and membership," Dee wrote.

The Fixer:

She provided her debit card and was billed within two days. But those sneaky toothpaste people did something else. They also took out $57.90 for the next shipment before she even received the sample.

Dee tried to get her bank to stop the withdrawal, but they said it couldn't be reversed because she had given them her information.

"I doubt anything can be done, as their phones numbers are changed or disconnected and their addresses change as well," Dee wrote. "I'd like to warn others of this scam. They got away with theft and I know I am not the only victim out there."

I shred, therefore I am

Don't forget about these upcoming document shredding events:

• Glenview State Bank’s free shredding days: 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 18 at 1808 S. Glenview Rd., Arlington Heights. 
• West Suburban Bank and the Better Business Bureau’s free suburban shredding event: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 15 at 8321 S. Cass Ave., Darien.

Maybe you can help this poor lady who can’t even call long distance now. God knows what she’s being charged in the meantime.

Ursula Hall

Dear Ursula: First, we want to say: You are an awesome neighbor! The Fixer could only wish that everyone was as generous as you are, taking on the runaround for a neighbor in need.
Elkhart Lake’s natural beauty, fun, activities and outstanding lodging choices are only a 2.5-hour drive from Chicago. There’s plenty of time for one more getaway before summertime gives way to cooler temperatures and shorter days. Make the most of it and "Stay a 3rd Night on Us!"

Want to play in the water or bike the nearby trails? Recreation rentals are plentiful. Guided fishing trips and silent water tours will give visitors a new perspective of the lake. Or, maybe you just want to sit back and listen to some live music over a bottle of award-winning wine. Elkhart Lake is your personal paradise.

Small but robust, charming Elkhart Lake provides everything – from luxury dining to music to spa treatments to cooking classes – and it’s all within walking distance of premier, lakeside accommodations. Or, you can tour the town in Spinner’s Rickshaw or aboard a horse-drawn carriage.

If you’re in the mood for an original theater performance, you’ll want to check out the live musical revues every Wednesday and Thursday night at Victorian Village Resort.

In Elkhart Lake, music is so popular that live, lakeside talent is featured every weekend – free of charge! From bluegrass to country, rock to classical, jazz to blues, you’re sure to find your favorite genre at The Osthoff Resort’s Lake Deck, Barefoot Bay Tiki Bar or Siebknens Stop-Inn Tavern.

Special events are great fun and everyone loves the Saturday morning farmers and artisans market. The 1860s "Jams & Jellies" program, old-fashioned baseball game and annual Arts & Craft Fair are popular August events at Wade House. Road racing fans will look to Elkhart Lake’s Road America for the American LeMans Series and Corvette World Tribute Aug. 16-19.

Many believe there is no better way to see Elkhart Lake than aboard a pontoon boat. Enjoy a guided tour or have a party on the lake. Day trips to Elkhart Lake’s historical railroad depot museum, Hemingway’s Cheese Museum and Henschel’s Indian Museum provide fun and education. Each is a must-see and only minutes away.

It’s easy to get away to Elkhart Lake and even easier to fall in love with it.

travel.suntimes.com/elkhartlake
LOCAL FOCUS

The Osthoff Resort
www.osthoff.com
101 Osthoff Avenue
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
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The AAA Four Diamond Osthoff Resort on Elkhart Lake offers spacious suites, lakeside dining, Aspira Spa, a cooking school, indoor and outdoor pools, saunas, whirlpools, fitness centers, game room, watersports and many other premier amenities.

Victorian Village Resort
www.victorvillage.com
276 Victorian Village Drive
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
1-877-960-9988
Awarded Three Diamonds by AAA, Victorian Village Resort offers condominium suites and hotel rooms on 600 feet of sandy beachfront. Watersports, lakeside dining and tiki bar with live music on weekends all summer long.

Siebkens Resort
www.siebkens.com
284 S. Lake Street
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
1-920-876-2600
A landmark, turn-of-the-century resort with newly constructed condominium hotel building and additional guest rooms, Siebkens offers dining and live music, private beach and outdoor pool.

Lake Street Café
www.lakesstreetcafe.com
21 S. Lake Street
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1-920-876-2142
Serving California bistro-style fare and wood-fired pizzas complemented by a wide variety of specialty beers and wines from an extensive list. Received Wine Spectator Award of Excellence 2003-2011.

Paddock Club
www.paddockclubelkhartlake.com
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Road America
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America’s National Park of Speed! Road America offers year-round motorsports in a gorgeous natural setting. World-class racing on its legendary 4-mile road circuit and Short-track Motorplex for karting and supermoto.

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www.aspiraspa.com
At Lake and East Streets
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1-920-876-5840
Embracing an organic, holistic approach to the spa experience, Aspira offers treatments that embody the ancient healing wisdom of indigenous peoples the world over. With 22 spacious treatment rooms, the spa offers massage, hydrotherapy, chromatherapy, balneotherapy, facials, manicures, pedicures and salon services, and exclusive SpaSuite™ Experiences. Aspira Spa provides the ultimate experience in relaxation and rejuvenation in a few hours or the whole day.

Quit Qui Oc Golf Course
www.quitquioc.com
500 Quit Qui Oc Lane
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
1-920-876-2833
Quit Qui Oc’s 27-hole golf course in the rolling terrain of Kettle Moraine gives golfers a great game of golf, friendly service, spectacular views and fun for all ages. Family owned and operated for more than 50 years, QQC offers a learning and practice facility, Pro shop, lessons and dining.

Vacation home rentals offer a variety of comfortable accommodations for an individual, entire family, or race team. For detailed information about a variety of vacation and race date rentals including entire homes, condos, cottages, or rooms, contact the Elkhart Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.
Where do you fit in the world?

Oakton Community College can help you find out! Learn about anything that grabs you—from accounting to business, engineering to manufacturing, physical therapy to nursing, computers to early childhood education. At Oakton’s Des Plaines and Skokie campuses, you’ll find yourself in classes with people just like you who are ready to take the next step in their careers—without paying thousands of dollars in tuition. So get moving.

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1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines  7701 North Lincoln Avenue, Skokie

www.oakton.edu

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.

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Jonathan Sogol, 24, of 7910 Caldwell Ave., Niles, was charged with domestic battery and resisting a police officer on July 30. According to police a 48-year-old family member reported that Sogol became verbally abusive and slapped her across the face after she told him not to spit on the floor.

A 31-year-old woman from Niles told police that on July 31 her ex-husband, a 32-year-old man from Skokie, came to her apartment on the 8900 block of Wisner Street and pushed her.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

A 12-year-old Niles boy was arrested July 12 and charged with criminal damage to state property and criminal trespass at Mark Twain School, 9401 N. Hamlin Ave. Police responded to a report of a break-in at the school and an investigation determined multiple subjects had entered the mobile classrooms, wrote gang graffiti inside and discharged a fire extinguisher. Juveniles from Des Plaines were also arrested in connection with the incident.

ACCIDENT BRIEFS

City worker hospitalized after crash at stoplight

PARK RIDGE — A vehicle belonging to the city of Park Ridge was heavy damaged when it was rear-ended by a cargo van in traffic and pushed into another car, Park Ridge police reported.

Park Ridge Public Works Superintendent Brian Wiebe was driving the city-owned 2006 Dodge Charger and waiting at a red light on eastbound Touhy Avenue at Busse Highway when the Charger was struck from behind by a 2007 Ford E250, police said. The impact pushed the Charger into a 2008 Toyota Titan driven by a 47-year-old Northbrook man.

Wiebe was transported to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. No life-threatening injuries were reported.

The driver of the van, a 20-year-old McHenry man, was ticketed for failing to reduce speed, police said.

Woman backing out of driveway strikes landscaper

A man performing landscaping work was struck by a vehicle while he lay on the driveway of an apartment complex picking weeds, Park Ridge Police said.

The accident occurred the morning of July 6 on the grounds of a complex at 1500 Waukegan Avenue.

According to police a 2009 Toyota Scion driven by a 42-year-old Park Ridge woman struck the 65-year-old landscaper’s left ankle as the motorist backed the vehicle out of a driveway.

The landscaper was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. No tickets were issued as the accident occurred in private property.

Pedestrian, 82, struck by turning car in crosswalk

An 82-year-old Niles woman reportedly suffered injuries to her hip and arm after she was struck by a car while walking between Niles and Park Ridge.

Park Ridge police said the woman just after 5 p.m. July 17 was headed north along Greenwood Avenue when she began crossing Carol Street in the crosswalk.

At that time a 2001 Lincoln Town Car driven by a 54-year-old Texas woman began making a right turn from Carol onto Greenwood, striking the pedestrian and causing her to fall to the ground.

The woman was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. The driver of the Lincoln was ticketed for failure to yield, police said.

THEFT

A 61-year-old woman from Des Plaines reported that on July 27 she was approached in a parking lot on the 8400 block of Dempster Street by a man in his 40s wearing a black suit. Police said the victim was told that if she gave the man $5,000 she would receive $10,000 in return to help people in need in her native country. Police said the victim gave the man the money and was told to come back later and meet him as well as a second individual, but the suspects reportedly never returned.

A 21-year-old woman from Glenview reported that her cell phone was taken between July 31 and Aug. 1 from a table at a restaurant in the 8400 block of Golf Road.

A 25-year-old man from Niles told police that someone stole his 1998 BMW from a parking lot Aug. 1 on the 7200 block of Waukegan Avenue.

RETAIL THEFT

Two women reportedly entered a store July 27 on the 8200 block of Golf Road and stole shoes worth $79.99 from the store.

HARASSMENT

A 32-year-old man from Niles told police that his ex-girlfriend’s brother sent threatening text messages to his cell phone July 27 while he was at home on the 7000 block of Touhy Ave.
Auto accidents up by 9 percent over last year in Niles

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — As traffic deaths in the state of Illinois have increased by 9 percent so far in 2012, so has the overall number of accidents in Niles compared to this time last year.

From January to July in 2011 traffic accidents in Niles numbered 1,019 compared with 1,119 in 2012, an increase of 100 since last year. Still, the village in 2010 recorded 1,187 accidents.

Across the state 533 people have died in vehicle and motorcycle crashes, including incidents involving bicyclists and pedestrians, which is up by 45 from the 488 recorded deaths last year.

Officials say an increase in traffic fatalities this year are the result of distracted driving, such as texting or checking email while driving, something that is also an issue in Niles.

"Distracted driving overall is an issue," said Sgt. Robert Tornabene, noting that authorities are seeing many drivers texting and sending emails while driving.

"People are not paying attention to everything they're doing," said Tornabene, adding that officers see a lot of distracted drivers in town.

Tornabene said that when people drive while texting or have another distraction, their impairment level is about the same as someone who was drinking.

"A lot of the accidents we've been experiencing lately are from lane changes," Tornabene said.

One of the challenges for police is that the courts will throw out some tickets for texting because it's difficult to prove a driver was texting. Tornabene explained. He said people could argue that they were using their GPS system, which is an exemption in the law.

Tornabene believes increasing enforcement helps with decreasing the number of traffic accidents related to distractions. He also believes education is key to helping reduce the number of accidents.

Tornabene said his department is in the process of creating videos to post on its website and on Facebook regarding the importance of avoiding distractions while driving. He said police educate teen drivers during the school year on the issue, and use Twitter and Facebook to make the community aware of the importance of driving carefully.

Local school districts also recognize that texting in school zones is a major safety concern and they discourage parents to text or check email while driving in school zones.

An Illinois Department of Transportation digital billboard on northbound Interstate 67 informs drivers that there have been 582 traffic deaths this year, hoping to raise awareness and make roads safer.

— Sun-Times Media contributed to this report.
PARK RIDGE — A lightning strike is suspected of starting a fire in the attic of a two-story Park Ridge home during a weekend storm.

The fire was reported at 5:12 p.m. Aug. 4 at 110 N. Home Ave. Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Sorensen said a neighbor noticed smoke coming from the roof of the house and alerted the three people inside, who exited safely before the arrival of firefighters.

Sorensen said evidence that lightning struck a tree on a next-door neighbor’s parkway tree and ruptured a gas line led fire investigators to believe the cause of the house fire was related.

“There’s still some work to be done and they are looking at different electrical components, different aspects of the house, but right now we think it was lightning,” Sorensen said.

Because there was no visible sign that lightning directly struck the roof it is possible that the electrical current traveled through underground utility lines and up to the attic area, Sorensen said.

Several neighbors had reportedly exited their homes upon hearing a loud clap of thunder and that is when the fire was discovered. The homeowner was inside with two guests, and three other family members were out of town at the time, Sorensen said.

The fire was confined to the attic, which required firefighers to cut several holes in the roof and the second-floor ceiling. Damage to the house and contents was largely caused by water and smoke, Sorensen said.

Firefighters from surrounding communities assisted the Park Ridge Fire Department at the scene and by covering several emergency medical calls not related to the storm. The Des Plaines and Rosemont Fire Departments, along with the North Maine Fire Protection District, responded to the initial call along with Park Ridge fire crews.

During the storm firefighters also responded to a report of lightning striking the chimney of a home at 1248 N. Hamlin Ave. A gas leak also occurred at the home, Sorensen said.
PARK RIDGE — Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge has been named a High-Performing hospital in 10 specialties including: cancer, diabetes and endocrinology; ear, nose and throat; gastroenterology; geriatrics; gynecology; nephrology; neurology and neurosurgery; orthopedics; and urology by U.S. News & World Report. The hospital was also recognized in this year’s 23rd annual edition of Best Hospitals. Complete rankings can be found at http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, stated in the release, “It also reflects our continued commitment to service excellence, and the expertise of Lutheran General’s physicians, nurses and other health care professionals as we continue to provide the best care for your patients.”

Only 720 of the nation’s 5,000 hospitals were recognized in this year’s Best Hospitals study highlighting our unique capabilities,” Anthony A. Armada, FACHE, president of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, stated in the release.

The U.S. News Media and World Report Best Hospital rankings were published by U.S. News in collaboration with RTI International, a research organization based in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Highlights of the 2012-13 rankings will appear in the U.S. News Best Hospitals 2013 guidebook.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is a 688-bed tertiary care hospital in the Chicago metro area. The Best Hospitals study highlights our unique capabilities,” Anthony A. Armada, FACHE, president of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, stated in the release. “It also reflects our continued commitment to service excellence, and the expertise of Lutheran General’s physicians, nurses and other health care professionals as we continue to provide the best care for your patients.”

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK
At Jerry's Fruit and Garden Center in Niles we asked: What is your favorite summer festival?

