BACK TO THE BOOKS

Ashley Roman, of Park Ridge, looks for a student's box of prepackaged books Aug. 8 in the cafeteria at Maine East High School in Park Ridge. Students who order all their books packaged in a box can pick them up a week before students who buy their books individually. PAGE 7 | ROB HART-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

WACKY, WILD REPORTS
Tales torn from pages of the news PAGE 24

BREAKING THE FAST
Lentil salad celebrates end of Ramadan PAGE 32
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Lincolnwood
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$310,500
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Glenview
$399,000
Glenview
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Glenview
$499,000
Stylish 4-7800, 4,184 offers hardwood firs, present maple & granite kitchen. 1st fl & BA, updated master, finished lower level.
Glenview
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Glenview
$699,000
Wonderful 5 br, 3.5 ba large home. Hdwd & granite firs. Cook's kitchen w/brkfst rm overlooking yard. Huge fin bsmt w/hardwood firs.
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Helen Sparkes, of Niles, talks about her opposition to the introduction of a fare during a public hearing for service changes to the Niles Free Bus service at Village Hall on Aug. 9. CURTIS LEHMKUHL-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

VILLAGE HALL

Riders not on board with Niles Free Bus fare

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

NILES — Regular riders of the Niles Free Bus shared their thoughts on a proposed fare last week during the first of two public hearings at Niles Village Hall.

The proposed fare increase is 25 cents per one-way trip and 10 cents per one-way trip for seniors age 65 or older, with children younger than 7 riding free.

Patricia Harris, who has been living at the Niles YMCA since 2002 due to an illness, said she depends on the Niles Free Bus to get around and that the proposed fare would impact her financially.

“A lot of times they (riders) don’t even have a quarter on them,” Harris said. “So, what do you do?”

Harris said all of the quarters and dimes make a big difference to her and it may mean being without change when she needs it to buy things at the vending machine at the YMCA or riding the bus.

“Every little bit hurts,” Harris said of the proposed fare.

A few residents echoed her thoughts and did not want to see a fare implemented or services decreased.

Others, like resident Evelyn Fowler, did not mind paying a fee, but would rather see some type of a pass that would eliminate the need to carry around change.

“I feel as if it is deserving,” said senior Lorraine Kapela, who rides the bus five days a week and supports the proposed fare.

Kapela said the drivers are very considerate and professional, and she realizes it’s an expensive operation to run and does not mind paying a fee.

The courtesy bus system costs the village about $650,000 a year to operate. Village trustees have asked staff to reduce the cost of operating the bus system. The proposed fee is expected to bring in about $65,000 a year.

One speaker said he feels too much money is being spent on the Niles Free Bus. Other speakers had questions about whether disabled passengers would also face a fee. Mike Haws, fleet manager for the Public Works Department, said officials haven’t yet addressed the topic of disabled riders.

Under the proposal, the discontinuation of service on Presidents Day, Veterans Day and the village’s Spring Holiday is being considered. The temporary discontinuation of service on weekends for the Route 413 South End Special is also up for discussion.

This year the cost of the free bus went $75,000 over budget, but PACE reimbursed the village, Finance Director Scot Neukirch explained. He said that the total operating expense to run the bus system was about $1,578,000, of which the village contributed about $643,000, though after the reimbursement that amount dropped to $568,000.

Neukirch said the village is expected to put in 36 percent of the budgeted expenses for the bus, and PACE picks up the rest.

Village Manager George Van Geem said officials recorded the hearings to be shown to village-board members who weren’t able to attend. In September the board will have an opportunity to discuss the Free Bus proposal.

The 411 Route serves Golf Mill, Notre Dame High School, Civic Center Plaza, the library and other places. The 412 route goes to Golf Mill, Four Flags and Golf Glen. The third route, 413, travels to the Leaning Tower YMCA, Pointe Plaza, Village Crossing Shopping Center and elsewhere.
‘HONORARY KALPANA CHAWLA WAY’

Street naming honors astronaut, South Asian community

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

MAINE TOWNSHIP — Kalpana Chawla didn’t have a direct connection to Maine Township, but the late U.S. astronaut, killed in the 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia explosion, is receiving permanent recognition near a local park.

In unincorporated Maine Township a stretch of Dee Road between Emerson Street and West Oaks Avenues has been designated “Honorary Kalpana Chawla Way.” An honorary street sign at the southwest corner of Dee and Emerson was unveiled during the townships National Night Out event Aug. 7.

For Maine Township Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano the sign is a tribute to the area’s large South Asian community and he hopes residents will be inspired when they see it.

“She was a great woman who accomplished so much in the space industry,” Provenzano said of Chawla. “I thought it was very fitting. She’s somebody who could be a role model for the children here.”

He added: “This is a person everyone can relate to. It puts religion aside and politics aside. That’s why we felt this would be the perfect match, the perfect fit for our community.”

The idea to honor Chawla’s memory came when Provenzano was looking through a file of proposed projects and remembered that a young girl had approached him at a National Night Out event a few years earlier and the topic of Chawla’s status as a U.S. astronaut of Indian descent came up. He decided to do some research and, while meeting with residents in the community, learned that most of the children he spoke with knew of her.

“She’s a prominent and well-known role model in the (Indian-American) community,” Provenzano said.

The location of Dee and Emerson was chosen for the sign because Dee Park is a gathering place for the large South Asian community in Maine Township has been designated as Honorary Kalpana Chawla Way Dee Road between Emerson Street and West Oaks Avenue in unincorporated Maine Township has been designated as Honorary Kalpana Chawla Way in recognition of the late U.S. astronaut.

Kalpana Chawla was the first Indian-born woman to fly in space. She was born in Karnal, Haryana, India, in 1961 and after earning a PhD from the University of Colorado she joined the NASA Ames Research Center in San Francisco. Her first space flight was in 1997; her last was in 2003 aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, which blew apart upon re-entry to the Earth, killing all the crew on board.

According to NASA, Chawla made 252 orbits of Earth during her astronaut career. She was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, the NASA Space Flight Medal and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal.
Students say 'so long' to summer

Renovations, respect, residency requirements top District 207 back-to-school highlights

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE — When Maine South High School students return to class next week they'll be greeted by familiar friends and, for most, a welcome building improvement.

The Park Ridge school's vintage restrooms have been undergoing major renovations and will be complete by the time the first bell rings on Aug. 22.

"They won't look like it's 1964 anymore," Principal Shawn Messmer noted.

The upgrades, which will include new fixtures, paint, tiles and lighting, were the result of requests from students.

"When I started here two years ago there was an open letter to the principal in our school newsletter and one of the things they mentioned was a desire to have the bathrooms upgraded," Messmer said.

Other summer improvements at the school will be most noticeable to the students who spend a lot of time underwater.

"We did a lot of work on our pool this year, re-grouting and fixing up some things," Messmer said. "It looks great in there. It looks like a brand-new pool."

Students in Maine Township High School District 207 begin the 2012-13 school year on Aug. 22 with a full-day of classes for freshmen and a nearly full-day for upperclassmen — a change from previous years when only freshmen spent the entire first day in school.

It's a time when Messmer shares a familiar nugget of advice with his students: get involved in school activities outside the classroom.

"I think it's very important so high school doesn't fly by without some positive, fun, social memories for them," he noted.

Maine East High School Principal Michael Pressler also reminds students to not be afraid to approach an adult if they need help.

"If you have a question, ask. If you need help, ask," Pressler said. "We have so many people in the building who want our kids to do well, but sometimes its ultimately up to the student to ask."

This year Maine East will continue to embrace and promote the "R-Code," a program encouraging students to be "respectful, responsible and ready!" The R-Code was introduced during the 2011-12 school year with student incentives for good behavior and will continue during the new school year, Pressler indicated.

"The whole focus is to be positive and proactive," the principal said of the initiative. One area of focus will be how students engage in social media with reminders to be respectful and responsible in their use of it.

There were no major improvement projects at Maine East over the summer, but students may notice new carpeting in the school's auditorium, which is also scheduled to receive a new stage curtain in September, replacing one that may be about five decades old, Pressler said.

District-wide, one significant change that families may have noticed is a new requirement that they prove residency within District 207 prior to the start of every school year.

In the past, explained District 207 spokesman David Beery, only incoming freshmen and transfer students were required to show documentation that they lived in the district, but now all students must do so.

"It's simply an effort to ensure, as part of our responsibility to property-tax payers, that everyone who is enrolled in our schools lives within the district boundaries," Beery said.

Concerns about students living outside the district but still attending Maine Township high schools prompted the new requirement, he explained.

"We don't have specific numbers, but that sort of thing came to our attention often enough that we concluded that we needed to be more diligent about it," Beery said.

As a result, families were required to provide a copy of a tax bill, a closing statement for the purchase of a new residence or a signed lease. Also required were copies of utility bills, a vehicle-sticker receipt, proof of homeowners or renter's insurance, or a public-aid card.

Returning students may also notice many new faces at Maine South and Maine East this school year. Due to a large number of retirements there are plenty of teachers and staff joining each building for the first time. Maine South will welcome 14 new staff members while there are more than 20 new teachers and support staff at Maine East.
DISTRICT 219

New dean appointed at Niles West High School

SKOKIE — Antwan Babakhani has been named dean of students at Niles West High School following the Aug. 6 Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education meeting, according to a news release.

Babakhani joins the district from Chicago Public Schools, having served most recently as assistant principal of curriculum and instruction at Amundsen High School, the release stated. Babakhani received the prestigious Emerging Leader Award in 2009 from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). The previous year he received the Dan & Pat Jornsld "Joy of Teaching" Award at Amundsen.

"Antwan is a distinguished professional who rose to the top of an amazing crop of applicants," said Niles West Principal Kaine Osburn said in the release. "He has been a successful instructional and administrative leader, and he knows well what success looks like in a diverse community like ours. We are lucky to have him aboard."

As assistant principal at Amundsen, Babakhani developed a collaborative discipline model based on the principles of restorative justice. The new approach, which enlisted the support of counselors, deans, teachers and parents, led to a dramatic drop in out-of-school suspensions, the release stated.

He also coordinated a small learning-communities grant to engineer a standards-based grading initiative to prepare teachers for ninth- and 10th-grade benchmarking using the Common Core State Standards, the release stated.

Babakhani started at Amundsen in 2005 as an English teacher. He was head wrestling coach for three years. He earned his master's degree in Reading from Concordia University in Chicago and holds a Bachelor of Science in English Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

DISTRICT 207

Officials reluctantly OK hire of tech temps

BY TRACY GRUEN
Contributor

PARK RIDGE — The Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education voted to hire two temporary computer programmers to work on a new data system, but not without some hesitation.

Each computer programmer will work about 900 hours at a total maximum cost of $80,000 to the district, the district reported. They will be paid $45 an hour.

Hank Thiele, chief technology officer for District 207, explained to board members that he has only one staff member capable of doing the required work, and he needs additional assistance to get the job done in a timely fashion.

The new data system, called Aspen, will allow staff to find information more quickly, help with more-complex data searches, and print out reports, labels, transcripts, report cards and more.

The new computer programmers will analyze and extract data from the system.

With an auto-dialer feature within the new data system Thiele said instead of staff members spending hours calling students' homes about absences, the calls would be generated automatically.

"It's disappointing we've known about it for 18 months and this was the first time the board's been told about it," said board member Margarete McGrath, adding that she wished she had known about the extra cost for the system earlier.

Board member Edward Mueller, echoing McGrath's concerns, said there never seems to be enough technology.

"You can keep spending or at some point put on the brakes," he said.

Thiele said he had hoped staff would have the capacity to implement the new technology, but that officials realized in January that they would not be able to do so without some outside help.

"It's an evolving process," Thiele said.

Thiele said it’s a much more “dynamic” data system and will improve communication.

The system allows staff to communicate more efficiently with students and parents by allowing them to check grades online, he said.

"It's an initial investment," Thiele said. "But over time it will pay for itself, hopefully."

This upcoming school year will be the first full academic year with the upgraded system, and the computer programmers will help to put the final touches on it, Thiele explained.

Thiele explained that about six years ago the district's technology budget was at its peak. He said it then came back down and is now back up to where it was.
Superintendent completes leadership program

NILES — Niles Elementary School District 71 Superintendent Amy Kruppe is now a member of the Illinois School for Advanced Leadership’s first graduating class, according to a news release.

“The ISAL program was an outstanding experience that continued to increase my leadership skills through visionary best practice research,” stated Kruppe, who has been an educator for 21 years, the last five as superintendent in the Niles Elementary District. “The ability to collaborate with other colleagues and national experts during these difficult economic times and enormous educational changes was an outstanding opportunity.”

ISAL was developed and is sponsored by the Illinois Association of School Administrators, the statewide organization that represents public school superintendents. The goal was to create a new level of leadership in public education.

“Given all of the challenges facing superintendents and public education in Illinois, we thought it was important to provide a unique opportunity through rigorous curriculum, training and experiences for those men and women who were willing to push themselves beyond what is expected of a superintendent,” said IASA Executive Director Brent Clark in the release. “We were looking for ‘Trail Blazers’ — people who would go where others had never gone. What we ended up with is a dedicated group of educators who are specially trained to lead their school districts and to help create a vision for public education in our state.”

The two-year ISAL program included: a professional coach; developing a personalized professional growth plan for student achievement; and conducting a comprehensive needs assessment to determine district and leadership needs, the release stated.

ISAL also studied the superintendent’s role through five leadership lenses: facilitator of shared moral purpose, change agent, relationship/culture promoter, capacity builder and coherence maker.

The program culminated with the 23 becoming charter members of a distinguished group known as ISAL Fellows at the graduation ceremony Aug. 4, at the IASA headquarters in Springfield.

“We are really proud of this group of superintendents,” Clark said in the release.

Clark said IASA is now accepting applications for ISAL II, which will begin in January of 2013.

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MAINE SOUTH
Assistant principal in lauded for partnership building

PARK RIDGE — Rose Garlasco, assistant principal of Maine South High School in Park Ridge, is the recipient of the 2012 Reaching Out and Building Bridges Award from the Illinois Principals Association, according to a news release.

Sharing the award is the Joint Community Resource and Recovery Team (JCRRT) of Park Ridge.

The Reaching Out and Building Bridges Award was created to recognize a principal or assistant principal, as well as an agency, association or community member, displaying an outstanding effort in creating partnerships between schools, principals and organizations.

In her position as assistant principal Garlasco is responsible for student safety. When Maine Township High School District 207 received an Emergency Response and Management Grant in 2002, Garlasco was instrumental in developing the local JCRRT, said Kim Zinman of the Illinois Principals Association.

“Rose has been able, along with JCRRT members, to sustain this service to the schools and the community long after the grant ended,” Zinman said.

Garlasco will be recognized in October at a special ceremony during the Illinois Principals Association Fall Professional Conference in Peoria.

The IPA serves over 4,200 educational leaders statewide and exists to advance learning through educational leadership.
Intercity Police, Niles and unincorporated Maine Township, Park Ridge, North Maine Fire Department, Maine Township Office of Emergency Management volunteers and township officials.

Posters created by local children lined a fence near the park's splash pad, all created following the theme, "Be a buddy, not a bully."

Just a few miles to the east, at Washington Park in Niles, citizens were also celebrating National Night Out. The young volunteers included teenagers, performing classical Indian dances and, later, Bollywood-style moves.

Ed Bacher, of Niles, a Niles Police Department special services officer, makes hot dogs Aug. 7 for crowds attending National Night Out.

A CLOSER LOOK

Communities come out against crime

Neighbors of area towns foster partnership with police during National Night Out

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

A police officer is drenched over and over again by broken water balloons in a game requiring children to throw a ball and hit the appropriate target.

In a park less than 4 miles away classical Indian dances and a Punjabi-infused Bollywood number are performed on Aug. 7 during National Night Out at Washington Park.

Anthony Jara, of Niles, and his brother, Nick, play in water being sprayed by Niles firefighters Aug. 7 during National Night Out at Washington Park.

The success of such an endeavor can't really be quantified, the police chief said, but resident turnover and the fact that, according to department officials, nearly the entire event is funded through donations, are indicators. "Isn't that what we want to be as a community? A community that comes together and supports an initiative for the betterment of the community?" Kaminski asked.

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A police officer is drenched over and over again by broken water balloons in a game requiring children to throw a ball and hit the appropriate target.

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Niles Police Sgt. Robert Tornabene said one of the goals of his department's Night Out program is to strengthen the bond between police and the community so citizens are comfortable calling the department to report crimes or provide tips. This, along with the use of new technology, is proving effective, he said.

“Because we have embraced technology and social media in a broader sense, it has definitely improved our communication and it has improved the ability to participate and offer help when necessary,” Tornabene said.

The event can cost anywhere from $3,000 to $4,000, Tornabene said, though this year $1,000 of the expense was covered by donations, while Target also provided gift cards to children who successfully dunked the village manager in the dunk tank.

For Niles resident Slavica Radisic, National Night Out allowed her son, Filip, 6, to practice calling 911 and giving his address to the person on the other end of the line, but it was also an opportunity for him to see his favorite heroes in person.

“He loves the firefighters,” Radisic shared. “He’s saying, ‘I want to be a firefighter.’”

Outside law enforcement and community partnerships, National Night Out events serve other purposes, as well. Local businesses, organizations and municipalities can market themselves, as evidenced by the rows of tables lining the west side of Hodges Park, providing everything from stickers and Italian ice samples to free massages.

Like many public gatherings there is also a political element to National Night Out. In Maine Township, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky was one of the featured guests, while volunteers wore bright-orange T-shirts with the name of Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano embossed on them.

At the end of the night, though, each National Night Out event is about the community, according to organizers.

“It’s important we do these things,” Kaminski said.
Thank you to the residents, organizations and businesses of Niles who provided support, assistance and volunteers to the 2012 National Night Out.

Thank you to Mayor Robert M. Callero and the village of Niles trustees, including Trustees Chris Hamuisak, Andrew Przybylo and Rosemary Palicki, who were in attendance and spoke to the community. Thanks to Niles Village Manager George Van Geem and Officer Dan Borkowski, who volunteered to be in our dunk tank. The community truly enjoyed the dunk tank.

Thank you to the Niles Park District, Director Joe Lo Verde and the Board of Commissioners for their unflinching support of the National Night Out, both in providing space, support and partnership in this event. Park District employee James Majewski was a great help this year.

Chief of Police Dean Strzelecki stated that, “It is events like the National Night Out that bring the community and the Police together. This close relationship makes the community stronger and ultimately assists the Police Department.”

Chief Strzelecki added: “The Niles Police Department will continue to use events, such as the National Night Out to reach out to the community.”

Thank you to everyone who participated. The Niles Police Department would like to recognize our partners and sponsors who contributed to this event, including: Target, Niles Fire Department, Coca-Cola, St. John Brebeuf, Chasers Bar, Morrison’s Roadhouse, Binney’s Beverage Depot, DMZ Café, Brunswick Zone, Here’s Cheers, Playbook Sports Bar, Nicky’s Bar and Mango.

The 2012 National Night Out was a great success. The National Night Out had about 700 visitors to Washington Park.

The community consumed more than 300 hot dogs and buns provided by Kappy’s Restaurant, 200 bags of potato chips, 3,500 ounces of soft drinks provided by Coca-Cola, 3,000 ounces of water and 350 bags of popcorn.