“Anything that happens in Millennium Park.”
DOROTHY LEHMAN, Norridge

“I would have to say Lollapalooza.”
CLAUDIA GRABOWSKI, Des Plaines

“The Illinois State H.O.G. Rally in Rosemont.”
ALAN MCCLELLAND, Niles

“The Taste of Chicago.”
CHRIS LARSEN, Crystal Lake

“The Taste of Melrose Park.”
MICHAEL LARSEN, Crystal Lake

PIONEER PEOPLES POLL
Here are the answers to last week's question: Emmy Award nominations were recently announced. What is your pick for Best Drama Series?

This week's question: What type of wildlife do you least like to find in your yard?

- Skunks 25%
- Deer 25%
- Foxes 13%
- Rats 13%
- The neighbor kid 5%

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

1000 WORDS BY JACK HIGGINS

Channel surfing enough to wipe out a TV viewer

The family is fed and post-dinner, the dishes soak in sudsy warm water in the kitchen. I grab a glass of ice water and pad into the bedroom, intent on watching the news. Any stress I had is amplified listening to the grim anchor, from the jobless stats to the worst drought since the Dust Bowl to Middle East tensions. Turning it to the History Channel is no better. Julius Caesar's about to sentence several pirates to a horrifying death. Finally I settle on a “Brady Bunch” rerun in which Carol misplaces Greg's baseball glove. An oafish mall cop tries to find it and winds up questioning Mayhem, the Allstate guy. Meanwhile, Alice the maid is fighting off TMZ cameramen while Jan plays 45 records with Chaz Bono. About that time, I drift off into a pleasant nap. Now, I don't know about you, but usually at this juncture, the TV volume shifts from the program, e.g., the Bradys or a nature show where a stream gurgles gently, to the commercial, which was recorded inside the air shaft above a boiler shop. I don't know who can explain this phenomenon of TV recordings. A show is modulated, civilized, versus the infomercial, which blares louder than a jet aircraft taking off in the neighbor's yard. "Order today for clear skin tomorrow!" shouts the male voiceover. I glance at the TV. Did I order this stuff in my sleep? I imagine myself sitting across from her on the couch. Debby would beam: "Honestly, Whatever-Your-Name-Is, you don't look a day over 18." Laughing, I would toss my thinning tresses back. "They even carded me at 7-Eleven, Debby."
Just tell me: Which pizza has the best ideals and beliefs?

So, let me get this straight:
If I am to stay true to my ideals and beliefs, I should not shop at, or buy goods from, any merchant who does not share my ideals and beliefs.

Is that right?
OK.
Now, does that mean I should not buy from a seller who does not share all my ideals and beliefs? Or only some of my ideals and beliefs? Or one of my ideals and beliefs? If not all, then which ideals and beliefs? Do some have higher point values than others?
And how am I to find out what the ideals and beliefs of merchants are? Do I ask?
Hello, I'd like to order an extra-large, thin-crust pizza with pepperoni and mushrooms.
“Anything else?”
Yes. Do you support Obamacare?
If the pizza guy gives the wrong answer, then I guess I cancel the pizza and call other pizza places until I receive the right answer.
That could be a lot of calls. And I may end up with a pizza that doesn't taste as good as the pizza from the guy with the wrong ideals and beliefs.
What about businesses that are part of a larger corporation? Must the salesperson have the right ideals and beliefs? The store manager? Or the president of the company?
If the answer is president of the company, then I may have a big problem buying anything. I doubt many corporation presidents and I share ideals and beliefs.

Monkey wrenched

No, this political screening process throws a monkey wrench in just about everything I do.
What are the ideals and beliefs of my grocery store? My barber? The big and tall store?
And what about the ideals and beliefs of foreign businesses? I drive a Honda. What does Honda believe?
There is only one thing to do, as I see it.
Someone needs to publish a "Guide to the Ideals and Beliefs of United States Businesses."
This guide would list every business in the United States and every foreign business that does business in the United States. The ideals and beliefs for each business would be given.
That way, we could learn who agrees with us and then decide to buy from those businesses or not.
We would need to know, of course, the ideals and beliefs of the business that publishes the guide.

Some Chicago values aren't so sound

What are Chicago values?
I've been pondering that question since last week when Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel mentioned them in the debate over a Chick-fil-A Restaurant opening in Chicago.
If you haven't heard, a Chicago alderman doesn't want the store opening in his ward because the company president is opposed to same-sex marriage. Emanuel chimed in by saying that position goes against Chicago values.
So what are Chicago values?
Apparently, freedom of speech isn't one of them. The company's president stated his position on a political and social issue that is not yet settled in the United States, or even in Illinois, where gay marriage is illegal.
Last I checked, you could still speak out on an issue in this country and not be punished politically.
Maybe that's a Chicago value?
Sure. people can vote with their wallets. That's what America is all about anyway. But when politicians start deciding who gets to have a business based on the political and social positions of their owners instead of zoning, traffic, parking, etc., then we are in big trouble.
How about racial segregation? Is that a Chicago value? I've lived in and around Chicago most of my life. It is as segregated a city today as it was 40 years ago. Which seems to be OK with most people, so is that a Chicago value?
I was in the city on the West Side just the other day. My daughter was interviewing for a teaching job there and I thought it would be fun to spend the day together in the city after the interview. The school was 90 percent African American. I guess racially segregated schools is a Chicago value, too.
Later that night, I read that a man was shot in the head while sitting on his porch just a few blocks away from the school we visited. Is that a Chicago value? Innocent people get shot every week on the streets of the Chicago and the only person who seems really upset about it is the Rev. Michael Pfleger.
How about the joblessness and poverty in some Chicago neighborhoods? What about the poorly performing schools? Is there a Chicago value to do nothing for decades about these issues? These same problems have been here my entire life. I've decided nobody cares or the policies we've pursued for 40 years just don't work.
I really don't want government deciding who gets licenses to do business based on what the owners think. We consumers can handle that.
However, I do want government to provide an environment where business can flourish and people can get jobs and buy nice houses and feel safe sitting on their front porches in the evening. I want government to provide safe schools where kids get prepared for college or a decent job. And have nice parks where the kids can play and decent libraries where people can learn anything they want.
Oh yeah, that's called the suburbs.

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Chicago artist's long-lost work at Oakton

BY JOANNA BRODER
Contributor

Chicago social crusader and artist Morris Topchevsky painted many pictures from the 1920s through the 1940s. But none of them would be called pretty, said Donna Korey. Korey is the co-curator of “Eyewitness: Works by Morris Topchevsky Comes to Oakton.” The exhibit runs through Sept. 21 at Oakton Community College's Koehnline Museum of Art.

Rather than pretty pictures they were gritty, depressing pictures,” Korey noted, because they reflected the people and places Topchevsky, who lived from 1899-1947, knew.

Those were hard years, the years shaped by world wars and the Great Depression, and Topchevsky's art takes a clear-eyed look at the poverty, homelessness and other misery he saw.

Featuring one of the most “activist artists” of the Great Depression, Nathan Harpaz, manager and curator of the Koehnline Museum of Art, said in an email that the exhibit "will illustrate how (an) artist's involvement can make a difference. His artwork really is very contentious, so it's about a lot of stories people have very strong opinions on even today almost 100 years later," Korey said. That would be things like Communism, labor unions, workers' riots, and economic disparities of the day.

His painting, "Century of Progress," for instance, features unemployed workers in a shantytown with the elegant pavilions at the Chicago World's Fair in the background.

Still relevant

"I know we're in a deep recession, we're not in a depression," Korey said, "but I think people will be able to connect to this in some way that maybe during the heyday they wouldn't have been able to."

Topchevsky came as an immigrant from Russia to Chicago's Near West Side as a boy. He studied art at Hull House, then at the Art Institute. In 1925, he traveled with Jane Addams to Mexico where he visited poor areas, met local leaders and became aware of politically active artists like Diego Rivera and Jose Clemente Orozco. What he learned shaped his life and art.

He returned to Mexico later in his life for research on health and painted pictures of the people and places he saw there. Topchevsky's work might easily have been lost. However, while conducting research for a different art exhibit in 2001, Harpaz accidentally discovered some of Topchevsky's artwork in the basement of the house of the artist's deceased brother Alex Topp, also a painter.

Hidden treasures

"He went down there and there was like a time capsule of artwork from this period, and everything about this man's life. I mean letters and invitations and correspondence to other people, and lots of different things," Korey said.

Nobody knew the artwork was there, Korey added. It had probably been in the custody of Topp, moving from home to home, for close to 60 years. Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, given such storage conditions, some of the artwork was damaged.

In 2004, Korey, then a student of art history, decided he wanted to save the works. She hired a Russian-speaking art conservator and, with the help of student research assistant Amy Galpin, began to piece together a history of the art's storage and handling. They conducted an extensive survey of the artwork, documenting every piece and preserving as much of the original work as possible.

"We discovered an incredible storehouse of information," Harpaz said. "There were all sorts of letters, photographs of similar incidents to those Topchevsky had depicted in his paintings. For example, there are eyewitness accounts of policemen using tear gas and billy clubs to contain protesting strikers, and homeless people sleeping in Grant Park, Harpaz said, and Topchevsky painted similar images.

Topchevsky's ideas were controversial, Korey noted, and because he subscribed to a Russian-style socialist ideology, much of his artwork was considered "subversive" at the time and destroyed.

But with the many works that remain, it's possible to understand and respect Topchevsky's passion for social justice.

This exhibit is, said Korey, "about the people like him that did not like the status quo, that wanted to try to change society and were trying to do something about it. They were trying to not only talk the talk but walk the walk."
Families will have a blast at the Sun-dae Picnic at the Devonshire Aquatic Center in Skokie.

**Enjoy poolside fun at Sun-dae Picnic**

**BY MYRNA PETLICKI**

Cool water, playful competitions and a sweet treat are the ingredients for a Sun-dae Picnic, noon-4 p.m. Sunday at Devonshire Aquatic Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie.

“It's our closing event for the year,” said Scott Runkle, aquatics/safety supervisor for the Skokie Park District. “We do several special events at Devonshire Aquatic Center in the theme of block parties — kind of an old-time picnic. In the past we've done apple bobbing, hula hoop contests, limbo contests. We make little sundaes to give out to the kids at one point during the day.”

There's a good chance that this year's contests will have an Olympic theme. Most activities will occur during the regular safety breaks at the beginning of each hour.

“It's a low-key event,” Runkle explained. The event is free with pool admission fee of $6 for children, $7 for adults for Skokie residents; $11 and $13 for nonresidents.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 3200 or visit www.skokieparks.org.

**Parrots optional**

Meanwhile, over at the Centennial Park pool, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, Pirate Day will have kids searching for treasures, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday. There will also be peg-leg races and other pirate-themed activities. Event is free with regular pool admission fee.

For details, call (847) 922-5127 or visit www.prparks.org.

**And for inanimate pets**

Toys can have an adventure overnight at the Stuffed Animal Sleepover, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, at Glenview Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Kids, ages 2-8, are invited to bring their friend to a pajama storytime, then tuck them in for the night. The next morning, they will pick up their pets and view sleepover photos.

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

**Oops!**

Kids will discover fun facts about the galaxy at a Klutz Explore the Galaxy Hands-On Learning Event, 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Village Crossing Shopping Center Barnes & Noble, 5405 Touhy Ave., Skokie. They will also color custom stickers that they will then use to decorate the night sky.

Space is limited so register your child early.

For details, call (847) 329-8460 or visit www.barnesandnoble.com.
Dirty politics and raunchy laughs

By Bruce Ingram

**THE CAMPAIGN**

Okay, so it's not "The Candidate," or "Primary Colors," or even "The Best Man," but this smart, fast-paced and occasionally quite funny (though thoroughly rude and crude) comedy has something to say about the state of politics in America today.

If only because it actually makes Will Ferrell look like a credible, even electable, candidate. Right up to the moment he punches the baby.

In Will Ferrell presidential? Well, he's supposedly vice-presidential in "The Campaign," playing Cam Brady, a southern Republican congressman running for a fifth term unopposed in his district with his boardy blue eyes fixed on the White House.

Brady is all perfectly coiffed hair and fake smile, standing on a platform of "America, Jesus and Freedom," brazenly lying to his constituents while sucking up to corporate backers—a corrupt, sleazy, idiotic sex maniac with a bimbo mistress, a beaning, mercenary wife and two miserable children. And great likeability numbers.

He's flippin' in the polls, though, after leaving an obscene phone message to his mistress on the answering machine of a Christian family at prayer.

So, local billionaire power brokers the Motch brothers (Dan Aykroyd and John Lithgow), who need a tame congressman to green-light their plan to buy much of the district and sell it to China, decide to back another candidate—small-town schub Marty Huggins (Zach Galifianakis).

The perpetually embarrassing son of a former Republican campaign manager (Brian Cox), Huggins is a pudgy, effeminate, simple-minded, honest and decent family man who loves his overweight wife and kids and his two Chinese pugs. The Motch brothers think they can control him, though, so they put a million dollars into his super-pac, hire a ruthless campaign manager (Dylan McDermott) to change his image, and lunch him at Brady.

In broad outline, "The Campaign" is not so different from Frank Capra's "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," in which James Stewart plays the small-town innocent maimed by big-time politics. The difference here is that Huggins, after a lifetime of sleaziness is finally catching up to him with one disaster after another. A fine example is the punch he throws at Huggins on the campaign trail, which misses and clocks out an infant being held up by its mother—in slow-mo close-up.

"That's going to hurt him with the Christian right," observes MSNBC news analyst Chris Matthews in a commentary.

Unfortunately, "The Campaign" reverses its savagely funny fight-to-the-death attitude near the end for a moralistic finale in which goodness prevails, life lessons are learned all around, and Brady reveals himself to be not such a bad guy after all.

Anytime up to that point, though, he could have had my vote.
**FILM CLIPS**

**OPENING FRIDAY**

**THE BOURNE LEGACY**

Rated: Rated PG-13 for violence and action sequences

Stars: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz, Edward Norton

After the exit of Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) in “The Bourne Ultimatum,” a new super-agent (Renner) appears to take his place. “Bourne” screenwriter Tony Gilroy co-wrote and directed this expansion of the action series.

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**CELESTE AND JESSE FOREVER**

Rated: R for language, sexual content and drug use

Stars: Rashida Jones, Andy Samberg, Will McCormack

A divorcing couple (Jones and Samberg) try to maintain their friendship while dating other people. Lee Toland Krieger (“The Vicious Kind”) directed from a screenplay co-written by Jones.