There were 20 exhibitors at this year’s event, more than ever before. Our exhibitors included: Visiting Angels of Northwest Chicago, Niles Family Fitness Center, Niles Teen Center, North Suburban Emergency Communications Center, Grosse Pointe Manor, Niles Public Library, New York Life, Ashley Furniture, New Breed Training Center, Niles Crime Stoppers, Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation, Target, Niles Police Department-Crime Prevention Unit, Niles Police Department-Evidence Technicians, Volunteers in Police Service, NIPAS Emergency Services Team and the Niles Fire Department Explorers.

We had five major activities this year as follows:

- The Niles Police Challenge, “Distracted and Impaired Driver Challenge” — The course offered two modalities, impaired and distracted driver simulations. Participants would drive a golf cart. The participant would then either wear “fatal vision” goggles or use an electronic device, like a cell phone or iPod. The participant then would have to drive through the course while doing one of the two activities listed above. Participants who completed the course were given a T-shirt. The sponsors of this event included Binney’s Beverage Depot, Brunswick Zone, Chasers, DMZ Café, Here’s Cheers Bar, Mango Restaurant, Morrison’s Roadhouse, Nicky’s Bar and Playbooks Sports Bar.
- New Breed Jiu Jitsu self-defense demonstration — New Breed Jiu Jitsu, a Niles business, demonstrated some very eye-opening self-defense moves to the community, from the perspective of a male and a female. The demonstration included skills on how to escape a bear hug, head lock and an attacker with a weapon.
- “Think to Your Future” by George Alpogianis — Mr. Alpogianis provided a detailed account on how young people should learn from their mistakes, that understanding how getting involved in a wrong crowd and experimenting with drugs can lead a person down a path that can affect their life far beyond what they may think. It was a very well-received presentation.
- “Tobacco and Alcohol Stink” — The Niles Police Department Volunteers in Police Service presented to youths, teens, adults and seniors an interactive visual and sensory experience on the effects that alcohol and tobacco can have on your body. Many people truly did not know that there were more than 400 chemicals in tobacco. Nor did some young people realize that 1/2 ounces of alcohol in a shot, 12 ounces of beer and 6 ounces of wine or liquor all have the same alcohol amount. They learned that the volume is the only difference, a true eye-opener for some.
- Dunk tank — Thanks to Village Manager Van Geem and Officer Dan Borkowski for taking the plunge in our dunk tank.

The night culminated with a flash light walk, in which more than 400 people participated — the largest group ever.

Thank you to everyone who participated. A special thanks to the following business and organizations for providing support, food and soft drinks: Target, Coca-Cola, St. John Brebeuf, Chasers Bar and Restaurant chairs and ice.

We hope to see you next year.

—Sgt. Robert Tornabene & Administration Division-PIO & Training for the Niles Police Department.
POLICE BLOTTER

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

BATTERY
John Jaskolski, 31, of 8072 Milwaukee Ave., was arrested Aug. 5 on the 8000 block of Milwaukee Avenue and charged with domestic battery. The victim told police she got into an argument with the suspect over a text message on the victim's phone and the victim said the suspect attempted to grab the phone from her and allegedly pushed her, which caused her to fall and hit her right arm on the table. She has an Aug. 23 court date.

WARRANT ARREST
David Davis, 30, of

CRIME BRIEFS

Roller-skating teen attacked, robbed of cell phone
PARK RIDGE — A Park Ridge teenager was the victim of a strong-arm robbery while out roller-blading in the city, Park Ridge Police said.
Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen said the 14-year-old girl was skating at 9:15 p.m. on the sidewalk along the 1300 block of South Cumberland Avenue when she was approached by male teenager who asked her for directions. When the girl turned around the suspect pushed her to the ground and stole her Samsung Alias cell phone, Jogmen said.

The suspect is described as a white male between 16 and 18 years old with brown hair styled in a "buzz cut."

Solicitor who threatened couple sought by cops
PARK RIDGE — A man claiming to be a door-to-door solicitor is accused of swearing at a Park Ridge woman and threatening her husband when the pair appeared uninterested in what the man was trying to sell.

Park Ridge Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen said the 65-year-old resident of the 2200 block of DeCook Avenue reported that a man knocked on her door on the evening of July 18 and became angry when she told him another person from his company had already been to her home. The man then allegedly called the woman a derogatory name after she told him she was not interested in what he was selling and questioned how she could be uninterested when she did not even know what the product was, Jogmen said.

The man allegedly continued to yell at the woman after she shut the door. The woman's husband then approached the man outside and asked him to wait there while he called police, Jogmen said. At that point the suspect allegedly threatened the husband with harm if police were called before leaving the area.

Park Ridge police were continuing an investigation of the incident, Jogmen said.

MORTON GROVE POLICE

'Click It or Ticket' seat-belt crackdown is announced

MORTON GROVE — The Morton Grove Police Department announced its upcoming Labor Day 2012 Click It or Ticket Holiday Mobilization.

In conjunction with the Illinois Department of Transportation's Division of Traffic Safety, the Morton Grove Police Department will be conducting safety-belt saturation patrols during August and September.

The department's goal is to save lives, prevent severe injuries and achieve a higher percentage of safety-belt compliance through aggressive enforcement.

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MORTON GROVE POLICE

Official: Man fired BB shots at mosque

MORTON GROVE — A man who lives next to a mosque in north suburban Morton Grove has been charged after he allegedly fired a pellet rifle at the building while 500 people prayed inside.

David Conrad, 61, lives just east of the mosque and faces three counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm, a class X felony, and one count of criminal damage to property, a class 4 felony, Morton Grove police said in an Aug. 12 press release.

Authorities began investigating after a shooting the night of Aug. 10, while worshippers were celebrating the holy month of Ramadan activities, called "Ramadan" at the Muslim Education Center, 8601 N. Menard Avenue, about 9 p.m., according to police and mosque officials.

Off-duty Chicago Police officers, who were hired to provide additional security at the mosque during Ramadan activities, called Morton Grove police after they saw an object whiz by and hit the building just above the head of one of the officers, according to Kamran Hussain, Vice President of the Muslim Community Center of Chicago, which owns the mosque.

Hussain said this was not the first time parts of the building had been damaged, but it was the first time mosque officials had reported it to police. Erickson said the additional incidents — described as broken windows — were part of the current investigation.

Police confiscated a high-velocity rifle outfitted with a scope, which was allegedly used in the incidents, the release said.

Conrad, of the 5700 block of Capauline Drive in Morton Grove, was arrested Aug. 11, according to police. He was scheduled to appear in bond court Aug. 13.

Though the damage to the building was minor, there were about 500 people inside the mosque for prayers at the time of the shooting, Hussain said, adding that many kids from the congregation were outside of the building during the service.

One of the security guards saw someone firing the gun, with the shots coming from the home of a man who had previously spoken out against expansion of the school and mosque, Hussain said.

The man's home adorns the mosque parking lot, which has been cause for a number of disputes between the building's owners and the neighbor, Hussain said. He has lived there for about 12 years.

"He's always been a thorn in our side," Hussain said.

Morton Grove police and members of the FBI examined the building Saturday morning as the scene of a possible hate crime, according to a release about the incident from the Chicago office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

However, the Aug. 12 press release did not mention any hate crime-related charges filed in connection with the incident.

An FBI spokesperson declined to comment the evening of Aug. 11.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations' national headquarters issued a community safety advisory for mosques earlier this week following crimes targeting Muslims in Missouri and Rhode Island, as well as the mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin.

The mosque will continue to have additional security for the rest of the Ramadan month, Hussain said.
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PROPERTY TRANSFERS

NILES
8519 W Carol St: North Shore Holdings Ltd to Yordan P Petrov for $275,000 on May 25
9078 Heathwood Dr Unit 90783M: Wallace P Hong to Clifford R Harper for $105,000 on June 18
7011 W Touhy Ave Unit 210A: Robert M Maslowski to Christian June 18
9078 Heathwood Dr Unit 9078 for $275,000 on May 25
Holdings Ltd to Yortiarì P Petrov

MORTON GROVE
9538 Oleaner Ave: Dream Homes Inc Series 9538 Oleander to Thomas J Cahlil for $356,000 on June 7
8904 Ozark Ave: Russell P Benko to Elias Kapsalis on June 8
9727 Fox Glenn Dr Unit 9727B: Haji Hani to Mark Herrera for $66,000 on May 31
9074 Terrace Dr Unit 90744C: Rita Mueller to Bogdan Nenciu for $66,000 on May 31
9737 Fox Glenn Dr Unit 7011 W Touhy Ave Unit 210A: Christopher J Rzonca to Nagu Meyyappan for $66,000 on June 11
1479 E Marcus Ct: W Waldemar Smolinski to James D Harrington for $1,025,000 on June 26
1901 Brophy Ave: Kathleen M Griffey to Justm Beny for $157,000 on June 11

GLENVIEW
10015 N Lamon Ave: David Margolin to Pyrali B Kanjee for $389,000 on June 11
7417 Kenton Ave: Sharon Ellis to Suzette D Broome for $350,000 on June 6
5338 Greenwood St: Jimmie R Blevins to Sheldencia Weatherspoon for $310,000 on June 16
184 Dulles Rd: Jack Lamoineto Malek Maatouk for $174,000 on June 8
1438 Hoffman Ave: Robert E Bayer to Jaclyn P Graney for $271,000 on June 12
3610 Linneman St: Linda Larkin to Nadia On for $439,000 on June 8
2429 Robincrest Dr Unit 103C: Dawid Nosek to Mohammd F Alaim for $46,000 on June 7
184 Dulles Rd: Jack Lamoineto Malek Maatouk for $174,000 on June 8
1313 Willow Ave: Kenny W Suh to Karin Schmidt for $203,500 on June 22
1753 Lincoln Ave: Edith L Grifney to Justin Berry for $157,000 on June 1
1636 Ashland Ave Unit 201: Ann K Besch to Catherine A Lewicki for $140,000 on June 4
774 E Algonquin Rd: Thgd 2 to Edira Posh for $317,000 on June 4