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**HOPE SPRINGS**

Rated: Rated PG-13 for mature thematic content involving sexuality

Stars: Tommy Lee Jones, Meryl Streep, Steve Carell

After 30 years of marriage a long-suffering wife (Streep) forces her husband (Jones) into a week of intense couple’s therapy. David Frankel (“The Devil Wears Prada”) directed the romantic comedy-drama.

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**SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN**

Rated: Rated PG-13 for brief strong language and some drug references

Stars: Rodriguez, Malik Bendjelloul

Two South Africans search for their long-lost musical hero (’70s rocker Rodriguez), who recorded two albums and then disappeared into obscurity. One of them (Bendjelloul) directed this documentary.

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**STILL PLAYING**

**TOTAL RECALL**

Rated: Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action, some sexual content, brief nudity, and language

Stars: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel, Bryan Cranston

This hard-driving, action-packed, dead-serious and ultimately kind of ho-hum remake has everything the original 1990 sci-fi/action hit had except for two key ingredients: director Paul Verhoeven’s appetite for weirdness and Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger. We’ve got the same dystopian vision of mankind’s high-tech future (looking here like a “Blade Runner” knockoff) and the same twisty-turny Philip K. Dick plot about a secret agent (Farrell) and ruthless ruling-class oppressors. Except — he may or may not be some factory working stiff fantasizing the whole thing in a black-market dream factory. What director Len Wiseman (“Underworld”) doesn’t bring to the party is what it needs most: the larger-than-life craziness Schwarzenegger’s pumped-up presence always provides and Verhoeven’s twisted sense of fun — each indicating that the whole business isn’t to be taken too seriously.

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**RUBY SPARKS**

Rated: Rated R for language including some sexual references, and for some drug use

Stars: Paul Dano, Zoe Kazan, Chris Messina

A charming but by no means reassuring love story, 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 literally made to order. Lonely, isolated, aging wunderkind author Calvin (Dano), breaks through a serious creative block by writing about dream girl Ruby (screenwriter Kazan, also Dano’s girlfriend), who magically comes to life and moves in. Calvin can make Ruby do whatever he wants, just by writing it, but swears not to — until Ruby starts to get tired of him. Then the honeymoon starts to turn to hell on Earth.

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**THE WATCH**

Rated: Rated R for some strong sexual content including references, pervasive language and violent images

Stars: Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill, Richard Ayoade

Not just witty and pointless, but almost unreliably mirthless as well, “The Watch” is definitely one to watch out for — and avoid. Despite a promising premise for a summer action-comedy (small-town doofuses save the world from space aliens) and a fairly impressive comedy pedigree, “The Watch” never gets properly started. Partially because it can’t make up its mind whether to go for raunchy comedy, heartfelt male bonding or sci-fi action thrills. Mainly, though, because of sheer laziness. The humor is low-grade crude and almost entirely genital-obsessed, and the big, gung-ho finale fizzes entirely except for one surprisingly brutal moment when Stiller and Vaughn pump a dozen or so rounds at close range into an already-dead alien. Hilarious.

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**THE BABYMAKERS**

Rated: Rated R for crude and sexual content, brief graphic nudity, language and some drug use

Stars: Paul Schneider, Olivia Munn, Kevin Heffernan

Desperate to impregnate his baby-crazed wife (Munn), a man (Schneider) who believes he is now infertile asks friends to help him rob a sperm bank where he made a deposit years ago. Jay Chandrasekhar (“Super troopers”) directed the comedy.

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**DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS**

Rated: PG for some rude humor

Stars: Zachary Gordon, Robert Capron, Devon Bostick

School’s out, but all of wimpy kid Greg’s (Gordon) dreams for summer vacation are not coming true. David Bowers (“Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules”) returns as director.

---

**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.
SHOWTIMES

Over the Hedge (PG)  Tue. Thu 10 a.m. – Free
The Bourne Legacy (PG-13) Fri, Sat 12:25-4:25; 5:30-7:30; 8:45-10:45
The Campaign (R) Fri, Sat 12:20-4:20; 5:20-7:20; 8:20-10:20
The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) Fri-Sun 7:30-10:30
The Watch (R) Fri, Sat 11:40-2:40; 5:40-8:40

Savages (R) Sun-Tue 6:25-9:25
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) Fri-Sun 6:55-10:55
Magic Mike (R) Fri-Thru 10 p.m.

Ted (R) Fri, Sat 11:40-2:40; 5:40-8:40; Sun-Thur 11:40-2:40; 5:05-8:00; 10:30

ROSEMONT PREMIER

The Expendables 2 (R) Thu 12:01 a.m.
ParaNorman in 3-D (PG) Thu 12:01 a.m.
Sparkle (PG) Thu 12:01 a.m.

The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG) Wed, Thu 11:30-1:30-4:30-6:30-9:10
Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) Fri, Sat 10:55-1:55; Sun-Thur 11:55-2:55-5:10

3-D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:20-5:50
Savages (R) Sun-Tue 6:25-9:25
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) Fri-Sun 6:55-10:55

Total Recall (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:15-11:45-2:15-3:45-6:30-9:00; Sun-Thur 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20
The Expendables 2 (R) Thu 12:01 a.m.
ParaNorman in 3-D (PG) Thu 12:01 a.m.
Sparkle (PG) Thu 12:01 a.m.

The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG) Wed, Thu 11:30-1:30-4:30-6:30-9:10
Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) Fri, Sat 10:55-1:55; Sun-Thur 11:55-2:55-5:10

3-D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:20-5:50
Savages (R) Sun-Tue 6:25-9:25
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) Fri-Sun 6:55-10:55

Total Recall (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:15-11:45-2:15-3:45-6:30-9:00; Sun-Thur 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20
NEW ON VIDEO

‘Grosse Pointe Blank’ in Blu-ray

BY BRUCE INGRAM Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK
GROSSE POINTE BLANK: BLU-RAY DEBUT

Rated: R for strong violence, language and some drug content
Stars: John Cusack, Joan Cusack, Dan Aykroyd, Alan Arkin, Minnie Driver
- A surprisingly light and charming black comedy (well, perhaps not so surprising considering the cast) about a former CIA agent turned assassin (John Cusack) taking time off from a hit to attend his 10th high-school reunion. Cusack (who co-wrote the script with old-friends and New Crime theater co-founders D.V. DeVincenzo and Steve Pink) is perfect as the yuppie contract killer having an early mid-life crisis, while attempting to reconnect with his high-school sweetheart (Driver) and elude a competitor (Aykroyd) who wants him to join an “Assassin’s Union.” But Arkin steals the show as Cusack’s extremely nervous psychiatrist: “Why don’t you try not killing somebody for a few days? Just to see how it feels.”

THE LORAX

Rated: PG for brief mild language
Stars: Danny DeVito, Zac Efron, Betty White, Ed Helms
- The “Despicable Me” team takes Dr. Seuss’s environmentalist fable “The Lorax” (tediously adapted for TV in 1972) and manages to turn a fairly heavy-handed moral lesson about greed, consumerism and runaway capitalism into thoroughly enjoyable entertainment. DeVito is ideal voicing the feisty guardian of a forest being systematically destroyed by the young, blinded-by-ambition Once-ler (Helms). Extras include a “Let It Grow” sing-along and a “Seuss It Up!” drawing tutorial.

RECENT RELEASES
ALL ABOUT STEVE: BLU-RAY DEBUT

Paradise lost: “The Lorax.”

- A devout young Baptist (Marshall Allman) attempts to step outside of his Bible-Belt upbringing by attending a party school for college. Steve Taylor (“The Second Chance”) wrote and directed the drama based on the best-selling memoir by Donald Miller. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material, sexuality, drug and alcohol content, and some language.

BLUE LIKE JAZZ

Rated: No MPAA rating
Stars: Marilyn Monroe, Tom Ewell, Evelyn Keyes
- Monroe’s character isn’t even given a name (she’s simply referred to as The Girl), which says a lot about the thinness of the scenario in this Broadway comedy adapted and directed by Billy Wilder in 1955. Nonetheless, she makes a vivid impression as the pure-of-heart sex bomb who tempts lonely hubby Tom Ewell (nervously torn between lust and trepidation) while his wife and kid are away on vacation. The ‘50s sex farce is seriously dated but Ewell (who won a Golden Globe) is occasionally funny and, of course, the iconic shot of Monroe’s skirt shooshing upward while standing on a subway grating makes it a must-see. “Itch” is also featured in the four-disc “Marilyn Forever” Blu-ray box set along with “How to Marry a Millionaire,” “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes,” and “Some Like It Hot.”

ALSO NEW THIS WEEK

LADALAND

This 2011 horror film from Thailand about a family that discovers their upscale gated community is seriously spooked won five top prizes at the National Film Awards including best picture — and was the year’s biggest domestic hit. No MPAA rating.

LISZTOMANIA

Ken Russell (“The Devils”) directed this lurid 1976 bio-pic about the composer Franz Liszt, featuring Roger Daltrey of The Who. Rated R.

MARLEY

The life story of the reggae superstar, featuring unreleased performances and rare behind-the-scenes footage. Kevin Macdonald (“The Last King of Scotland”) directed the documentary.

SPACEBALLS: 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION BLU-RAY

Mel Brooks’ 1987 sci-fi movie parody features Rick Moranis as a very short Darth Vader. Extras include commentary by Brooks, numerous featurettes, a stills gallery, film flubs, and a storyboard-to-film comparison.

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» By mail: go. c/o Pioneer Press, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview IL 60026. E-mail: go1pioneerlocat.com. FAX: (847) 486-7451.

SUMMER CONCERTS

Norridge Park District concerts will be held at 4631 N. Overhill on select Thursdays. Visit www.norridgepark.org. Aug. 9, 6:30 p.m.: Hawaiian Night with the Barefoot Hawaiians.

Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony, under the direction of Barbara Schubert, performs at 8 p.m. Thursdays at Evanston parks: The Steepwater Band; 6 p.m., Certain Stars; 4:30 p.m., The Handcuffs; 6:30 p.m., The Fixx. Aug. 26: Noon, Tristen; 2 p.m., Rivals of the Peacemaker; 4 p.m., Certain Stars; 4:30 p.m., The Handcuffs; 6:30 p.m., The Fixx.


STAGE

"A Little Night Music," through Aug. 12 at Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 6 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: $50-$75. Call (847) 242-6000 or visit www.writerstheatre.org.

"Man of La Mancha," presented by Light Opera Works Aug. 11-26 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performances are at 8 p.m. Aug. 11, 17-18 and 25; and 2 p.m. Aug. 12, 15, 19, 22 and 26. Tickets: $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.


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Jewelry artist Jay Lensink of Morton Grove will be one of more than 200 exhibitors in Art at the Glen Town Center, an outdoor art festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 11-12 at The Glen Town Center, 1800 Patriot Blvd., Glenview. The event also features live music, food from neighboring restaurants and children's activities. Free admission. Call (847) 926-4300 or visit www.amdurproductions.com.
British newcomer Polly Stenham's play tells the story of London siblings left to fend for themselves after their bipolar mother goes missing. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. No 2:30 p.m. show on Sept. 15. Tickets: $25-$72; $25-$54 for previews, Sept. 14-20. Student tickets are $15, any performance, subject to availability. Hootenannies, informal post-show "jam sessions" with the artists from the production, will be held following the performances Sept. 30 (after 7 p.m.), Oct. 7 (after 2:30 p.m.) and Oct. 14 (after 7 p.m.). Audience members are invited to bring their own instruments and join the artists onstage to play for approximately one hour after the performance. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

**CLASSICAL**
Da Cometo presents the second annual "A Night at the Opera" at 7 p.m. Aug. 11 at Our Lady, Mother of the Church, 8747 W. Lawrence, Chicago. Free-will offering. Call (773) 625-1213.

**The Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra** will perform a program of Jewish and Muslim music, "Celebrating 500 Years of Friendship in Bosnia and Herzegovina," at 7 p.m. Sept. 2 at the American Islamic College, 640 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. Tickets are $25, available at www.americanmusicfestivals.com.

**POP/FOLK/JAZZ**
Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000; the ticket prices listed below do not include service fees. For more information about the the-

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An invigorating tilt in La Mancha

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Contributor

James Harms has spent a lot of time tilting at windmills the last three years. It comes with the territory when you play Don Quixote in “Man of La Mancha.”

Harms has starred as the gallant, albeit delusional, knight in productions with Chamber Opera Chicago and Theatre at the Center in Munster, Ind., and in a concert version with Symphony Silicon Valley of San Jose, Calif. Starting Saturday, Aug. 11, he takes the role in a Light Opera Works production, directed and choreographed by Rudy Hogenmiller.

“I think this role in the musical theater is one of those top roles like the king in ‘The King and I’ or Henry Higgins in ‘My Fair Lady.’ It’s right up there in richness and a wonderful thing to play for an actor because [Don Quixote] has both these crazy, comical aspects as well as the tragic aspects,” Harms said. “It’s quite a journey you get to take with the character every performance. And it’s one of the greatest scores. To be able to live in that world for a couple of hours is really invigorating.”

This performance will be different from Harms’ other turns as Don Quixote. “As I live with it over time, I see new things that I can bring out,” he explained.

Dual roles

Actors actually play two roles in the show — imprisoned novelist and poet Miguel de Cervantes and Don Quixote, the hero of Cervantes’ great novel, whose tale the author spins to entertain his fellow prisoners.

“Both of them are fascinating characters,” said Harms, who has obviously done extensive research for the role. “Cervantes was nearly 60 when he found the success of this novel. He had been a playwright and a poet, an adventurer and a soldier, but he had never made very much money. He had tried to escape from this five years of enslavement four times, sometimes with disastrous results for the people who tried to help him.

“In Don Quixote,” he said, “he’s transforming the pain of his life into this delightful, satirical look at mankind and its foibles.” Harms surmised. “Not just being critical of mankind but showing the hope that there is, even if it’s through a slightly mad man who wants to see the best in things and has dreams of a better world.”

“I love the show,” declared director Hogenmiller, who staged the Chamber Opera Chicago production in which Harms starred. “I knew that Jim wanted to do it again.”

The show has a bit of sentimental value for the director. “It was the first show that I did with Light Opera Works,” he said. Hogenmiller choreographed the company’s last production of the show in 1996.

Strong acting

The director feels that Harms is especially right for the lead because, “I’ve always felt it really takes an actor who sings to play the part. Somebody who has Shakespearean experience is good in this role. It brings more depth to it, and Jim’s had a lot of that experience.”

Hogenmiller isn’t planning to reinvent the musical but it will have distinctive elements. “One of the big things that always makes our productions different is that they are so big,” he said. “We have a full orchestra and we don’t cut anything so people are seeing the entire show as it was intended to be.”

One variance from many other productions is that Hogenmiller will have the prisoners onstage most of the time. “It’s brought a whole other dimension and element to the show,” he said.

Harms concluded that the show is about the transformative power of art. Cervantes uses his own horrible past as fodder for a lighthearted satire — taking that pain and turning it into something positive and uplifting. And the same thing happens in this musical play. Cervantes tells his story and it transforms the prisoners. They’re different people at the end of the play.”
Krista Detor speaks with passion about her art. "I find that music is informed by what we've witnessed, our inspirations, every word we've read and every note we've ever heard," said the singer-songwriter and pianist, "and also by our own beliefs, philosophies, morality, sense of compass or perspective."

Her own songs are graced with poetic lyrics rich with meaning. They're vignettes of people and moments, thoughts and experiences, delivered in her gorgeous alto voice. It's a remarkable music that defies categorization, with elements of folk, pop, rock, swing jazz, alt-country and roots.

Her website is presently entitled "Krista Detor 2012" and includes a summary of Detor's intriguing itinerary for this year. She'll field collaborations with Carrie Newcomer, a Sustainability Colloquium at Stanford, performances in Tuscany, a residency in New Delhi, and musical tours in the Midwest and later in Ireland and the U.K.

Detor grew up in the Los Angeles area, exposed to lots of great music and theater. "My mother had season tickets to all the big art houses," she said. "I fell in love with theater."

Detor began acting in junior high, but also studied piano and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in classical piano performance from California State University. While in college she did a lot of piano accompaniment and musical direction. "But I could have easily been an English literature or creative writing major. I was always drawn to prose and the turn of a phrase. And I enjoy acting, but it never had the artistic pull that music did."

"Stretching"

"I like the variety. It keeps me interested, and I'm really glad to be able to stretch out with other artistic pursuits," she said, "and I enjoy doing more than just my material."

Detor's music has been featured on NPR, PBS, the BBC, and numerous other U.S. and European radio stations. She's toured the U.S. and Europe many times.

Detor was part of the collaborative artistic force behind the acclaimed CD and staged show, "Wilderness Plots." Her albums include: "A Dream in a Cornfield" (2004), "Mudshow" (2006), "Cover Their Eyes" (2007), "The Silver Wood: Wintersongs" (2008), and "Chocolate Paper Suites" (2010).

Returning to the Midwest, Detor performs Aug. 11 at S.P.A.C.E. in Evanston and Aug. 19 at the Long Grove Art & Music Council's outdoor summer series. She will play with her regular trio, joined by partner and producer David Weber on guitar, and Mike Lindauer on bass.

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Campus visits provide glimpse of college life

Local universities and colleges offer a variety of open house and/or campus visit events throughout the year. If you're unable to visit during a scheduled event arrange a personal visit through the admissions office. Below are upcoming events at schools found in this education guide.

Adler School of Professional Psychology: Meet and greet sessions are scheduled for 2 p.m. every Friday and an open house is planned for 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 25. The campus is at 17 N. Dearborn, Chicago. Call (312) 662-4000 or visit adler.edu.

Brown Mackie College: With campuses in Michigan City, South Bend and Merrillville, Ind., this school offers career-oriented programs. To arrange a visit, call (219) 877-3100 for Michigan City (1001 E. U.S. 20), (874) 237-0774 for South Bend (3464 Douglas Road) or (219) 769-3321 for Merrillville (1000 E. 50th Place, Suite 2085) or visit brownmackie.edu.

Chamberlain College of Nursing: This national health care institution has two local campuses: one in Addison (1231 N. Swift; 888-568-8226) and one in Chicago (3300 N. Campbell Ave; 888-556-8226). Both offer open houses from 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 6 and Oct. 3. Visit chamberlain.edu for more information.

Elmhurst College: Two group information sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m. Aug. 11 and Sept. 8 at 190 Prospect Ave. in Elmhurst. Call (630) 279-4100 or visit Elmhurst.edu.

Lewis University: Campus visit days run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 8, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1. Register online at lewisu.edu or call (618) 836-5250. Lewis is at 1 University Parkway in Romeoville.

Rosalind Franklin University: For more information about campus visits at 3333 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, contact (847) 578-3000 or visit rosalindfranklin.edu.

Governors State University: Call (708) 534-5000 to arrange a visit at 1 University Parkway, University Park or visit govst.edu.

Indiana University Northwest: Regularly scheduled walking tours take place at 10 a.m. Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 11 a.m. Fridays. IUN is at 3400 Broadway in Gary, Ind.; call (888) 968-7486 or visit iun.edu.

North Central College: The next information session for graduate students is at 5 p.m. Aug. 13; it includes a campus tour. Call (630) 637-5840 to register. The next information session for undergraduates begins at 5 p.m. Aug. 20 and includes a walking tour and ice cream social. NCC is at 30 N. Brainard St. in Naperville. Call (630) 637-8800 for visit northcentralcollege.edu for more information.

Northwestern College: NC offers campus visits at all three local locations (7725 S. Harlem, Bridgeview; 4811 N. Milwaukee, Chicago; 1809 N. Mill St., Naperville). Call (888) 205-2833 or visit northwesterncollege.edu.

Purdue University Calumet: PUC will host an open house at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 10 in Alumni Hall. Tours are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays for prospective students can arrange a personal visit through admissions. PUC is at 2200 169th St., Hammond, Ind. Call (800) 447-8738 or visit purduecal.edu.

University of St. Francis: Adult, transfer and graduate student open houses are offered from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 10 and Feb. 2. Campus visit days for high school students run from 1 to 5 p.m. Sept. 30 and Nov. 18, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 16. Campus preview days are offered at 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Jan. 21 and Feb. 16. Prospective students also can arrange a personal visit by calling (800) 735-7500. USF is at 500 Wilcox St. in Joliet. Visit stfrancis.edu for more information.

Viterbo University: Upcoming visit days are scheduled for Oct. 12, 13, 18 and 26, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 at 900 Viterbo Drive, La Crosse, Wis. Call (800) 848-3728 or visit viterbo.edu.

At Rosalind Franklin University, we offer our students exceptional clinical education, research opportunities and exposure to emerging technologies. From day one, students collaborate in healthcare teams, learning from, with, and about one another's profession, and how, together, they each impact the future of medicine. Learn more at www.rosalindfranklin.edu
The following are news items from schools participating in this education guide.

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Continue your academic journey with the Adler School of Professional Psychology. We are now accepting applications for our fall 2012 term. For more information, call (213) 977-3199 for Michigan City, (574) 237-0774 for South Bend and (219) 333-3193 for Merrillville or visit brownmackie.edu.

**Chamberlain College of Nursing:** Employment of registered nurses is expected to increase 26 percent by 2020 according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Already the largest segment of the health care workforce, demand for registered nurses shows no signs of falling. But the ripe job market is not the only characteristic attracting professionals to the industry. A growing need for nurses with specialties has carved out new opportunities for professional advancement within the field.

For those interested in expanding their professional focus in nursing, Chamberlain College of Nursing offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree program designed to prepare nurses for expanding roles in health care and enhance their opportunities for career advancement. Qualified Chamberlain students also have the opportunity to earn both an MSN degree from Chamberlain and with additional coursework, a Master of Business Administration degree from DeVry University’s Keller Graduate School of Management. The high level of fulfillment and diverse opportunities can make the nursing profession a rewarding lifelong career. Visit chamberlain.edu/msn for more information.

**Concordia University Chicago:** Accelerate your career or explore a new profession by enrolling in Concordia University Chicago’s customized Master of Business Administration program. Building on 150 years of academic excellence, Concordia’s unique, affordable MBA program allows you to accomplish your career goals.

Concordia-Chicago understands the needs of busy working professionals. The university’s rigorous program is tailored to their needs. Flexible learning options allow students to choose the length, instruction style and focus of their studies. Degrees can be completed in one to two years. Take classes online, on campus or in a blended format (combining online and face to face). Regardless of your choice, you will receive personalized attention from professors, who are also current business professionals. Concordia’s faculty brings real-world experience into the classroom, teaching concepts that you can apply immediately at work.

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Distinguish yourself from the competition, increase your salary and customize your MBA today. Visit CUChicago.edu/business, email Business@CUChicago.edu or call (708) 209-3108.

Elmhurst College: Kasandra Benson knew she needed more than a fine arts degree to succeed in a slow economy. She was working in the architecture industry when she decided to pursue a Master of Business Administration.

"I was interested in marketing, but it was hard to make the transition from being an artist," she says. "I knew I had to have an MBA to be taken seriously." After considering an array of MBA programs, Benson chose Elmhurst College. Designed for working adults, the Elmhurst MBA is a part-time evening program that most students complete in less than two years. Classes are small and first-year students take all their classes as a group, developing strong bonds and learning to work as a team.

The MBA program is offered through Elmhurst's School for Professional Studies, which offers certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs for adults. MBA students work closely with full-time faculty and with adjunct professors who have wide industry experience.

According to Benson, the combination of collaborative work and real-world insights paid off. "My Elmhurst experience gave me the confidence I needed to succeed in a tough market," she said. "Within two days of interviewing for a job, I had an offer."

For more information about the Elmhurst MBA, go to elmhurst.edu/mba or call (630) 817-3300. To learn more about the School for Professional Studies, please visit elmhurst.edu/sps.

Rosalind Franklin University: Assistant professor Beth Stutzmann, Ph.D., has spent the last 10 years investigating neuronal signaling in aging and Alzheimer's disease. At the root of her many questions is the desire to understand the early disease processes that cause brain cells to malfunction in Alzheimer's. Stutzmann came to Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science from the University of California, Irvine, in 2005 to explore this area of interest, intentionally seeking RFUMS for its commitment to research paired with its strong basic science program, an environment where she knew her research would thrive.

"I love the process of investigation. There are things that, as researchers, we believe are important and we get to explore them. Not only is this satisfying on a personal level, you feel you're contributing to a greater good. It's enormously satisfying when you add even a little piece to the puzzle," Stutzmann said.

Her desire to help students is clear. She speaks passionately about teaching and mentoring, saying her own mentors had the biggest impact on her career. "I really believe in paying it forward and encouraging all young scientists," she said.

RFU is at 3333 Green Bay Road, North Chicago; call (847) 678-3000 or visit rosalindfranklin.edu.

Governors State University: Mastering the skills of leadership, honing the tools of innovation and acquiring the ability to motivate are all major components of the Master of Business Administration programs offered at Governor State University. The skills and knowledge you will master in our MBA program will enable you to successfully and confidently grow your career as an effective leader and manager.

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Governors State University is located in University Park, just an hour Metra ride from Millennium Park and 30 miles south of Chicago on Interstate 87. Learn how to gain the competitive edge by visiting govst.edu/mba or calling (708) 534-4391 today.

Indiana University Northwest: Illinois residents can now look across the state line at their higher education options without having to worry about paying out-of-state tuition. Academic programs in demand from Indiana University Northwest are now accessible to academically eligible Illinois residents thanks to the Illiana Merit Scholarship Program.

Past academic performance is the only eligibility requirement for the Illiana Scholarship Program.

"I love the process of investigation. There are things that, as researchers, we believe are important and we get to explore them. Not only is this satisfying on a personal level, you feel you're contributing to a greater good. It's enormously satisfying when you add even a little piece to the puzzle," Stutzmann said.
MBA degrees pay dividends for a lifetime

BY JEAN GUARINO
For Sun-Times Media

In today's uncertain economy both recent graduates and working professionals are taking a hard look at the value of an MBA. They are questioning whether the future benefits associated with an advanced business degree outweigh the significant investment of both time and money they are required to make today.

Determining the value of an MBA begins with a little introspection.

"Before you can choose the right program you have to understand what your career goals are and know exactly what you want to get out of an advanced business degree," said Andrew Sama, associate director of admissions for the MBA Program at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"And, for most people, that knowledge can only come after they have been in the workforce managing people or budgets and problem solving," he added.

Ninety-five percent of the students who earn either a one-year or two-year traditional MBA at the school's South Bend campus bring a minimum of two years' work experience to this full-time program.

Governors State University, on the other hand, has structured a flexible schedule for working adults trying to balance job, family and school responsibilities. All MBA level classes are held in the late afternoon and evening and almost all classes are also available online.

"Our MBA program is designed for students with undergraduate and working business experience as well as people like engineers and scientists who want to advance into management but have no business experience," said Ellen Foster Curtis, dean of the College of Business and Public Administration at Governors State. "These individuals may work for companies that put a high value on an MBA degree and find that certain career paths are not open to them without this advanced degree."

The intangible value of an MBA degree is demonstrating to your employer or prospective employer that you're serious about advancing in your career and you've acquired the skills and tools to do just that. But, according to Foster Curtis, it also can be measured more concretely.

"The cost of a degree is certainly significant, especially for students who are already burdened with undergraduate debt. But the payback in increased earnings over a long career can more than offset the expense," she said.

The tuition for an MBA degree varies wildly. It can range from approximately $12,000 at a public university such as Governors State to $44,000 at the University of Notre Dame, peaking at as much as $107,000 at the prestigious Wharton School of Business.

However, financial aid is available in many forms including scholarships, grants and research fellowships. More than 65 percent of students enrolled in Notre Dame's MBA program receive need-based fellowships.

"And some companies, although not as many as in the past, will provide tuition reimbursement for employees being groomed for advancement," Foster Curtis said.

What are some of the things you should consider when scouting an MBA program?

Investigate the faculty of all the programs you're considering to make sure they're all
The MBA program at Governors State University in University Park offers a flexible schedule for working adults trying to balance family, work and school.

doctorally qualified, Foster Curtis advised.

"You can get a lot of information on the school's website, including where the instructors received their doctorates, their business experience, what they have published and any research projects they have participated in that resulted in new knowledge in their field," she said.

Also, try to get a handle on your fellow students. Much of the learning environment will be interactive with each student bringing his or her own business experiences to projects and discussions. And students who can share how they handled or avoided a potential crisis in their workplace can provide a real-time and not theoretical learning experience for their peers.

A program with flexibility in terms of both online and on-site classes, a schedule that includes evening and/or weekend classes, small class size and convenient locations are other important considerations.

You can also evaluate a school on the basis of specialization. You may be drawn to a school that offers a specialty in addition to the general business curriculum. These schools work closely with the related industry such as nonprofit, management of health care, real estate and entrepreneurship to name just a few. They might also have an incubator to attract venture capital or offer work-study programs that give students hands-on experience plus an invaluable network of future contacts.