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WILMETTE
$699,000
2400 Old Glenview Road
House Size: 2,546 square feet
Lot size: 11,438 square feet
Year built: 1905
Bedrooms: 5
Baths: 3.5
Garage: 2-car attached
Most recent available tax: $14,463.45 (2011)
Agent: Rosanne O'Donnell, 847-733-2873

NORRIDGE
$680,000
4906 North Chester Ave.
House Size: 2,824 square feet
Lot size: 3,750 square feet
Year built: 2010
Bedrooms: 4
Baths: 4.5
Garage: 3-car detached
Most recent available tax: $3,926.83 (2011)
Agent: Aldino Giannini, 847-696-0700

WESTERN SPRINGS
$665,000
1421 Walnut St.
House Size: 2,502 square feet
Lot size: 12,522 square feet
Year built: 1913
Bedrooms: 4
Baths: 2.5
Garage: 2.5-car detached
Most recent available tax: $12,024.15 (2011)
Agent: Dave Ricordati, 630-789-8280

VERNON HILLS
$650,000
27 E. Warson Court
House Size: 3,535 square feet
Lot size: 11,361 square feet
Year built: 2002
Bedrooms: 4
Baths: 3.5
Garage: 2-car detached
Most recent available tax: $17,077.13 (2011)
Agent: Betty Cunningham, 847-301-3162

RIVER FOREST
$679,900
1146 Park Ave.
House Size: 3,982 square feet
Lot size: 9,112 square feet
Year built: 1963
Bedrooms: 4
Baths: 2.5
Garage: 3-car attached
Most recent available tax: $10,240.46 (2011)
Agent: Vee Jaroszewski, 708-771-8040

BUFFALO GROVE
$699,000
3031 Cyprus Court
House Size: 4,328 square feet
Lot size: 20,080 square feet
Year built: 1995
Bedrooms: 4
Baths: 5.5
Garage: 5-car detached
Most recent available tax: $23,046.87 (2011)
Agent: Sharon Kelly, 847-541-5000

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Dear Fixer: I read your column all the time and you are amazing. I am actually writing on behalf of my children and grandchildren, but also for the benefit of all children. My problem is with the airline.

My son purchased tickets from American Airlines for an upcoming trip. He and his wife have three children who are 10, 14 and 17. He paid extra money for three of the seats so they would all be seated together in the same row and across.

About 10 days ago, he happened to check his flight and discovered that now they were not all seated together. He called customer service and spoke to two people, including a supervisor. They did nothing. He was told to get to the airport early and try to change the seats then. So now he has paid extra money for these seats and the seats are not together.

One month ago, my daughter was traveling to Chicago on United Airlines with her three children. They are 3, 5 and 6. The flight to Chicago was a nightmare resulting in my daughter spending the night in the airport with the three boys. The original flight was canceled and they were put on a different flight the next day.

She had requested seats together but now was told she had four seats all in different rows throughout the plane. The plane was full. Finally they were able to give her two seats together and they suggested she ask passengers to change seats when she boarded. Can you believe it? My daughter is supposed to get on a full airplane with three young boys, carry an iPad, games, food and all the things she needs to bring on the plane, and move around trying to get four seats together. She cried and finally they got her three seats together. The man in the other seat refused to move.

Where is the responsibility to keep children safe? My grandchildren could be sitting next to a sex offender. Children NEED to be with their parents. If there were a terrorist or turbulence on the airplane, should you be five rows ahead of your child?

In addition, if there is a change in your seating, can’t the airline notify you? As you can tell, I am thoroughly disappointed and disgusted. My family has already been inconvenienced and upset by this, but maybe something can be done to help others.

Dear Linda: The Fixer has been in this same situation when the Junior Fixers were little. Luckily, people were willing to move. But we’ve always wondered why an airline would potentially inconvenience its other passengers by seating a frightened kid next to a stranger.

The good news is we were able to help get their upcoming trip. American Airlines spokesman Mary Frances Fagan looked into it, and they discovered the problem was caused when the original aircraft was switched with a different type of plane. That threw off all the seat configurations, and while the computer system tried to restore everyone’s seat choices, your son’s daughter ended up in a different row.

American escalated the issue and was able to get all five back together. Fagan said they’ve reminded their frontline employees to be as flexible as possible in trying to keep kids and parents together.

As for other airlines, United spokesman Rahsaan Johnson said United doesn’t charge extra for its economy window or aisle seats. As long as families book early enough they should be OK. (Of course, that didn’t help your daughter, who had her flight switched on her unexpectedly.) Johnson added that employees do whatever they can to encourage other passengers to switch seats, if necessary.

Southwest spokesman Brad Hawkins said their flight attendants try to help families with kids older than the “family boarding” age of 4 by asking volunteers to move, sometimes offering a free drink as compensation. (Southwest does not have assigned seats.)

Bottom line: Book early and periodically check your reservation. And be ready to enlist your 3-year-old in complaining if there’s a problem.
Dr. Lawrence Pankau stands outside Presence Center for Health at 205 S. Northwest Highway in Park Ridge. The center includes medical offices, on-site labs and an immediate-care center.

PRESENCE CENTER

Health-care facility offers one-stop wellness shopping

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE — When Dr. Lawrence Pankau was a child in the 1960s, his mother would take him to the open field belonging to a Park Ridge convent and deliver cold drinks to an uncle who was the caretaker of the site.

Today the area, located north of Northwest Highway and Washington Avenue and consisting of office buildings, homes and a future Whole Foods Market, barely resembles the scene of Pankau's youth, but one thing hasn't changed: It is still very much a part of Pankau's life.

Pankau is one of six full-time physicians on staff at the new Presence Center for Health, 205 S. Northwest Highway. The center, operated by Resurrection Health Care and Provena Health, opened in June and offers a range of services, including internal and family medicine, a seven-day-a-week immediate-care center, sports medicine, a seven-day-a-week emergency-room with and higher costs, Novak said.

The immediate-care center is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays and holidays. The use of pastel colors and the creation of private waiting areas is comforting to patients, reported Sonja Vojic, a Resurrection Health Care spokesperson.

Presence also employs "patient navigators" who help patients make their next appointment, schedule a test, or connect with a specialist or other physician. In addition, the center offers low-dose-radiation CT scans and X-rays, Vojic said.

 Presence Center is located in the former Polish Women's Alliance building, which has been completely renovated. Future plans call for a cardiac-care center, women's health center, sports medicine and orthopedic care.

"It's kind of like one-stop shopping in your community," Novak said.
Colorful cab company hopes your ride is rosy

BY NATASHA WASINSKI
Contributor

PARK RIDGE — Patti Carpenter's on-the-go lifestyle sometimes makes her difficult to reach by phone. But whenever you need a lift, she's your lady in pink.

Carpenter, of Park Ridge, has worked for the past 30 years in the cab industry, a line of work with numerous pitfalls, she acknowledges, but also full of possibility.

Acting on the advice of an oncologist, Carpenter set out two years ago with the dual purpose of improving both the cab business and the health of women by creating Pink Taxi, a full-service transportation company that raises public awareness of breast cancer.

"You have to make a positive out of this," Carpenter recounted a doctor once telling her at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital after she underwent surgery to rid her body of colon cancer.

He told her: "Do something important. Make this matter."

Carpenter took those words to heart and now, as a 20-year survivor of colon cancer, she chose a vehicle model with a low carbon footprint and hires drivers with excellent customer-service skills.

"I don't believe that 15 minutes (in a cab) should be the worst time of a day," she said, noting how the taxis' color itself inspires dialogue between drivers and riders, whether they're touched by cancer or not. The cheerful hue also easily attracts attention. Carpenter said a group of teenagers approached her cab near Niles North High School on recent afternoon to tell her they loved her car.

"One girl looked at me and said, 'This pink taxi makes everything feel better. It just puts a smile on my face,' " Carpenter said, adding: "You could never believe a little pink car could provide jobs to the unemployed, particularly veterans."

"There's this whole group of people we need to reach and it's not just the young who are out of work," she said.

Reviving the country and today's culture, Carpenter said, requires risk-taking and thinking outside the box.

The back of her business card offers this: "What you do with your life says a lot about who you are."

For Carpenter that means spending hours on end behind the wheel of a taxi in between pink-polish manicures and retrieving calls to her pink-colored cell phone.

"Think pink" has become a way of life, she said.

"It's very hard for a lot of people to remain optimistic," Carpenter said. "But the alternative is so good."

"Pink Taxi provides regular services to Advocate Lutheran General, Coca-Cola, United Airlines and Abbott Laboratories."

Carpenter, an eternal optimist, believes this is only the beginning for her cab company as she sees the idea as franchise-ready and a way to provide jobs to the unemployed, particularly veterans.

"Think pink" has become a way of life, she said.

"It's very hard for a lot of people to remain optimistic," Carpenter said. "But the alternative is so good."
IN PROFILE

Berles helped Niles Historical Society take root

NILES — The late Marge Berles has helped plant the seeds for the Niles Historical Society and Museum to grow into what it is today.

In order to acknowledge her dedication and love of the Historical Society, an autumn blaze maple tree will be planted in her honor at 5 p.m. Aug. 18 at the museum, at 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles.

At age 87, Berles, president and curator of the Niles Historical Society and Museum, died Dec. 19, 2010, after a battle with advanced lung cancer.

"She was a very active member," said Sandy Friedman, a friend of Berles, who is also a longtime member of the Niles Historical Society.

Friedman said Berles had many jobs at the Historical Society and helped with whatever needed to be done. Friedman described Berles as someone who was very knowledgeable about many topics such as art and clothing, and was dedicated to the Historical Society and its continued success.

"It could have been called the 'Marge Berles Historical Society,' " said Friedman, who spoke at the special memorial event Aug. 18.