Finally, before you invest a great deal of time and money in an MBA program, check to see if the school you are considering is fully accredited. You want to be certain that the degree is recognized and respected by employers. There are several international accreditating institutions but the oldest and most prestigious is the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International founded in 1916. The AACSB International is a global nonprofit membership organization of educational institutions, businesses and other entities devoted to the advancement of management education.

The AACSB International is the recognized accreditation agency worldwide and the "gold standard" by which MBA programs are rated, according to Sama.

Jean Guarino is a local freelance writer.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT northcentralcollege.edu/admission/international-business-administration

INFORMATION SESSION

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September 19 Information Session schedule

» 5:45 p.m. Registration
» 6 p.m. Learn about admission, scholarships and financial aid
» 6:30 p.m. Overview of the program

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Recent high school graduates or to obtain graduate program applications, or to obtain graduate information about eligibility or qualifications. To apply may visit iun.edu/gradschool or call (888) 968-7488. Lewis University: Ashley Gloster was promoted to chief operating officer within weeks of earning his bachelor's degree from Lewis University. The convenient location, small class sizes, personal attention and global perspective of experienced faculty helped to propel his career.

"There's no doubt in my mind the education I got at Lewis University — the ability to think strategically rather than tactically, which I have done for so many years of my career — is the thing that has put me in the arena for a job like this," Gloster said.

A variety of options are available through the Lewis University College of Business programs, including bachelor degrees and master degrees in business administration, finance, information security and project management. Ethically-grounded and career-focused, Lewis University's business degree programs combine critical thinking with data analysis, financial understanding, technological knowledge and essential communication skills that prepare students with a well-rounded and comprehensive business foundation.

Starting this fall, the Master of Science in Project Management program will prepare students to complete projects under budget, deliver projects ahead of schedule, effectively organize project resources, control project deliverables, maximize human resource potential and avoid common project management mistakes. Many NLU students juggle personal and professional commitments while pursuing their MBA. NLU offers the quality education and convenience they need as well as essential interpersonal skills, presentation techniques and writing skills. MBA courses include organizational behavior, strategic marketing, project management, macroeconomics, ethical and legal issues, and strategic management.

Learn more about NLU's MBA program and how it can fit into your career goals today. Fall term starts Sept. 10. For more information or to get started today, visit nl.edu/info or call (888) 668-4636.

North Central College: International Business Administration degree. It's one of the Chicago region's only such graduate-level programs with an explicit focus on international business.

With more than 95 percent of the world's population living outside the United States, employers increasingly need managers who are equipped with international experience and specialized training to take their goods and services to the global marketplace.

North Central College’s MIBA program prepares managers to make the most of this challenge by incorporating hands-on experiences that include a short-term study abroad course and internship or project, as well as specialized courses.

The program is especially designed for middle-level managers who have aspirations of pursuing international assignments within...
their companies or who want to advance their careers in government, business or the nonprofit arena.

For more information about the MBA degree at North Central College visit northcentralcollege.edu/admission/international-business-administration.

Northwestern College: NC is a family-owned institution celebrating 110 years of providing career-focused training to students throughout the Chicago area. Founded in 1902, Northwestern College offers certificate and degree programs in some of the nation's fastest-growing careers, including massage therapy, health information technology, radiologic technology, medical assisting, medical coding, business administration, executive accounting, human resources management, paralegal, criminal justice and nursing. Maintaining three campuses throughout the Chicago area (Bridgeview, Chicago-Jefferson Park and Naperville), Northwestern College continues to meet the growing needs of men and women of all ages seeking to sharpen their skills or pursue a new career path in a growing field.

Part of Northwestern College's uniqueness is its 110-year tradition of adapting its focus to the changing needs of society, most recently with the development of NC Online. NC Online offers a variety of online degree programs that combine the benefits of the college's practical, regionally-accredited course work with the flexibility for students to pursue their studies via the Internet. Some check it out at northwesterncollege.edu or by calling (888) 205-2283.

Purdue University Calumet: One of the great challenges facing 21st century higher education is that of preparing students for innovative jobs and careers yet to emerge. But Purdue University Calumet is on it! In fact, debuting this fall at Purdue Calumet's accessible Hammond, Ind., campus is a Master of Science in Modeling, Simulation and Visualization.

The cutting-edge degree is among 14 Purdue University master's offerings at Purdue Calumet, including MBA and MBA for executives programs.

The new modeling, simulation and visualization degree program combines knowledge and expertise from several scientific disciplines. It will expose students to sophisticated technological concepts and help them develop problem-solving skills to virtually analyze workplace challenges.

Students will develop skills essential to visualization designers, engineers, technologists, business intelligence developers, software consultants and computer scientists as well as to professionals in transportation, education, marketing and health care and yet-to-be-identified fields.

Learn more about this and other graduate degrees at Purdue Calumet at purduecal.edu/gradschool or contact Graduate Studies Director Joy Colwell (219-989-2257, Colwell@purduecal.edu).

University of St. Francis: The University of St. Francis offers many academic programs for adult learners hoping to pursue career goals or achieve personal success. At USF, adults can earn a bachelor's or master's degree at a time and place convenient for them. Classes are offered online or on-site. To learn more, attend USF's fall open house for adults and transfer students or participate in an online information session.

Viterbo University: Like most students seeking a Master of Business Administration while working full time, Michael Walter of Technigraph Corp. needed a program that offered a great deal of flexibility.

He found it at Viterbo University. "Viterbo University has really put together a first-class MBA program," said Walter, Technigraph's IT manager. "I looked at many programs, on campus as well as online. Viterbo fit my needs perfectly."

The convenient format of the Viterbo MBA program allows students to select a two-year evening option or a one-year daytime program. The program is cohort-based, meaning that students stay together in classes until they earn their degree. Students choose from online or face-to-face electives and may opt for a health care management track.

The academics feature a rigorous curriculum with an emphasis on sustainable business built through ethical leadership.

"The professors are personally committed to the success of students and provide a refreshingly diverse learning environment that is insightful, thought provoking and current," said MBA graduate Angie Jones, vice president of finance and operations at Cleary Management Corp.

Call (800) 848-3726 or visit viterbo.edu for more information.

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‘474’ offers downtown lifestyle, amenities

By Dave Van Sickel
Motor Matters

Jeep started out back in 1941 as a hard-riding barebones military vehicle, but it has come a long way since then. With lots of fine tuning, that first Jeep has evolved into the Wrangler with a car-like ride that retains the great off-road capability that made Jeep famous.

New for 2012, Wrangler is equipped with the Chrysler Group’s all-new 3.6-liter Pentastar V-6 engine that debuted in the Jeep Grand Cherokee last year. The new 285-horsepower engine significantly improves both on- and off-road performance with an 83 horsepower increase over the previous 3.8-liter V-6 engine. Torque also is up from 237 pound-feet to 260.

Even though the V-6 Pentastar is new, it has no high-tech features like direct injection or turbocharging. Instead, it relies on tried-and-true hardware like multipoint fuel injection and cam phasing systems that have been tweaked for maximum benefit.

Since Wrangler has a reputation as an off-road vehicle that can go anywhere, the alternator has been relocated near the top of the engine to achieve maximum water-fording capability.

Wrangler is available with either a six-speed manual or five-speed automatic transmission. Both are new to the Wrangler lineup, but have been around for a while in other Chrysler vehicles. Moving from four to five speeds improves fuel economy and helps reduce interior noise levels at highway speeds. Closer ratios help improve shifting characteristics with smoother gear-to-gear changes.

Both the Sport and Sahara models include a Dana 30 front and Dana 44 rear axle. The two-speed Command-Trac transfer case includes a 2.72 low-range gear ratio.

A Trac-loc limited-slip differential is available for those needing more traction capability in environments such as sand, mud or snow. Also, a lower first gear ratio in the new automatic transmission gives the Wrangler more off-road capability with its lower overall crawl ratio.

The Rubicon model features heavy-duty Dana 44 front and rear axles and the Rock-Trac two-speed transfer case with a 4.0 low-range gear ratio. Rubicon also includes electric front and rear locking differentials, disconnecting front sway bar and 35-inch tires for the ultimate in capability. Prices for Wrangler models range from $22,045 for the Wrangler Sport to $29,820 for the Wrangler Rubicon.

Out on the open highway, we found the Wrangler to be comfortable and quiet. The new Pentastar V-6 is well-matched to the smooth-shifting five-speed automatic transmission. Accelerating from 0-to-60 mph takes only 8.4 seconds now, making passing and merging less worrisome. Driving with the six-speed manual transmission takes some practice to get consistently smooth shifts.

Off-road performance is just as one might expect from a Wrangler. Whether crawling over broken rocks or inching through slippery mud, the engine, transmission and suspension perform flawlessly.

Jeep completely reworked the Wrangler interior in 2011 to include upgraded materials, automatic temperature controls, heated seats, power mirrors and steering wheel controls for various systems.

Even with those improvements, getting into a Wrangler still requires a high step up and some bending and twisting to get into a front seat. Access to the rear seat is even more challenging. Comfortable seats help occupants endure even the worst of roads.

Jeep Wrangler’s signature features still include classic round headlamps, seven-slot grille, trapezoid wheel flares, removable doors, exposed hinges, a fold-down windshield and innovative removable and convertible tops and half-doors.

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Living in a central location allows a condominium owner to take advantage of everything Chicago has to offer, plus the amenities offered in the building itself.

There are an abundance of amenities at 474, which include an indoor-lap pool, a steam room and sauna, an equipped fitness center, a clubroom and an outdoor sundeck. The sundeck has four new grills, seating, a bar area and several places to sit and relax. The sundeck just opened this summer and, as expected, has turned out to be a beautiful oasis for residents.

Skyline landmarks can be seen in every direction. East-facing condos overlook Navy Pier and Lake Michigan. City lights illuminate from the west and north sides. The south views feature a combination of lake and city views.

Vicki Pachol, a resident at 474, is thrilled with the building. "The amenities I love the most are the sundeck and especially the large work-out room. The fitness center is larger than some of the city gyms I have been to and it is fully outfitted with professional equipment. I no longer have a gym membership," she said. "The most wonderful part about it is that I do not even have to leave the building to get in a great work-out in the morning or after work."

The Streeterville neighborhood, on the Near North side...
On the Southwest Side, try leafy Beverly, one of the most rock-solid neighborhoods in the city, with resale values rising at a steady pace.

On the Northwest Side, Portage Park and the Far Northwest suburbs offer good deals, with median resale values in the $185,000 to $188,000 range.

On the North Side, a good market is wealthy Lincoln Park, where median resale values for a home or condo range from $421,000 in January of 2012, up from $401,000 in the same month in 2011, according to MLS statistics.

The Lincoln Park neighborhood also has big plans for more new housing as the recession ends. McCaffery Interests is proposing to build three high-rise towers over a three-year span on the recently-vacated Children's Memorial Hospital site at Lincoln and Fullerton avenues.

In Edgewater, another high-demand lakefront neighborhood, median values rose to $191,000 in January of 2012, up from $188,500 a year earlier.

On the North Side, Portage Park, where media resale prices rose to $183,500 in January of 2012, compared with $177,500 in the same month a year ago.

In Forest Glen, resale prices held relatively flat at $328,750 in January of 2012, compared with $329,500 a year earlier. Nearby, at Edgewater, new home prices now start at $399,000 for a three-bedroom, 2½-bath residence with a two-car attached garage.

On the Northwest Side, try Portage Park, where media resale prices rose to $183,500 in January of 2012, compared with $177,500 a year earlier.

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resale prices skyrocketed to
neighborhood, median
some neighborhoods on
earlier.
rose to $22,125 in January of
the city, where median prices
in Chicago from Streeterville:
access to the highways
via Lake Shore Drive or
through the north side of
downtown.
The proximity to Chicago
hospitals has been a
particular selling point for many
474 buyers who work in the
medical profession. Northwestern
Memorial Hospital and many of its facilities are
in walking distance. While many other hospitals are a
short ride away.
"My commute from the
north side of Chicago to Rush
used to be a nightmare. Going
home in the evening was
twice as bad as going there
in the morning," said Gilda
Patel, a nurse at Rush Univer-
sity Medical Center. "After
purchasing at 474, I jump on South
Lake Shore Drive, make my
way over to Congress and
exit on Ashland, which is the
second exit. It takes me ten
minutes."
Dr. Ben Thompson said his
commute is much easier for
traveling out of state and to
work at the University of
Chicago Medical Center.
"My work takes me
to seminars out of state on a
regular basis. Taking Lake
Shore Drive to 56th to Midway
is a piece of cake. It reminds
me of traveling in the 1980's
when it wasn't an all-day af-
fair to take a one-hour flight."
"Going to the medical
center is even easier," he
said. "Going south on Lake
Shore Drive all the way to the
hospital is so easy, especially
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DEBAT | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
the city, where median prices
rose to $221,250 in January of
2012, up from $198,900 a year
earlier.
Values also are rising in
some neighborhoods on the
South Side. In Kenwood,
President Barack Obama's
neighborhood, median
resale prices skyrocketed to
$304,250 in January of 2012,
from $185,000 in the same
month in 2011.
In Oakland, median home
and condo values rose to
$263,000 in January of 2012,
up from $205,000 a year earlier.
There are bargains at the
Lake Park Crescent com-

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BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER YOU IN?
The American Chamber Opera Company presents “Don Giovanni.”

Chamber opera offers
‘Don Giovanni’

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

Don Juan, the classic bad boy of the arts, is a fictional libertine hapless women love to love. He first appeared in literature in the 17th century, and he has been chronicled in song and story ever since. Never so memorably, however, as in Mozart’s magnificent opera “Don Giovanni.”

That opera, which premiered in Prague in 1787, will have six performances in English by the American Chamber Opera at the Chicago Temple starting Friday, Aug. 10.

“The company was founded to give opportunities to young singers,” said soprano Mary Lutz Govertsen, a graduate of Northwestern University. She is singing the role of Donna Anna, a woman whom Don Giovanni seduced and abandoned.

Classic cad

And Don Giovanni? He’s played by her husband, baritone Dave Govertsen, now beginning his second year as a member of the Ryan Opera Center of Lyric Opera of Chicago.

The center keeps him busy, recently with a program for the Bar Association, as well as a series of recitals which are being recorded for broadcast on WFMT.

“I’m taking part in the big Lyric night at Millennium Park,” he observed, and next season he has roles in “Der Meistersinger” and “Werther.”

But Dave Govertsen is particularly pleased to be working with the American Chamber Opera. “I have sung with a lot of smaller companies,” he explained, “and this group is very good at managing public relations and the whole production.”

Mary Lutz Govertsen combines performing with teaching drama and music in the Des Plaines public school system. Earlier this year she appeared in American Chamber Opera’s semi-staged presentation of Mendelssohn’s oratorio “Elijah.”