Friedman said Berles was committed to preserving the rich history of Niles, while promoting its growth in the future.

"Marge was a very avid person; no matter what she did, she did it with her whole heart and soul," Friedman said.

Berles was committed to raising her family, working at the museum and volunteering at church.

At the Historical Society she held the position of program director and successfully booked several talented speakers to make free presentations to the public on the fourth Sunday of every month.

In 1964, the Niles Event Committee named her "Mrs. Niles"; in 1991 she was named "Citizen of the Year"; and in 2008 she received the honorable Bob Wordel Living Legend award.

Berles was a member of the Niles Art Guild when Friedman was a member of the Niles Women's Club.

She said she got to know other during some events. Berles is also remembered as an accomplished artist, and community members can view some of her paintings at Village Hall and at the Historical Museum.

"She just took everything seriously," Friedman said.

"It had to be done right.

"She was a great person to work with and for. I just enjoyed being with her tremendously.

The tree will be planted using donations made in her memory by various community members.

"We were alike in so many ways," Friedman reminisced. "We laughed at the same things."
All gassed up and no place to go
BUFFALO GROVE, JULY 15 — The cops asked a guy why he was driving his Dodge Charger in circles. He “was attempting to burn off the old gas in the car before putting in new gas,” a police officer reported.

Mark Twain was right. Nobody does anything about it.

BUFFALO GROVE, JULY 19 — A man walked into a gas station and argued with everybody so angrily that the police were called. What’s the deal? they asked. Hate the weather, he answered. They said they couldn’t fix that. Go home.


HIGHLAND PARK, JULY 13 — Three ceramic potted plants, a metal stand, two aluminum and crystal wind chimes, four colored hanging crystal stars, two wooden bird

SEE SUBURBODDITY, PAGE 25
houses, three glass and iron decorative stakes, and an illuminated wire and wood frog yard ornament were stolen from a patio on the 600 block of Old Trail.

The day was bad enough before the cops came.

GLENCOE, JULY 27 — A hair-dye customer, 60, already had her hair in foils when a Pascal Pour Elle beauty operator realized she wasn’t who she said she was. She was really a customer banned several years ago for paying with a $200 NSF check, sneaking in under a different name. The cops were called to show her the door.

Happy birthday, booster baby

NORTHBROOK, JULY 25 — A Chicago man, 58, got caught leaving Nordstrom Rack with a pair of stolen jeans and two pairs of sunglasses stuffed in a detection-resistant “booster bag.” The bag failed to get the trick because security had watched him take the jeans into a fitting room, then walk out with just the bag.

Never darken those roots again

GLENCOE, JULY 27 — A pair of big dogs being chased by Chicago Police ran into Elmwood Park, where they barged through the automatic doors of a Staples store. Terrified customers and staff jumped onto the counters, and the Cane Corso and Akita kept them there, barking away, with front paws up on the edges. Cane Corsos are big dogs notorious for freaking out in the presence of strangers, and this one was seen as the wilder and most uncontrollable of the pair. Local cops subdued both dogs with pepper spray, and customers staggered out of the store clutching their faces in pain, too. The dogs’ owner was cited for having them off-leash, and took them home.

Was it a white house?

WILMETTE, JULY 22 — Authorities were called to a house, where a man-sized bush had disappeared, leaving behind a deep hole.

Key scratch fever

SKOKIE, JULY 20 — A home-owner, 64, furious that someone had the nerve to park in front of his house in the 7900 block of Keystone Avenue, dug scratches into the trunk and hood with his keys, causing $300 damage.

Cinderella goes to the slammer

WILMETTE, AUG. 2 — A resident of the 1200 block of Gregory Avenue called the cops when he saw a guy rummaging around in his car late at night. He went out to confront the thief, who took off, running right out of one of his shoes. Moments later, a patrol officer saw a car leaving the area without headlights, and curbed it. Inside was a youth, 18, driving with one shoe and no explanation.

Where have all the flowers gone?

WILMETTE, JULY 16 — The Wilmette Public Works Department announced it will soon be inspecting public parkways to see where miscreants have planted flowers and bushes in parkways. They’ll send letters to the perpetrators, telling them to pull the plants out. In case it’s necessary to dig up a pipe, the department doesn’t want to mess with anything. Village-authorized parkway trees, however, are just fine.

Up on the counter-top, hound dog paws

ELMWOOD PARK, JULY 24 — A pair of big dogs being chased by Chicago Police ran into Elmwood Park, where they barged through the automatic doors of a Staples store. Terrified customers and staff jumped onto the counters, and the Cane Corso and Akita kept them there, barking away, with front paws up on the edges. Cane Corsos are big dogs notorious for freaking out in the presence of strangers, and this one was seen as the wilder and most uncontrollable of the pair. Local cops subdued both dogs with pepper spray, and customers staggered out of the store clutching their faces in pain, too. The dogs’ owner was cited for having them off-leash, and took them home.
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(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
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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
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Morton Grove Community Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
8044 Austin Avenue
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St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708) 467-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
Street Level, Air Conditioned
Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30 AM
St. Paul Lutheran School - West
Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD,
TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

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

Willow Creek Community Church
North Shore Campus
315 Waukegan Road
847-441-6599
Sunday Services: 9 & 11 am
Promisesland (Infants-Gr 5): 9 & 11 am
Elevate (Grades 6-8): 11 am
Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm
For more information visit www.WillowNorthShore.org

St. Alban’s Episcopal Church
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

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 West Crescent Avenue
847-823-4135
www.parkridgepresby.org
Sunday Service: 10:00 AM

To showcase your House of Worship here
call 630-978-8277 or Worship@Pioneerlocal.com
At National Night Out at Washington Park in Niles we asked, “In your neighborhood what type of crime is of greatest concern to you?”

“I think my main concern would be senior safety and senior scams because some seniors, as we get older, are more gullible and trustworthy with anyone who has an ‘official badge.’”

MARY ANN MILLER, Niles

“We don’t have that much crime in our neighborhood, but when you’re gone (it’s) the possibility of break-ins.”

ROBIN MILLER, Niles

“Crime is at a low in the area because the police are visibly seen.”

RON NEUKIRCH, Niles

“The availability of drugs to young children and the easy access to the drugs.”

KATHY NOGA, Addison

“House break-ins would be my biggest concern.”

ED BACHER, Niles

Here are the answers to last week’s question: What type of wildlife do you least like to find in your yard?

The neighbor kid 23%
Skunks 50%
Foxes 2%
Rodents 13%
Deer 13%

This week’s question: What is—or was—the best part of going back to school?
1. Seeing friends again
2. Shopping for new clothes
3. Extracurricular activities
4. Square cafeteria pizzas

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

You say to-may-to, I say to-mah-to ... but frappé?

Rolling home in the vanster, I asked my youngest if he was hungry. That’s such a foolish question, considering he is male and a teenager.

A pediatrician once prophesied that I would never be able to keep a food supply in the house once my boys turned 14. So I zipped through the McDonald’s drive-through, steeling myself against temptation, ignoring the delights displayed on the menu: frothy desserts, a specialty burger and Ronald McDonald mainlining fudge.

My son loves those calorie-laden Frappés. Fortunately my son burns off calories fast, as he plays a lot of basketball. He’s tall and skinny, two genes he did not inherit from me. My lineage took its body shape from “I’m a little teapot.”

Now it was our turn and I edged the van forward. Leaning, I yelled into the drive-through speaker. “One Frap, please!”

“Frap.”

Later in my home office, I Googled how many calories were in a chocolate chip Frappé. Oooh la la! Six-hundred and eighty calories in a medium-sized Frappé.

If I consumed one, I’d be a fatté.

My mortified youngest shrunk in the passenger seat. “It’s fm-pay, Mom. Fm-pay.”

He gestured apologetically to the order-taker guy, hand-signing “I was adopted.”

Sheesh. I didn’t know a Frappé from a Parkay. Sure is true, that if you don’t use it, you lose it. Three years of high school French down the drain. I used to be able to speak a couple of rudimentary sentences, enough to get me slapped at a Paris café.

Today I know that “French” is capitalized when applied to “fries.” Darn good thing I didn’t do that overseas student exchange program, or I would’ve wound up with the French Foreign Legion with a penciled-on mustache, speaking in a bad Inspector Clouseau accent.

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“Later in my home office, I Googled how many calories were in a chocolate chip Frappé. Oooh la la! Six-hundred and eighty calories in a medium-sized Frappé.”
Is there anybody who still cares about the welfare of others?

Channel U last week took some of the valuable time it could have devoted to infomercials, 70-year-old rock-and-rollers and Celtic whose-ite to show Ken Burns' richly informative and heartbreaking documentary series on World War II.

Don't know why Channel U did this when it could have been running "Eat Your Way to Health and Wealth" or "Take Care of Your Liver and I'll Take Care of You."

Maybe it was because Aug. 15 is the 67th anniversary of Japan's surrender.

Whatever the reason, Channel U showed it. I watched it.

Watching, I began to think of Bernard H. Hagen Jr.

You probably never knew him or even heard of him. Why should you? He was dead not too long after he graduated from high school.

Pvt. Bernard H. Hagen Jr. was killed in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was a paratrooper. I came across a small story about him a few years ago when I was leafing through an old Pioneer Press newspaper.

Here's a sentence from the story: "The family received a letter from Pvt. Hagen a few days after they had notice of his death, and in the letter he recalled his last furlough, spent at home about a year ago."

Perhaps you can understand how the Hagen family felt when they received this letter. I can't.

Today, we have wars of our own and many more Bernard H. Hagens.

Hmmm. I seem to have written myself into a corner.

Is this going some place?

Yes, actually.

Self-sacrifice?

The Ken Burns series that set me to thinking about Bernard H. Hagen Jr. also made me ponder the concept of self-sacrifice. Perhaps I misinterpreted, but an underlying theme of the documentary seemed to me to be how people gave themselves — even unto death — for others, their comrades, their family, the cause of freedom.

And then I remember we have elections coming and how Congress is on vacation for more than a month, unemployment, foreclosure...

What I don't see is much self-sacrifice.

The welfare of others doesn't seem to be very high on America's to-do list.

Instead, I see fragments.

I wonder what Pvt. Bernard H. Hagen Jr. would think?

Little to admire now in politics

My old college friend Curt yesterday posted on his Facebook page that he despises politics. Rather than give it a "Like," I just let it go. As much as I agree with Curt, I don't like it.

I despise the political rhetoric, I despise the political commentary and I despise the little snippets of partisanship people feel compelled to post on their social media pages.

What can one possibly say that has any credence or intelligence in the minute amount of space social media allows? It is designed to be clever, not wise.

Let me give you an example.

A few weeks ago, a friend posted a picture of Mitt Romney frolicking with his family on his speedboat. Along with the picture was this friend's commentary: "Tell me that this guy cares about people."

What in the world does that mean? If you have a boat, then you don't care about people? I have a boat. Granted, my boat is smaller than Romney's and uses wind power to get around. Does that mean even though I still don't care about people, I care a little more than Romney?

How about the late Ted Kennedy? I saw plenty of pictures of him sailing on a gigantic yacht with his family. His boat was way bigger than Romney's. By the logic of my Facebook friend of a friend, he must have really despised people.
To the crews who work long hours in 100° heat to restore power, thank you. To the employees who work 16-hour shifts for three days, thank you. And, most of all, to the customers who bear with us during storms, thank you.

Know that we’re working to modernize the grid to ensure fewer outages in the future. In the meantime, we've developed tools to keep you up to date.

Learn about text alerts, the outage map and our mobile app at ComEd.com
Diversity
PIONEERLOCAL.COM | THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012 | 1B

For Your Consideration

A quartet of activities for the coming week

1. "Julius Caesar" will be presented by Muse of Fire Theatre Company through Sept. 9 in Ingraham Park, behind the Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Performances are at 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. No performances Aug. 25-26. Free admission. Visit www.museoffire.org or call (847) 707-8832.

2. "Ballet POP, Scenes from a Bar" will be performed at 10 p.m. Aug. 17, 6 p.m. Aug. 18 and 2 p.m. Aug. 19 at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. Set to modern-day pop music, this new ballet displays the fun, silly, and even outrageous relationships that often form at the bar. Tickets are $15. Visit www.gorillatango.com or call (773) 598-4549.

3. Northwest Chicago Film Society will screen "Thin Day and Age" (1933), directed by Cecil B. DeMille, at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 22 as part of its Classic Film Series at the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. The evening also features the Popeye cartoon "The Man on the Flying Trapeze" along with the short "Hollywood Extra Girl" (1935). Admission is $5. For information, visit www.northwestchicagofilm-society.org.

4. "Dreamgirls," the rags-to-riches story of a female 1960s Motown group, Aug. 22-Nov. 4 at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire, at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays. $44-849, with discounts available for students and senior citizens. Dinner and theatre tickets, $85, are available Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Dinner is at Kings Wharf Restaurant or the Fairfield Inn (based on dining availability). Call (847) 634-0200 or visit www.marriotttheatre.com.

Brief Bard in local libraries

Peter Garino as Friar Lawrence and Matthew Fahey as Romeo in "50-Minute Romeo and Juliet."

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

Romance begins and ends quickly in "50-Minute Romeo and Juliet" but Peter Garino is convinced audiences aren't shortchanged in the Shakespeare Project of Chicago's abbreviated version of the Shakespeare classic.

"The focus of this adaptation is on the journey of two young lovers," Garino said. "It's told almost from their point of view." A little bit of narrative in contemporary language is added, "to help people connect the plot points but ninety-five percent of what you'll hear in the play is actually Shakespeare's words.”

The reason for the show's length is that it is one of the company's Education Outreach Productions offered to schools, and 50 minutes is the length of a typical high school class period.

The Niles resident, who is artistic director of the company, created the adaptation with Barbara Zahors and Michelle Shupe. It will be performed at the Park Ridge Public Library on Thursday, Aug. 23.

Language lesson

Garino emphasized that the focus of his theater company's "Shakespeare and his language. That's why people revere him. When you come to see our productions, you're not going to see a lot of elaborate sets and costumes and properties. What you are going to see is actors whose artistic focus is on illuminating the language and making it meaningful."

The company accomplishes that because of the caliber of its ensemble. "We're a company that is made up entirely of Equity actors who work at places like Chicago Shakespeare Theater and Goodman and Lookingglass, and all the main spaces in Chicago," Garino said.

Four actors will play all the roles at the Park Ridge performance. Matthew Fahey is Romeo and Karen Vance is Juliet. All of the other parts are performed by Judy Blue and Garino.

Fahey concurred that this version of "Romeo and Juliet" zeroes in on the two young lovers. "It's boy meets girl, boy loses girl, marries and then loses her through his own actions," he recapped.

Intense pace

Fahey believes this adaptation works well because, "It runs like a freight train. With the two-hour theater experience, Shakespeare wrote in different changes of pace. You've got the comedy of the servants, you've got some fights. There's a lot of different things going on. With this, it's just the romance and the tragedy so it's really fast-paced."

Fahey earned a bachelor of arts in theater from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also attended some master classes at the National Theatre in London. He has been a member of Actors' Equity since 2000. The actor praised the language of Shakespeare's play as "a very economical and vibrant type of speaking. As much as Fahey enjoys performing the bard's words, though, his favorite part of the Shakespeare Project performances is the talk-backs following each show -- particularly at schools.

"You really have a sense that you are either initiating students into a lifelong relationship with Shakespeare or you're early on in their process," Fahey said. "You see the lights go on and they get really excited about it."

Garino plays all the male characters except Romeo. These include Friar Lawrence, Lord Capulet, Benvo, Mercutio and the apothecary. Garino, who has a master of fine arts degree in acting from Illinois State University, has performed professionally in Chicago since 1984. In addition to his extensive credits with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago, he has worked with Steppenwolf, Body Politic, Pegasus Players, Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival, among others.

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago also presents staged theatrical readings of Shakespeare's plays at four other Chicago-area libraries: Niles Public Library, Newberry Library, Wilmette Public Library, and Highland Park Public Library. For details, visit www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org.

'50-MINUTE ROMEO AND JULIET'

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 23

Free; reservations are required (847) 629-3123 or visit www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

The Shakespeare Project of Chicago offers an introductory program at 7 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 West Oakton St., Niles. The first reading will be "Othello, The Moor of Venice," at 7 p.m. Oct. 26.

"Othello, The Moor of Venice," will be read at 10 a.m. Oct. 27 at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton, Chicago. Call (312) 943-9990.

"Othello, The Moor of Venice," will be read at 2 p.m. Oct. 27, at the Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette. Call (847) 256-5025.

For information on readings at the Highland Park Public Library, call (847) 432-0216.

For updates, visit www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org
Mr. Freeze to wow kids with science

BY MYRNA PETLICK
Contributor

A cool time will be had by all when Fermilab Presents: The Mr. Freeze Cryogenic Show, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.

“It’s a ‘wow’ science show, in order to get kids excited about science,” said Fermilab engineer Jerry Zimmerman, aka Mr. Freeze. “I demonstrate lots of the basic properties of cryogenics, using liquid nitrogen as the main material. I take balloons and collapse them, blow up bottles and shoot corks up.”

The show is part of the agency’s outreach program to the community. Zimmerman, who is the third Mr. Freeze, said doing the presentations, “can be a lot of work at times but it’s a lot of fun. I get to take a break from my normal work activity.”

Morton Grove residents can pick up tickets starting Sunday, Aug. 19; others on the day of the program. For details, call (847) 965-4220 or visit www.wednars.org.

Explore the great outdoors

Your family can build a shelter out of sticks, create sidewalk chalk or follow a compass on a scavenger hunt at Outdoor Play Day, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, at Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. Families can also have fun with mud and explore other ways to play together. The cost is $15 per family.

Oriental outing

A tea ceremony, traditional storytelling, Taiko drumming and a Koto harp performance will make your family feel as if you are in another land during the Malott Japanese Garden Summer Festival, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, and Sunday, Aug. 19, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe.

For details, call (847) 885-5440 or visit www.chicagobotanic.org/familyprograms/dropin.

Two different worlds

Can someone with a tail find happiness on land? Learn the answer when Morton Grove Public Library screens, “The Little Mermaid,” 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at 6140 Lincoln Ave. The G-rated animated Disney classic runs 83 minutes.

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

Stretch yourself — and your kids

The fundamental postures and breathing techniques of yoga will be taught to children ages 6-13, accompanied by a parent, at Family Yoga, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 25, at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Bring a yoga mat or towel.

For details, call (847) 834-3149 or visit www.skokielibrary.info.
France invades Manhattan

**MOVIE REVIEW**

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

2 DAYS IN NEW YORK

Okay, we've all heard of ugly Americans. Isn't about time the world got a look at the ugly French?

That's primarily what's on display in comedy-romantic comedy, "2 Days in Paris" (in which, yes, she also starred as bi-continental photographer Marion).

Most of the main characters in "Paris," including Delphy's real-life Delpy dad Albert, who played her fictional father Jeannot, plus Alexa Landau and Alexandre Nahon, who played her nymphomanical child-psychologist sister Rose and her obnoxious, idiotic ex-boyfriend Manu, respectively, also show up in "New York."

Only fictional boyfriend Jack (who has disappeared, leaving behind a little boy, Marion calls Lulu for some crazy French reason) and fictional mom Anna (played by real-life Delphy mom Marie Pillet) are notably missing.