She is most enthusiastic about the conductor of “Don Giovanni,” Deanna Tham, who also conducted “Elijah.”

Tham, who received her bachelor’s degree from Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, graduated in the spring with a master’s degree in conducting from Northwestern University. She was a student of the charismatic Dr. Mallory Thompson, director of bands and wind ensembles and NU’s Bienen School of Music.

“I love ensemble work,” the Evanston resident said. “Dr. Thompson gave me some conducting opportunities and helped me to access the energy that comes from connecting with all the members of an ensemble.”

Making it work

She has more than instrumentalists to deal with in this task, however. “Conducting an opera takes in everything,” she explained. “There is the text, and then there are the singers, the music, the musicians, the lighting, the staging. It has to become an organic whole.”

Her intensive study of Mozart’s score has led her to a new appreciation of the composer and the way he composed “Don Giovanni.”

“Mozart’s a funny guy,” she said. “He composed with a lot of finesse and there are layers upon layers in his music.”

She has found some very definite tongue-in-cheek aspects in this particular score. “A lot is disguised,” she said. “That’s what makes Mozart’s music so charming. You’re always laughing and crying at the same time with him. His music is so ingenious. I’d like to bring that out.”
Wizard World comic fan fest comes to town

BY MISHA DAVENPORT
For Sun-Times Media

With movies such as “The Avengers,” “The Amazing Spider-Man” and “The Dark Knight Rises” burning up the summer movie box office, you would expect Chicago’s original comic book fan fest Wizard World to be the must-do event of the summer for every fanboy and girl.

And you’d be right.

“You can expect bigger and better things from this year’s Wizard World Chicago Comic Con,” said Kevin Kelly, managing editor of Wizard World.

Kelly has been attending comic cons since 1997 and says that thanks to the attention generated by several hit comic book movies, attendance and fan enthusiasm should be high and a number of stars, comic book artists and writers have lined up to participate as guests.

“Without a question, hit comic book movies are definitely having an impact,” said Kelly.

“Stars want to participate and fans want to see them.”

Chicago is home to not one, but two pop culture conventions. April’s Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo is a tough act to follow, but Wizard World Chicago Comic Con has stepped up to the challenge.

Kelly says his team is up to the task.

“Our emphasis this year as it is every year is to bring in top-tier talent to make these conventions really special,” he said.

Chicago is a town that supports two major league baseball teams and two newspapers, and Kelly says it certainly can support two pop culture conventions.

Moreover, he says, a little healthy competition can only be good for fans.

“When there is another fan convention, you can only react and strive to be better. And that is the best-case scenario for fans.”

Some of the highlights for this year’s show:

AUG. 10
2-2:45 p.m. | Mira (Katina Law) and Glaber (Craig Parker) from the Starz hit series “Spartacus” share behind-the-scenes moments and possibly drop hints of what is in store for the popular show’s third and final season.

3-3:45 p.m. | The second best thing to actually ponying up to the bar at Merlotte’s (one of the fictional settings in HBO’s hit series “True Blood”) has got to be a Q&A with the show’s shapeshifting bar owner Sam Merlotte himself, actor Sam Trammel.

5-5:45 p.m. | A trio of legendary “Star Trek” captains — William Shatner (James T. Kirk), Avery Brooks (Benjamin Sisko), and Scott Bakula (Jonathan Archer) — unite to discuss all things “Trekkie.”

AUG. 11
Noon-12:45 p.m. | Husband-and-wife duo Paul Wesley and Torrey DeVitto discuss what it’s like working opposite each other as moody vampire Stefan Salvatore and mysterious Dr. Meredith Fell on CW’s “The Vampire Diaries.”

3-3:45 p.m. | Harry Potter’s on-screen schoolyard nemesis Draco Malfoy (Thomas Andrew Felton) will no doubt discuss the fine art of magical wedgies and conjure up an unforgettable Q&A.

AUG. 12
11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. | You haven’t lived until you’ve heard comic book legend Stan Lee utter his iconic phrase “nuff said.” Lee hosts a Q&A today.

Noon-12:45 p.m. | Sunnydale High is having its 20th reunion — sort of. “Buffy The Vampire Slayer” cast members James Marsters (Spike), Juliet Landau (Drusilla), Amber Benson (Tara), Camden Toy (Cubervamp Turok-Han), and Doug Jones (the lead “Gentleman” in the iconic episode “Hush”) reunite for a Buffyfest Q&A in honor of the landmark cult favorite show’s 20th anniversary.

While film and television stars are plentiful, Kelly says they haven’t forgotten about the comic book part of Wizard World Chicago Comic Con.

This year’s convention will feature five Will Eisner Comic Industry Award winners and eight Eisner Award nominees alongside more than 300 artists and writers. Notable artists include Carlos Pacheco (“Avengers Forever,” “X-Men” and “Green Lantern”); George Perez (“Superman”); Greg Capullo (Batman); and J. Scott Campbell (“Avengers vs. X-Men,” and “Spider-Man”).

Additionally, Mr. Marvel himself, Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame member Stan Lee, the co-creator of “Spider-Man,” “The Hulk,” “The X-Men,” “The Fantastic Four,” “Iron Man,” and “Thor” (just to name a few) will be a special guest and will host a Q&A session at 11 a.m. on Aug. 12.
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**KLEZMER BAND**

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O'Hare Hotel Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633. Visit www.oakton.edu/museum.

The Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. For information or to schedule an audition, contact Daniel Golden at dgolden@oakton.edu.

Canzonetta Youth Orchestra is seeking musicians to audition for the 2012-13 season. The ensemble seeks violin, viola, cello, and double bass players with prior experience for the 2012-13 season. The ensemble performs several times a year on campus with occasional off-campus appearances. Recent performances have included everything from Vivaldi, Corelli, and Schubert to Bartók, Joplin, New Orleans Jazz, and Bollywood music. Rehearsals are held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays at Oakton Community College's Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. For information or any other questions, contact Daniel Golden at dgolden@oakton.edu.

**GO | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8B**

ater, call (847) 674-1500 or visit www.rosemonttheatre.com. 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. 15, 7:30 p.m.: System of a Down with Deftones. $50. Aug. 19, 7 p.m.: Gigantes: Marc Anthony, Chayanne and Marco A. Solís. $56, $76, $96, $126, $176.

**ART GALLERIES**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8B**

**AUDITIONS**

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**Auditions for Skokie Kids Film Festival:** An Evening with the Stars will be held from 1-3 p.m. Aug. 11 at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Open to children ages 7-13 who are interested in writing and starring in their own movie. Prepare a monologue that is no more than one minute long, from any film. For more information, e-mail jroseallard@icloud.com.

The James Downin Theatre will hold auditions for its upcoming production of the comedy "Squabbles" from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Aug. 20-21 at Edison Park United Methodist Church, 6740 N. Oliphant, Chicago. Seeking four men and three women, ages 30-65. No appointment necessary. Cold readings from the script are required. Must be a member of SAG or ACT. Rehearsals will be at 7-10 p.m. Aug. 16-17 at 2559 W. Berwyn Ave. For more information, call (773) 282-3900. Visit jamesdowningtheatre.typepad.com.
Beatbox duo looking for a win

BY ELIZABETH OWEN-SCHIELE
Contributor

Sounds like a singer with a hot drummer. But when you’re listening to iLLest Vocals, you’re hearing the only voices of Sanu John of Skokie and Shawn Kurian of Wheeling.

The two are a beat boxing duo and now one of the five finalists acts in the “Suburban Chicago’s Got Talent” at the Taste of Arlington Heights Aug. 11.

iLLest Vocals was one of the top five acts selected from among 160 acts who auditioned, and are vying to win an audition on NBC’s “America’s Got Talent.”

They’ll compete against Pull & Whiskey, Shcrop, Lubecker, Robert Osoi and Woody James during a final performance of “Suburban Chicago’s Got Talent,” a show that’s a highlight of the Taste of Arlington Heights.

Three years ago, Kurian and John, who had known each other for more than 10 years through mutual friends in the Indian community, were at a party together when John was asked to beat box, using only his voice to simulate the sounds of percussion and drums. Kurian jumped in and sang a track and they were off. When the duo was asked to perform at a street fair, they urged the two to form a duo.

“We started jamming together and now we’re on our way to America’s Got Talent,” said Kurian, 25, a Columbia College Chicago graduate whose day job is inside sales and also works as a MC at an entertainment company.

John, 25, is a security supervisor by day and a DJ by night whose DJ moniker is iLLest, which is the slang term for “best.”

“We don’t have paychecks yet from jamming together,” admits Kurian, “but we’re doing it because it’s something we love to do, it’s our passion and it’s been working out for us.”

The duo performs often at local community events and had auditioned this season for “America’s Got Talent,” judged by Howard Stern, Sharon Osbourne, Howie Mandel and Nick Cannon, and reportedly made the standby list, Kurian said, but not the final cut.

Winning the “Suburban Chicago’s Got Talent” would guarantee them an audition spot for next season.

Unique approach

Their a cappella approach to music is unique, Kurian said, and is what sets them apart from other contestants.

John will lay down the beat and Kurian will sing the melody.

“We match up two to three songs together then add our own flavor or flair,” explained Kurian, who describes his voice as a tenor but said he can hit the high notes of a baritone.

One recent mesh of the duo was “If I Ever Fall in Love” by Shai and Justin Bieber’s “Boyfriend,” making for an interesting mix. “Our style is always different.”

Although he’s had no professional vocal training, Kurian did perform in show choir at Wheeling High School and has been performing at Indian community events since he was age 6.

“I was born to entertain,” Kurian said. “Put a microphone in my hand and I’ll rock the crowd.”

Both Kurian and John are first generation Indian Americans, with families from Kerala in southern India. They often integrate their cultural history in their music.

“We’ve definitely done Hindu music and incorporated popular Indian tracks with popular R&B tracks,” Kurian said.

His partner, John, often adds his own Indian flair to the music.

“I can speak the language and I like to incorporate the Indian flavor in it,” said John of his beat boxing.

He has been playing the drums since the age of 5 and began imitating those sounds at the age of 8.

“I use my mouth to make percussion like bass, snare, hammer and baseline,” said John, 25, who “back in the day” used to get in trouble at school for playing his pens and pencils on paper. A graduate of Niles North and now a junior at Triton College studying radiology, John liked to listen to the popular beat boxers like Kenny Muhammad and began to imitate them.

Multiple sounds

“I’m more commercial and I imitate radio music,” John said, while other beat boxers are heavy on the bass and hip hop.

Kurian is often in awe of his partner.

“It’s uncanny how he sounds like an actual percussion drum set and it almost sounds like it’s coming from two people,” Kurian said of John, who often beats five or six different sounds at the same time.

He can even do the scratching noise reminiscent of vinyl records.

“If you close your eyes,” John said, “it sounds like a track.”
COMEDY


Perla Cafe, 1813 Dempster St., Evanston. (847) 424-1362. Aug. 25, 7:30-8:30 p.m.: "An Evening of Comedy and Spoken Word" with author and comedian Debbie Sue Goodman of Skokie. No cover.


DANCE

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. www.gorillatango.com. (773) 598-4549. Aug. 17, 10 p.m.; Aug. 18, 6 p.m., and Aug. 19, 7 p.m.: "Ballet POP, Scenes from a Bar." Gorilla Tango's Skokie Community Songwriters group meets. Area songwriters are invited to bring an original song to share and get feedback.

Norwegian Folk Dancers meet weekly, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Norwood Crossing, 6016 N. Nina, Chicago. New members age 16 and older, welcome. No dance experience needed, just interest in Scandinavian folk dance. For more information, call (847) 823-7596 or e-mail kromme815@gmail.com or (847) 592-6616 or karlp57@aol.com.

Line dancing for all ages is held from 7-10 p.m. every Tuesday at the White Eagle Banquet Hall, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Beginner lessons are at 7:30 p.m. and new or dance or review at 8 p.m. Admission: $7; $5 for ages 17 and under. For information, call (847) 965-6353 or e-mail at somedays@att.net.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Family Fest, 6-11 p.m. Aug. 10 and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Aug. 11 on the grounds of St. Stephen Parish, Spruce and Prospect streets, Des Plaines. The event includes live entertainment, with the headliners Rick "Elvis" Saucedo at 9 p.m. Friday and Triple Shot at 8 p.m. Saturday. There will also be food vendors, children's activities, games, raffle prizes and more. For information, call (773) 391-3185.


FILM


Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. Aug. 16, 2 p.m.: Closed captioned screening of "Blindspotting."

"Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close." Aug. 23, 2 p.m.: Charles Dickens Film Discussion Series features "Great Expectations."

Northwest Chicago Film Society presents the Classic Film Series at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, unless otherwise noted, at the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Admission is $5. For information, visit www.northwestchicagofilm-society.org. Aug. 15: "A Hen in the Wind" (1948), with the National Film Board of Canada. "The Cat Came Back." Aug. 22: "This Day and Age" (1933), with the Popeye cartoon "The Man on the Flying Trapeze." Aug. 29: "The Chase" (1966), with the Will E. Coyote and Road Runner cartoon "Fast and Furry-ous."

TOURS & OUTINGS

The Evanston History Center presents a walking tour series conducted by Kris Hartzell, EHC's director of Visitor Services and Facilities. Each tour begins and ends at the Dawes House, 225 Green-wood St., Evanston, and will take place rain or shine. Tours begin at 11 a.m. and run until roughly 12:30 p.m. Admission for each tour is $20; $15 for EHC members. Reservations are not required, but are recommended. Call (847) 475-3410 or e-mail kartz-ellevanstonhistorycenter.org. Aug. 18 and Oct. 6: "Evanston's Lakefront." Sept. 1: "Architectural Evanston."


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 I, park in the lot between Dempster and Main streets. Oct. 28: Section IV, park in the lot in the park, between Howard and Touhy.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. 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 figure drawing workshops from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. Live models; no instructor. Fee per session is $20; $12 for members. For information, call Steve Gal, (847) 673-4450, or visit www.skokieartguild.org.

ET CETERA

Monday night Car Shows, 6-9 p.m. every Monday, through Sept. 10, in the west parking lot of Westfield Old Orchard shopping center, 4099 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

vegetarians still trust in Blind Faith

BY LEE A. LITAS
Dining Columnist

“We’re not interested in telling people what to eat or how to eat. We believe food should be fresh, healthy and wholesome,” said David Lipschutz, who founded Blind Faith Café in Evanston 33 years ago.

He grew up in Evanston and just “loved the idea of opening up a vegetarian restaurant in my hometown,” he said. Today, what literally started as an act of blind faith — for eating vegetarian was not exactly in vogue 33 years ago — has become a North Shore destination.

“We’re definitely part of the landscape and I’m very proud of that,” said Lipschutz.

Realizing as a teenager that he had an issue with eating animal products, the health-conscious Lipschutz says it quickly became a question of nutrition and health as much as any kind of ethics. He insists that all styles of cooking can be applied to any kind of food. Thus, the Blind Faith menu, is broad and eclectic incorporating elements of Italian, French, Asian, Mexican and Middle Eastern cuisines.

Blind Faith bakes all its pastries and breads in-house serving up a killer vegan chocolate cake, for example, which has flour and sugar but no eggs, milk and no butter, though, bit you can’t tell. And the apricot tart comes with a traditional butter cream frosting but the fact that it is gluten-free makes the cake melt in your mouth.

BF also serves macrobiotic meals and has a full drinks menu ranging from chocolate martinis with Godiva liqueur to Chambord ($10) and wines.

“The defining values of the restaurant, besides vegetarianism, have always been fresh, natural and whole foods,” said Lipschutz.

TABLEHOPPING

Vegetarians still trust in Blind Faith

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Follow TableHopping on Facebook & Twitter.
For the week of August 15 — August 21

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) As eager as you are to take on that new challenge, it would be best to temper that spurt of "Ram"-bunctious energy until you have more facts to back up your decision to move.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time for hardworking Bovines to take a break from their hectic on-the-job schedules to bask in the unconditional love and support of friends and family.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Pay attention to what you hear in the workplace. You could pick up some hints about possible changes. Meanwhile, a new infusion of creative energy sets in by week's end.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Try to be more flexible in dealing with a suddenly difficult situation, whether it's on the job or in the home. Others might have some good points to offer. Listen to them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might think you're not getting the royal treatment you deserve. But be careful not to become a royal pain by complaining about it. Be patient and allow things to work out.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Watch that penchant for being super judgmental at work. It might create a bad impression with someone whose decisions could determine the course of your career.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You've been your usual busy-bee self, gathering nectar wherever you can find it. But now's a good time to kick back, relax and just enjoy smelling the roses.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) That pesky personal situation seems to be improving. But change comes slowly, so be patient. Expect someone to bring more positive news by week's end.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Whoa! Ease up on that hectic pace you've been putting yourself through. Take time to recharge your energy levels before going full gallop again.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Try to be intrigued, not intimidated, by the issues you're suddenly facing, and you'll be ahead of the game. Don't be afraid to demand answers to your questions.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) New associates freezing you out of their inner circle? Never mind. Put a warm smile on that friendly face of yours, and you'll soon thaw them all down to size.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your wise guidance helps colleagues agree to compromise and move forward. Meanwhile, there are still vital issues you need to deal with in your personal life.

BORN THIS WEEK: You enjoy being free with your emotions, but you also can exercise disciplined focus. You would make a fine artist.

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Pesto with pizzazz

BY CAROL GODDARD
Contributor

Wander past the Presto Pesto stand at one of many area farmers markets, and you're likely to be tempted by a slice of the cheesy bread a staffer will offer. A toasted slice of Italian bread is covered with melted asiago cheese and topped with a dollop of a unique pesto. The crunch of the bread provides a satisfying complement to the tangy cheese while the pesto adds a rich depth of flavor.

The combination is so addictive that many folks wind up taking a tub or two of the special homemade pesto home after tasting.

Bob Garbowicz, who lives in Bolingbrook, spent a year perfecting this pesto and then tweaked it again about five years ago, substituting pistachios for pine nuts.

Bountiful basil

His burgeoning pesto business all started about eight years ago when his 12 basil plants yielded a bountiful harvest. And while he used basil in a lot of recipes, this was more than he could handle.

"Lord, what am I supposed to do with all this," he said.

And as he tells it, "He said, 'Put in some olive oil.'"

That set him on a path that led him to create a unique pesto, after a year of testing and tasting. Eventually he hit upon the flavor combination he wanted, and he started selling tubs at local craft fairs.

About five years ago, a customer at Harper College in Palatine suggested he try pistachios instead of traditional pine nuts.

"When pine nuts went to over $5 a pound, I went to pistachios," he said.

Today Garbowicz sells tubs and tubs of his pesto at 12 area farmers markets, including Hinsdale, Northbrook, Western Springs, Deerfield, Northfield and Glenview. Although he offers traditional pine nut pesto as well as nut free, cheese free and other combinations, the pistachio pesto is his biggest seller.

"We sell it 75:1 (pistachio pesto to pine nut)," he said.

And his timing couldn't be better as artisanal products such as jams, hummus, and relishes are among the latest food trends.

Garbowicz is understandably proprietary about his pesto recipe, but a taste will reveal no garlic and tiny bits of dried tomatoes.

Although he has no formal training in cooking, he grew up watching his mother make large batches of lasagna and pasta for her three growing boys. Inspired by her, he went on to work as a line chef and sous chef.

"I've always been interested in good food and how to put it together," he said.

Going organic

Having mastered the pesto recipe, he wants to focus on making his pesto all organic.

Unable to find a supplier of organic dried tomatoes, he put in 800 San Marzano tomato plants so he can dry his own. He's looking for a California supplier of organic basil to supplement his 450 plants.

More recipes are available on the Presto Pesto website (www.prestopesto.com).

Bob's Alfredo Pesto

2 tablespoons Presto Pesto
2 cups Alfredo sauce
1 pound large grilled shrimp (2 pounds uncooked makes about 1 pound grilled), cut in thirds
1 pound angel hair pasta

Cook pasta and drain, saving some pasta water. Mix together Presto Pesto, Alfredo sauce and shrimp. Pour over pasta and thin with pasta water, if needed.

Bob's Cold Salad

2 cups cooked couscous
4 tablespoons Presto Pesto

Mix well and serve cold.

Presto Pesto Cheesy Bread

This is the snack Presto Pesto offers at its farmers market stands.

1 loaf Italian bread (sliced 1/2-inch thick)
6 ounces freshly shredded asiago or Parmesan cheese
8 ounces Presto Pesto

Mix well and serve cold.

Pesto Alfredo Salad

2 tablespoons Presto Pesto
4 tablespoons Alfredo sauce
1 pound grilled), cut in thirds
1 pound large shrimp
Pesto

Remove from oven to 400 degrees. Put slices of bread on foil-lined cookie sheet. Sprinkle about a tablespoon of cheese on each slice. Bake in oven until cheese melts and bread begins to lightly brown on the edges.

Remove from oven. Top with 1 tablespoon room temperature Presto Pesto.
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
Matt Haider, Worship /Music
Michael Lyda, Children/Youth/Family

MORTON GROVE

Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
Morton Grove, IL
(847) 965-2962
www.mgccpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Fellowship 11 AM
Rev. Lolly Dominski
Handicapped Accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

NORTHFIELD

Willow Creek Community Church
North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Road
847-441-6599
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 am
Promisedland (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

NORWICH

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 Jeffery King

To showcase your House of Worship here
call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
To showcase your House of Worship here call 630-978-8277 or worship@Pioneerlocal.com
Area singers compete in 'Olympics of choral music'

DES PLAINES — Twenty-seven members of the Northwest Choral Society traveled July 14 to Cincinnati, Ohio, to participate in the seventh biannual "World Choir Games" — the Olympics of choral music, according to a news release.

"We had a terrific performance at the World Choir Games," said NWCS Artistic Director Alan Weilman, in the release. "They sang beautifully, with nuance and elegance. The clinicians were impressed and provided useful evaluation. I could not be more proud of the music we made."

The World Choir Games are the largest international choral competition in the world held every two years, the release stated. About 15,000 participants in 380 choirs from 48 countries participated in Cincinnati for the two-week choral festival. That includes about 80 regional choirs, representing 22 of the U.S. states. NWCS was one of three participating from Illinois. Previous games have been in Austria, China, Germany and South Korea, and the 2014 Games are scheduled for Riga, Latvia.

Though the seventh World Choir Games provided for international competition in 23 musical categories, ranging from children's choirs to show choirs and jazz to barbershop, the NWCS performed for a non-competitive evaluation and coaching. The group performed three pieces for a panel of international experts, who offered coaching suggestions at the conclusion. Their adjudicators included choir directors from Indonesia and Sweden, and a music professor from Gustus Adolphus College in Minnesota.

During a separate session Ronald Smart, retired principal of the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney, Australia, rehearsed one of the NWCS's pieces in order to provide new artistic ideas.

"Vocal music instills in us not only a love of music, but also a passion for life itself. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to perform on a world stage," said NWCS member David Hitch, of Des Plaines.

The Umoja Men's Chorus, a group of 16 inmates from the Warren Correctional Institution in Lebanon, Ohio, competed from behind the prison's barbed-wire fences for a panel of adjudicators that traveled to Lebanon to hear them perform a day before the official opening of the 2012 World Choir Games.

"The theme of the Games was, 'Singing together brings nations together.' We certainly saw that happen in Cincinnati," said NWCS President Penny Perles of Mount Prospect.

Founded in 1965 the Northwest Choral Society is a non-profit organization that promotes and encourages the appreciation, understanding and performance of a wide variety of outstanding choral literature. Its adult membership resides in the greater Chicago area.

The Northwest Choral Society performs concerts in suburban venues in December, March and June. It invites experienced singers to audition to join the organization. Bass, tenor, alto and soprano singers with previous choral experience and who are 17 years of age can obtain additional information about the Northwest Choral Society at www.nwchoralsociety.org.

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) 466-7495 or email to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, phone (847) 823-0453. Information may be faxed to (847) 823-0453 or email to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

Center of Concern:
The Pledge of Concern:
The 2012 World Choir Games.

NORTHWEST CHORAL SOCIETY

Area singers compete in 'Olympics of choral music'

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Goers will enjoy a live meet-and-greet Aug. 16. The performance will feature fan favorite, "Hit Meballs," at 3 p.m. in Center Court of Golf Mill Shopping Center at 3 p.m.

Polish star Andre Bellos will perform a free live concert and have self-confidence talks at 7:15 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Morton Grove, 774-9671.

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

Niles Chapter Toastmasters: Meets 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

Live concert: Local music pop star Andre Bellos will perform a free live concert in Center Court of Golf Mill Shopping Center at 3 p.m. Aug. 16. The performance will feature fan favorite, "Hit Meballs." Concert-goers will enjoy a live meet and greet with Bellos after the performance and have a chance to snap a photo and take home an autographed poster. The performance will continue as Studio 22 High Tek Dance Team performs their award winning routines at 4:15 p.m. Director of Studio 22, Jackie Graney, is currently a Chicago Luvari Staff Goodie. Bags will be provided to the first 150 attendees. Also, event-goers can enter to win family four-packs of admission passes to Brookfield Zoo and their summer long temporary exhibit XTreme Bugs, plus gift cards.

Parish Picnic: St. John Brebeuf Church will hold a picnic on the parish grounds, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., from 1-3:30 p.m. Aug. 12, rain or shine. All are welcome. There will be activities for all ages including games, bingo, live music, and karaoke. Food will be available throughout the day at nominal cost. A catered pork dinner will be served starting at 5 p.m. (advance ticket purchase required.) Call the parish office, (847) 966-4165.

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 tickets $20. Tickets can be purchased from the Polish National Alliance, (800) 621-3723, Ext. 316; Polish Roman Catholic Union, (800) 772-6623, Ext. 260; Polish Falcons of America, (574) 289-2140; the Polish Women's Alliance, (800) 522-1898, Ext. 1208, or through Ed Kaczynski, (708) 496-6184. See www.pna-znp.org.

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center: 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie; information: (847) 967-4800; reservations: (847) 967-4889, www.ilholocaustmuseum.org. Admission prices: General Admission, $12; seniors (65+), $10; students (ages 5-11), $6. Reservations required for programs. To Jan. 6, 2013: Special exhibition, "Spies, Traitors and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in Guatemala in the 1980s." Discussion with filmmaker Peter Kinoy follows the screening taking place from 1-4 p.m. Aug. 12 at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St., Chicago. Free; reservations required at (312) 433-3907. Elusive Justice — Candice Bergen narrates this fascinating PBS documentary that reveals a more than six decades-long commitment to apprehending Nazi war criminals and placing them on trial for crimes against humanity, examining those who helped achieve justice as well as those who aided war criminals to escape; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Aug. 19. Free with Museum admission. Reservations recommended.

Solid Waste Agency: Northern Cook County has established a Battery Recycling Program for rechargeable and alkaline batteries partnered with Interstate Batteries in Skokie to provide recycling at no cost to SWANCC communities. Common household batteries are no longer accepted at Illinois EPA-sponsored household chemical waste events and facilities due to their benign nature and high recycling costs. Batteries accepted in SWANCC’s program: Alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D and 9V) and rechargeable (NiCd, NiMh, Lithium ion, lithium polymer). Before dropping off rechargeable batteries, residents need to tape the contact points on each battery or place in an individual self-locking plastic bag to avoid sparks. Local drop-off sites include: Niles Public Services Department, 8649 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic 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.htm.

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, 1551 N. River Road, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. Under the new Electronics Products Recycling and Reuse Act (SB2313), only the following items accepted: Computers — PCs and laptops, scanners, computer monitors, mobile phones, peripherals — mice, keyboards, zip drives, MP3 players, televisions, PDAs — printers, VHS players, fax machines, game consoles, and DVD/cable boxes. Electronics from businesses, institutions or schools not accepted. Visit swancc.org.

Threshold Singers: Any women interested in joining the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Threshold Singers can contact Kathy Huber at (847) 685-9900. Practices 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. 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 singing and a desire to provide comfort and solace to the dying.
Program: United Home Loans
Rate: 709-531-8388

Program: Allstar Home Mortgage, INC
Rate: 847-441-5050

Program: Kenilworth Financial, Inc.
Rate: 630-812-2100

Program: Liberty Bank for Savings
Rate: 888-547-5970

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ON THE INTERNET at
http://suburbanchicagonewspapers.interest.com
Express Condolences

Sign the online Guest Book

For local community Death Notices visit pioneerlocal.com

Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems. Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
In a tight job market, what you wear to an interview could be the difference between getting an offer and getting rejected.

"By not really investing in your appearance, it can actually cost you the job," says New York City-based image consultant and personal stylist David A. McKnight. "Nine out of 10 employers say, when all else is equal, they select the most attractive candidate, or the candidate that presents themselves the best.

Here are six style tips to ensure your look is a career asset, not a liability.