Delpy has dedicated "2 Days in Paris" to her mother and turned her death into a plot motivator. Her fictional father Jeannot, it seems, has not been faring well after the death of his wife, causing sister Rose to suggest a visit to New York — a situation that comes as an alarming surprise to Marion's new live-in boyfriend Mingus (played by Chris Rock sporting a be-bop goatee). Especially when Mingus is hip all right, but he's not typically associated with American family values and romantic comedy.

"2 Days in New York" focuses on hip talk-radio host Mingus's appalled reaction to his Gallic guests' assorted improprieties. Sister Rose walks around in various stages of undress, Manu invites a drug dealer up to the apartment and wishes he were black instead of Jewish, while Jeannot, who was almost arrested in customs for smuggling sausage and cheese in his pants, refuses to bathe.

It's odd, though, that she has saddled Albert, Rose and Manu with what amounts to a greatest-hits of cliches about the French, making them turn cleanliness-challenged, sex-crazed, argumentative and rude. And written some violently, argumentative behavior for herself as well.

"2 Days in Paris" played well in France (on the way to earning $19 million worldwide gross outside the U.S.). But this one? Peut-être pas.
FILM CLIPS

OPENING FRIDAYS

2 DAYS IN NEW YORK

Rated: R for language, sexual content, some drug use and brief nudity
Stars: Chris Rock, Julie Delpy, Albert Delpy, Alexia Landeau

A New York talk-radio personality (Rock) is appalled to find himself playing host to the intensely eccentric sister, father and ex-boyfriend of his live-in French girlfriend. Delpy co-wrote and directed the comedy.

THE EXPENDABLES 2

Rated: R for strong bloody violence throughout
Stars: Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Chuck Norris, Jean-Claude Van Damme

The mercenary fighting team from the hit 2010 original reunites (with a couple of high-profile additions) for a mission that becomes a personal vendetta when one of the group is murdered. Simon West ("The Mechanic") directed the action adventure.

THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN

Rated: PG for mild thematic elements and brief language
Stars: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton, Dianne Wiest

A childless couple (Garner, Edgerton) are mystified, but delighted, when a young boy sprouts from their garden after an evening of intense wishing. Even when they discover the kid has leaves on his legs. Peter Hedges ("About a Boy," "Dad in Real Life") co-wrote and directed the fantasy.

PARANORMAN

Rated: PG for scary action and images, thematic elements, some rude humor and language
Stars: Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Anna Kendrick, Kodi Smit-McPhee

A mummified, smart, fast-paced and occasionally quite funny (though outrageously 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 when he punches the baby. Ferrell plays corrupt, sleazy, idiosyncratic, Southern Republican Congressman Cam Brady, who appears to be a show-off as the upcoming vice-presidential candidate until his latest scandal introduces a new candidate in the form of pudgy, effeminate, simpleminded, honest-and-decent family man Marty Huggins (Galifianakis). Much raucous comedy ensues after political power brokers donate a million dollars to Marty's superpac and hire a ruthless campaign manager (Dylan McDermott) to make meaneverything. And if losing loser Marty develops a taste for blood, Director Jay Roach ("Austin Powers," "Meet the Parents") puts "The Campaign" through its fairly predictable paces with his usual skill, until a contrived, 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.

SPARKLE

Rated: PG-13 for mature thematic content involving domestic abuse and drug material, and for some violence, language and smoking
Stars: Whitney Houston, Jordin Sparks, Derek Luke

Three sisters form a '60s girl group that becomes a Motown sensation before experiencing the downside of show biz. Salim Akil ("Jumping the Broom") directed the drama.

STILL PLAYING

THE BOURNE LEGACY

Rated: PG-13 for violence and action sequences
Stars: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz, Edward Norton

It's possible that writer/director Tony Gilroy (head writer for the three previous "Bourne" films) intended this fourth installment to be a thinking-man's action film — with just enough nimbly executed adrenaline-pumping interludes to keep thrill junkies satisfied. But it's equally possible that hard-core action enthusiasts will feel there's far too much talking going on and cogitation required compared to the screen time devoted to various sorts of mayhem. Rather than simply hiring another actor to play Jason Bourne after Matt Damon's tenure and starting the whole saga over again a la "The Amazing Spider-Man," Gilroy has created a new, genetically improved superagent (nicely played on all counts by Jeremy Renner) and a new story line that takes the story in a direction unimagined in the Robert Ludlum novels. The downside? Gilroy attempts to keep us interested by keeping us guessing for a long, long, long time — and then the whole exercise turns out to be just a lengthy preamble to additional films that may (or may not) follow. Even so, the new "Bourne" is more satisfying than not, especially after a brilliantly edited, climactic motorcycle chase through Manila.

HOPE SPRINGS

Rated: PG-13 for mature thematic content involving sexuality

Stars: Tommy Lee Jones, Meryl Streep, Steve Carell

An intelligent and occasionally deeply emotional drama with a not-entirely-compatible overlay of comic trappings, "Hope Springs" is a somewhat odd emotional experience that isn't quite as rich as the promise of rich dramatic potential. Yet the promise is rich enough, and comes close enough to being fulfilled, for it to qualify as one of the most thoughtful and provocative films of the year. Dour, grumbling hubby Arnold (Jones) would probably be content to ride out his all-but-dead 31-year marriage to the grave. But desperately lonely, under-appreciated wife Kay (Streep) has a different plan — to drag Arnold, grousing all the way, into a week of intensive couples therapy. The best thing about this is the way Jones and Streep (both at their best) and Carell (playing it entirely straight as their therapist) work their way through the often-excruciating therapeutic process. If there's a problem here, it comes from the fairly clear suggestion by Jones that Arnold has some sort of deep-seated problem that needs to be addressed, though the script never suggests what that may be. Instead, we're asked to accept a facile and somewhat vague moment of truth leading to an emotional resolution that isn't honestly earned. Jones and Streep make the whole thing work, though, for the most part, and the whole thing feels worthwhile, if only because of the rare reminder it offers, that even when it comes to love, it's not over 'til it's over.
SHOWTIMES

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

RENAISSANCE PLACE
1850 2nd St., Highland Park
(847) 229-2782
The Queen of Versailles (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:30-5:30-7:30; Mon-Thu 2:30-5:30-7:30
Killer Joe (NC-17) Fri-Sun 1:30-6:30-8:30; Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30
Celeste and Jesse Forever (R) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:50-5:30-7:50; Mon-Thu 2:50-5:30-7:50
To Roni with Love (R) Fri-Sun 12:20-4:20-8:20-11; Mon-Thu 2:40-6:40-9:40
Ruby Sparks (R) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-8:15; Mon-Thu 3:50-8:15

HIGHLAND PARK
445 Central Ave.
(847) 437-3300
The theater is currently closed for maintenance.

RANDHURST
324 Theater Way, Mount Prospect
(888) 262-4386
www.amctheatres.com

SHOW PLACE 12
301 Golf Mill Center, Niles
(800) 326-2764
www.amctheatres.com

NORRIDGE
4250 Harlem Ave., Norridge
(888) 262-4386
www.amctheatres.com

PICKWICK
5 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge
(847) 604-2234
www.pickwicktheatre.com

The Expendables 2 (R) Fri-Thu 2:15-5:30-9:30
Hope Springs (PG-13) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-8:45
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-6:30-8:45
The Bourne Legacy (PG-13) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-9:20

ROSEMONTE 18
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont
(847) 447-1030

ROSEMONTE PREMIER
9701 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont
(847) 447-1030
Hit & Run (R) Wed, Thu 11:50-2:25-5:40-10:15
Premium Rush (PG-13) Thu 12:01 a.m.
The Expendables 2 (R) Fri, Sat 10:15-12:45-3:45-7:15-10:15
The Expendables (R) Fri, Sat 10:15-12:45-3:45-7:15-10:15
To Roni with Love (R) Fri-Sun 12:20-4:20-8:20-11; Mon-Thu 2:40-6:40-9:40

Steve Carell stars in “Hope Springs.” © PHOTO BY DARYL WETZ

Paranorman (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15
Paranorman in 3-D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-5:45-8:15-10:40
Sparkle (PG-13) Fri-Thu 11:30-2:20-5:10-8:11
The Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG) Fri-Sun 10:45-1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25; Mon, Tue 11:40-4:35-7:30-10:25
The Bourne Legacy (PG) Fri-Sun 10:15-12:45-1:45-4:15-7:45-10:15; Mon, Tue 10:15-12:45-1:45-4:15-7:45-10:15; Wed-Fri 10:15-12:45-1:45-4:15-7:45-10:15; Sun 10:15-12:45-1:45-4:15-7:45
The Watch (R) Fri-Sun 10:30-3:10-8:25; Mon, Tue 3:10-8:25
The Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10-11:30-2-5-8-11
To Rome with Love (R) Fri, Sat 5-8:50
Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) Fri-Sun 10-11:30-2-5-8-11
Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) Fri, Wed, Thu 5:7:10 Sat, Sun 2:45-5:7:10 Mon 2:45-5
Time After Time: The Very Best of the '80s - Live Concert! Mon 7:30 p.m.
NEW ON VIDEO

‘The Raid: Redemption’ on DVD

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Film Critic

NEW THIS WEEK

THE RAID: REDEMPTION ★★★ 1/2
Rated: R for strong, bloody violence, throughout, and for language
Stars: Iko Uwais, Ananda George, Ray Sahetapy
I Insane, hyper-kinetic, brutal and bloody, "The Raid: Redemption" trumps every other action film in recent memory for pure, non-stop, mainline cinematic mayhem. Writer/director Gareth Evans somehow manages to up the adrenaline ante floor-to-floor as new recruit Uwais fights his way up a 15-story Jakarta apartment building after his invading SWAT team has been wiped out, to capture drug-lord Sahetapy — his only means of escape. The fact that it also has a little bit of plot thrown in can be seen as a bonus or a bore, depending on your predilection.