Create Your 'Visual' Resume
Make sure your attire is sending the right message about your capabilities, says Mary Lou Andre, a Needham, Massachusetts-based image consultant and author of Ready To Wear: An Expert's Guide to Choosing and Using Your Wardrobe.

"Shift your thought pattern on dressing from a fashionista type of approach to one tied to competency, communication, respect and appropriate boundary-setting," Andre says. "You don't have to be boring, but you do have to think about it."

Suit Up
Unless you're told otherwise, always wear a suit to a first interview. For women, a pantsuit is no longer a fashion don't, and as acceptable as the traditional skirted power suit.

"A suit is a sign of respect for the company as well as the person interviewing you," McKnight says. "It's always better to be overdressed than underdressed."

The Rules Apply
Knowing the office's "rules" - whether written or not - is critical, especially for younger job seekers, according to Andre.

"A young guy who doesn't wear socks to an interview at a financial firm won't be taken seriously, while a young woman should be careful not to bare too much skin."

'Mad' for Tradition
More than one in three people say their workplace has gotten more formal over the past 12 months, according to a poll.

But while the fitted suits and skinny ties made popular by the retro TV series "Mad Men" can work in most office settings, it's important not to go overboard.

"You don't want people to stop and stare," McKnight says. "You need to understand the balance between looking trendy and looking current."

Put Your Best Foot Forward
Clothes may make the man, but beware the wrong shoes, especially if they're unpolished.

"When you look at men's shoes, if they're square toed, chunky or have rubber soles, that completely dismantles the whole appearance," McKnight says.

Stretch Your Fashion Budget
If your budget doesn't allow for major purchases, Andre recommends spending $100 on tailoring to update key pieces or improve their fit.

Another wallet-friendly purchase is a basic dark suit, which doesn't show wear and tear and can be worn with different ties or accessories to first, second and third interviews.

Finally, weed out anything you're not wearing on a regular basis.

"Shop in your closet first," Andre says. "We wear 20 percent of what's in there 80 percent of the time. Give yourself permission to get rid of that other 80 percent. Turn it into cash by selling it, or give it to charity."
**Help Wanted Full-Time**

**ACCOUNTANT Full-Time**

The City of Park Ridge seeks a qualified accountant for the position of Accountant. Responsibilities include processing accounts receivable and payable, maintaining general ledger accounts, and preparing financial statements. Experience in a similar role is preferred. Bachelor's degree in accounting and three years of experience in accounting are required. Apply by August 9, 2012.

**BOOKKEEPER Full-Time**

Full-Time, Knowledge in Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Bookkeeping. Must have computer skills and experience with QuickBooks. Email resume to greet@methodisthospitals.org

**Bus Driver Needed**

Lake County, IL, full-time position. Must have CDL A and clean driving record. Excellent pay and benefits. Contact 847-774-0000

**Clerical Assistant Needed**

For a full-time position in the Office of the President. Position requires exceptional organizational skills, attention to detail, and strong communication skills. Apply by August 9, 2012.

**Custodian Needed**

For a full-time position at a local school district. Must be available during standard school hours and maintain a clean and safe environment. Apply by August 9, 2012.

**Electrician Needed**

For a full-time position with a local utility company. Must have experience with electrical systems and be able to work independently. Apply by August 9, 2012.

**Accounts Payable Specialist**

For a full-time position with a local manufacturer. Must have experience with accounts payable and strong attention to detail. Apply by August 9, 2012.

**Assistant Professor Needed**

For a full-time position in the Department of Chemistry. Must have a Ph.D. in Chemistry and teaching experience. Apply by August 9, 2012.

**Marketing Coordinator Needed**

For a full-time position with a local non-profit organization. Must have experience with marketing and strong organizational skills. Apply by August 9, 2012.

**Personal Trainer Needed**

For a full-time position with a local fitness center. Must have a certification in personal training and strong communication skills. Apply by August 9, 2012.
To place a classified ad, contact:

847-998-3400
847-998-3400

EEO • Drug Free
## Garage Sales Guide

### Address

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>9am to 3pm</td>
<td>9am to 3pm</td>
<td>9am to 3pm</td>
<td>9am to 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>3656 N. Oleander</td>
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**Judicial Sales-Real Est.**

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- Condos, Lots
- Duplex
- Open Houses

**Mobile Homes**
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- Apartment Buildings
- Co-Op Apartments

**Senior Housing**
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- Barns, Homes Built to Order

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**Vacation Property**
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**Judicial Sales - Legal**
- Houses
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- Townhomes
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- Norridge
- Other County

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MORRISON GROVE CONDOMINUM COURT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CONDO ACTION - CHANCERY

Case No. 10-CH-002857

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NO. 10-17-317-029

AN ORDER OF POSSESSION. IN

765 ILCS 605/18,5(q-t). IF YOU

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SLAMMERS TRAVEL SOFTBALL TRYOUTS
Tryouts for the 2012-13 North Suburban Slammers fast pitch softball teams at the 10U, 12U, 14U, age levels will be held at the Varsity Softball Field at Niles West High School, 5701 Oakton St., Skokie, on August 12, 14, 16 and 18th (easiest access is from Gross Point Rd.). Tryout times for each age group are as follows:

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ARRIVE 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START TIME.

Check out Slammers FAQ’s at www.wolves219.org. Please check the Slammers website at url.219.org/slammers for any updated information. Contact John Frake at 847-254-7104 or 219feederssoftball@gmail.com with any questions.
Yamat and Calderone deliver solid 1-2 punch

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

PARK RIDGE — Maine East golfer Orion Yamat's rookie proved a success on many different fronts. Yamat, who was just 13 years old after skipping a grade, became the first Blue Demons golfer in a decade to reach sectionals. He also helped the team to four dual-meet victories, after going winless the previous season.

Yamat's success also appears to have had additional benefits for the school's golf program, including from a marketing standpoint.

"We tasted some success and people in the school heard about it, whether from newspapers or (school) announcements," Maine East's eighth-year head coach Tony Montesano said. "I think it made students realize there really is a golf team here. In May, when I posted a sign-up sheet for this season, I got more sign-ups than any other previous year. I had about a dozen and normally I get one or two."

Montesano pointed out that just because golfers signed up didn't guarantee they would be present for tryouts, which began this week. But the implication was clear — Yamat has been good for Maine East golf.

Yamat's freshman season was highlighted by his first-place medal at the eight-team Grant Invite and a third-place finish at the 30-plus-team Fon- ton Invite. The youngster's low score was a 74. Though the incoming sophomore didn't advance to the IHSA state meet, Montesano said a trip to that event appears to be in Yamat's future.

"I think state is a good possibility," the coach said. "Now, he has the experience and knows what the (postseason) competition is all about. I know he was disappointed that he didn't go to state. But he was only a freshman, and to make it as far as he did ... I know he'll have his eyes on the prize and will want to go (to state). If it falls through (this year), then as a junior or senior he almost certainly will go."

Yamat appears to be entering the high school season in good form after a solid summer. In late June, he finished 11th at the Illinois State Junior Amateur, in Barrington, where he registered a hole-in-one on a 164-yard hole.

Montesano said consistency is the key to Yamat's game.

"A lot of people ask me what he needs to improve, and I don't have an answer for that," he said. "Most of the time he's hitting fairways with his tee shot, is on the green with his second shot and then two-putts. They are not fancy shots. He's just hitting the ball straight and putting it where he wants it."

The coach said Yamat's drives should only increase distance as he gets older and stronger.

"But this is not a longest drive contest," Montesano said. "He proves that if you keep the ball straight, you can score well on any course."

The presence of fellow sophomore Anthony Calderone, the team's No. 2 golfer last season, ensures Maine East will have a solid one-two punch for years to come.

Seniors Alex Kniess, L.J. Farley and Matthew Boetcher also return and are expected to round out a solid top five.

With Yamat and Calderone scoring consistently at the top of the lineup, Montesano said the key to success will be the other golfers' ability to raise their game.

"We'll always take those two scores, so we just need two more guys out of the remaining six to have a really good day," he said. "Hopefully, they'll have those good days, and if the other team is having a bad day, all of a sudden, we'll have a few more victories."

Lee heads lineup of returning Wolves

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

SKOKIE — Niles West junior golfer Nate Lee is a two-time IHSA State Meet qualifier, who appears poised to make an impact at this season's signature event in mid-October, in Bloomington.

"My thought is that he's probably one of the top 20 players in the state, and I would think he would be shooting for a top-20 finish," Niles West head coach Mitch Stern said. "Who knows? He's just as good as anybody and we could have a state champion on our hands. All I know is he's a good player."

If he's playing well, hitting greens and making putts, he's got a real shot this year and his senior year. He's the real deal."

Practice for the 2012 golf season began this week, and Lee enters in good form after registering several top-five finishes in local amateur tournaments over the summer.

Lee, who finished 80th at the Class 3A State Meet last season, has been working on his short game, according to his coach.

"I think he's trying to be more creative around the greens," Stern said. "He's hitting different wedge shots and trying not to be such a one-trick pony. He's trying to make the ball stop more (on the green) and put a little more spin on the ball. Hopefully, that has happened and he'll be able to work the ball differently around the green, instead of relying on the roll of the green."

Lee is the Wolves' lone returning sectional qualifier from last year's team, which went 4-1 in the CSL South and came in second. It was the program's best conference finish at least 12 years.

The biggest loss is Nick Hester, who missed out on state qualification when he lost a sudden-death playoff at the sectional.

"Nick got kind of a bad break when he hit a ball that got stuck on a tree stump. He had to take a drop and it kind of cost him a shot at state," Stern said. "That was kind of a drag because he was a senior and deserved better than that."

Incoming senior Brandon Moy will be counted on to fill the void left by Hester's departure.

"Brandon had some great rounds this summer and he's looking to make a name for himself this year as a senior," Stern said. "He's kind of a golfaholic and we're counting on him to step up and fill Nick's shoes."

Fellow seniors Jacob Malina and Alex Darville are two other varsity returnees.

Meanwhile, freshman Skylar LeVine enters school as a ready-made varsity player. The youngster has been playing amateur tournaments for several years, and Stern estimates LeVine could be the team's No. 5 or No. 4 player.
Furman needs to play like a veteran

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

NILS — Notre Dame golfer Sean Furman was a sophomore on the varsity last season and at times played younger than his older teammates.

"I think he tried to match the kids in score and distance, and sometimes that got him in trouble," Notre Dame head coach Bob Beckman said. "He wanted to be a player the Dons can build off of preseason practice. "He is counting on Furman to be a leader," Beckman said. "To be a leader, you have to go out and put your time in and work at it," the coach said. "From what I've heard he has gotten a lot better." As a result, Beckman said, Furman had an up-and-down campaign.

But with a year under his belt, and coming off a solid performance over the summer, Furman appears to be a player the Dons can build around. The coach said he is counting on Furman to be the team's top performer.

"His approach (to the game) is a lot better," Beckman said before the start of preseason practice. "He picked up good experience (last season) and that has set the stage for him. He knows what to expect going into this year. He has two years left, so that's two chances to go to sectionals and state. He knows the ins and outs of the varsity level and what he has to do, which will be a huge benefit."

Furman is coming off a summer when he shot a 76 and finished sixth at an Illinois Junior Golf Association tournament at Mission Hills, in Northbrook.

"(Furman) is a big kid, size-wise. Looking at him, you'd think he was a senior," Beckman said. "He hit the ball longer than the other juniors. He hit the ball long last year as a sophomore. Now, he has more tournaments under his belt."

Junior Will Clarke likely will be the Dons' No. 2 golfer. Capable of shooting in the 70s, Clarke starred last season for Notre Dame's successful sophomore team.

The 2011 varsity had plenty of success of its own, going 12-5 and advancing three to the sectional. Those three — Keenan Connolly, Mike Kolodziej and Mike Schroeder — are among the five seniors who graduated. This year's team should feature four seniors. Perhaps the best of that bunch is Yosemite Bonalock, who began his career at Notre Dame before attending Maine West last year. Bonalock missed qualifying for sectionals by a stroke in 2011.

The team's other seniors are Mike Canova, Nick Bojko and Gino Jacobazzi.

Beckman said Bojko had "bumped out. We have a lot of talent on the junior level." The team's other seniors are Mike Canova, Nick Bojko and Gino Jacobazzi.

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Beckman said Bojko had "bumped out. We have a lot of talent on the junior level." The team's other seniors are Mike Canova, Nick Bojko and Gino Jacobazzi.
Niles West’s Alex Darville (left) played the wing for the Wolves, but set up in the post this summer for Joy of the Game.  

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Contributor

SKOKIE — Alex Darville routinely found himself out of position in the one month he played on Joy of the Game 17 Red II this summer.
Darville, listed as 6-foot-3, primarily played shooting guard or small forward during his junior season at Niles West, but at Joy of the Game he was asked to adapt to the team’s needs. Because 17 Red II only had one player taller than Darville, coach Zack Ryan regularly put the Niles West senior at power forward or center.

Defensively, the task was daunting. Darville was forced to front taller players in the post, using his quickness to try to dissuade guards from feeding the ball inside. On the offensive end, however, Darville was the perfect piece for Joy of the Game. He brought versatility to the team and allowed the squad to play an up-tempo style that was a major reason why it demolished expectations to finish sixth out of 88 teams in Division II at AAU Nationals.

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Darville switched to Joy of the Game in July after playing for Full Package Athletics in the spring.

Darville’s spring AAU session ended with a sprained ankle, just like it did one year ago. While a sprained ankle might not seem significant, to Darville, who missed six weeks after spraining his right ankle last summer, it was a frustrating moment.

“It was a here-we-go-again kind of thing,” said Darville, a Skokie resident. “Because of last time, I knew a lot of the rehab exercises I did, so right after it happened I started doing those right away so I could get right back to playing. I’ve gone through physical therapy and it feels 100 percent right now.”

With Nationals closing out the final AAU basketball tournament of the summer, Darville’s focus now shifts to golf. He’ll play on Niles West’s golf team this fall before returning to basketball.

Darville will also try to find a suitable college destination, one that allows him to play basketball while also studying engineering.

Although he played for Ryan for only a month, Darville left a positive impression on his Joy of the Game coach, especially with the way he played at AAU Nationals, in Kissimmee, Fla.

“I think he could be a very, very good Division III player somewhere because he works extremely hard and he’s very coachable,” Ryan said. “He was one of the most coachable kids we had. He takes what you have to say to him and he uses it. And he’s skilled. He can play a variety of positions because he’s kind of middle sized—he’s 6-2 and a wing — but for us he had to get down and grind with big guys. He can rebound, he can step out and shoot — he’s pretty versatile.”
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