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS: BLU-RAY DEBUT ★★★ 1/2
Rated: R for some language, sexuality/nudity and drug content
Stars: Gene Hackman, Ben Stiller, Gwyneth Paltrow, Luke Wilson
I Probably the most amusing painful-family-drama you'll ever see. Former child prodigies — are you wincing yet? — Stiller, Paltrow (less recognizable here than in a fat suit in "Shallow Hal") and Luke Wilson grudgingly reunite in their family home after years of disappointment and failure when their outwardly successful "dirt of a dad" (Hackman in a wonderful role) announces he's going to die at long last. The quirky, deadpan humor isn't for everyone but this is still an impressive follow-up to writer/director Wes Anderson's cult hit "Rushmore." Anjelica Huston, Bill Murray, Owen Wilson and Danny Glover also are featured.

RECENT RELEASES

GROSSE POINTE BLANK: BLU-RAY DEBUT ★★★
Rated: R for strong violence, language and some drug content
Stars: John Cusack, Joan Cusac, Dan Aykroyd, Alan Arkin, Minnie Driver
I 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. DeVincentis 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
I The Despicable Me team behind the humorous adventures of train engines Koko, Wilson and Brewer.

CHUGGINGTON: TRAINTASTIC ADVENTURES
Rated R for language and some sexual content
Stars: Danny DeVito, Zac Efron, Betty White, Ed Helms
I Six episodes of the CGI-animated kids' TV series featuring the humorous adventures of train engines Koko, Wilson and Brewer.

THE FORSYTE SAGA COLLECTION
The complete, unedited UK broadcast edition, including the 2002 and 2003 mini-series dramatizing the history of a bitterly divided family, based on John Galsworthy's epic novels. Extras include a Galsworthy bio and booklist, photo galleries, and a making-of featurette.

INVENTING OUR LIFE: THE KIBBUTZ EXPERIMENT
This documentary reveals the hope and heartbreak of the new "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" reboot comes on strong, while Sacha Baron Cohen comes on strongly distasteful in "The Dictator Banned and Unrated," and "The Adventures of Tintin" comes on cartoonish and courageous in the 1991 animated series.
go.

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This week and beyond.

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SUMMER CONCERTS
Niles Park District hosts free family concerts at Oak Park, Lee and Ottawa streets, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fridays. For information, see www.niles-parks.org. Aug. 17: BBI, with audience participation.
Skokie's Backlot Bash features main stage entertainment Aug. 24-26 on Oakton Street between Lincoln and Laramie. (847) 674-1500 or www.backlotbash.com. Aug. 24: 6:30 p.m., We Killed the Lion; 8 p.m., Tributosaurus Becomes Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers. Aug. 25: 2:15 p.m., Matt Hendricks Duo; 4:30 p.m., Certain Stars; 6:30 p.m., The Handcuffs; 8:30 p.m., The Fixx. Aug. 26: Noon, Tristan; 2 p.m., Rivals of the Peacemaker; 4 p.m., The Steepwater Band; 6 p.m., Local H.
Starlight Concert Series presents Archie Powell & the Exports at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at Dawes Park, Sheridan Road at Church Street, Evanston. Call (847) 448-8258 after 4:30 p.m. for rain site updates.
Village of Mount Prospect's Fridays on the Green concert series, held at 6 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month, June through September, on the Village Green in front of Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St. Aug. 17: A Thousand Julys. Sept. 7: Jack Straw. Sept. 21: The Committee Band. For information, visit www.experiencemount-prospect.org.
Hot Summer Nights, 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, through Aug. 30, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Admission is free; parking is $20 per car.
Music on the Esplanade, 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, through Aug. 28, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Admission is free; parking is $20 per car. Call (847) 835-8215 or visit www.chicagobotanic.org. Aug. 21: Chicago Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble. Aug. 28: Swing Gitan plays gypsy jazz.

STAGE
“Dreamgirls,” the rags-to-riches story of a female 1960s Motown group, Aug. 22-Nov. 4 at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire, at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sundays. $41-$49, with discounts available for students and senior citizens. Dinner and theatre tickets, $55, are available Wednesday and Thursday evenings.
Dinner is at Kings Wharf Restaurant or the Fairfield Inn (based on dining availability). Call (847) 634-0200 or visit www.marriotttheatre.com.
“Handicap This!”, a look at living with disabilities, will be performed at 8 p.m. Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 at Oakton Community College's Footlight Theater, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines. General admission is $10; $8 for students and seniors. Call (847) 635-1900 to purchase tickets.
“Hero,” the story of a talented young artist and comic book illustrator living anything but a superhero life, through Aug. 19 at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. The performance schedule is 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursdays and Friday; 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: $40-$48, plus tax and handling fees. Discounts available for students and senior citizens. Call (847) 634-0200 or visit www.marriotttheatre.com.
“Julius Caesar,” presented by Muse of Fire Theatre Company through Sept. 9 at Ingraham Park, behind the Morton

SEE GO, PAGE 9B
Passionate Quixote drives powerful show

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

The pivotal moment in "Man of La Mancha" is Don Quixote’s song "The Quest," better known as "The Impossible Dream." It should break our hearts with its passion and hope. And we must be convinced that our slightly "mad" knight-errant believes every word.

Happily, that is exactly what happened the evening of Saturday Aug. 11, in Cahn Auditorium, when Light Opera Works opened its new production of the 1965 Broadway musical by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion. LOW’s man of La Mancha is James Harms, whose eyes are so ablaze with idealism that we cannot help but believe him and wish him well.

His slender frame gives him the appearance of fragility and makeup ages him appropriately. He has a strong voice and when a note can’t be comfortably sung, he speaks it to powerful effect. So ideally does he embody the musical’s beloved hero that as he lies on his deathbed, he seems as pale as his bed covers.

The compelling story of this multiple Tony Award-winning musical, with a book by Dale Wasserman, charts the adventures of a delusional old man, who thinks he is a knight and calls himself Don Quixote. It is told in the form of a play, narrated by 17th-century writer Cervantes (also played by Harms) as he waits in prison for the judgement of the Spanish Inquisition.

Aldonza, the scullery maid at the roadside stop which Quixote mistakes for a castle, becomes the object of his chaste affection. She is played by Colette Todd, who makes the cynical spitfire her own. Her triumph is the searing solo "Aldonza," surely one of the saddest musical autobiographies ever written.

Quixote’s manservant Sancho Panza is charmingly portrayed by Cary Lovett. He brings a little sunshine to the dismal prison and/or roadside inn where the story plays out.

The able cast includes Alex Honzen as the ever-patient Innkeeper, Bill Chamberlain as the compassionate Padre, and Edward J. MacLennan as the manipulative Dr. Carrasco.

LOW’s artistic director Rudy Hogenmiller is stage director and choreographer. Moments when Quixote and Sancho “ride off” on two horses provide delightful distractions. But the director also had to work out several fierce stage fights and a chilling rape sequence at the end of the first act.

In a marvelous bit of stagecraft, scenic designer Adam L. Veness turns the Cahn stage into a dungeon with a walkway and moving drawbridge above, sturdy enough to bear several men climbing on it at once.

In her Light Opera Works debut, Nyela Basney conducts the 16-piece pit orchestra, delivering the show’s melody-rich score with precision and power.

Light Opera Works is presenting a superior production of this unusually operatic musical. Harms’ rendition of “The Impossible Dream” is the highlight of the show, but his “Dulcinea" is tender and his “I am I, Don Quixote" is full of zest. It’s one of the best shows of the year.

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

"Tusk Tusk," Sept. 8-Oct. 21 at the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5000 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 Information, visit www.allstatearena.com.

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*Riccardo Muti, music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, threw out the first pitch at Wrigley Field before the Cubs 6/13 game.
Young Family finds wooded splendor at Bailey Estates

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Coming home

Young family finds wooded splendor at Bailey Estates

David and Angie Schnobel had been happily living with their two children in a new two-story home in Plainfield since 2005, and vacationing in Wisconsin’s Delavan Lake area for decades.

During a recent summer vacation, Angie remarked that it would be a dream come true to live in the area full time. That impromptu statement led to a string of events that culminated with the family moving in April 2012 into their new Gerstad Builders ranch home in Bailey Estates at Williams Bay, Wis.

After vacation, David and Angie got a call from some longtime friends who happened to be homeowners in Bailey Estates. They encouraged their friends to take a look at a decorated model that the builder had recently placed on the market. David and Angie took a look at the two-story model, but this family with young kids wasn’t interested because they wanted a spacious ranch with a large basement.

The trip wasn’t a waste of time though. They liked the large homesites and absolutely fell in love with a particular lot that was filled with tall, mature trees.

“After living in a Plainfield home, squeezed onto a small homesite constructed in a former corn field, we knew our new home must have more land and significantly larger trees,” said David.

“The homesite we ultimately choose in Bailey Estates fits these desires to a tee.”

Once the lot had been chosen, the next step was to determine which of Gerstad’s numerous ranch plans would meet their size, price and architectural requirements. Gerstad offers at least five different ranch plans that can be customized. They ranged in size from 1,718 to 2,170 square feet and are base priced from $218,900 to $250,900. Two-stories are also available with 1,980 to 3,177 square feet and prices ranging from $212,990 to $284,990.

“Don’t think that we didn’t look at other options in Wisconsin,” emphasized Angie. “Before we signed on the dotted line for our Jefferson home with Gerstad, we investigated purchasing a shortsale home, and also contemplated hiring a contractor to build a custom home. But after talking with our friends who purchased their home in Bailey Estates from Gerstad Builders, we were convinced that Gerstad was the right company to build our dream home.”

Set on a 1.14-acre wooded lot, the 2,170-square-foot Jefferson ranch plan at Bailey Estates is base-priced at $251,890 and includes a full basement.

Because Bailey Estates is a semi-custom home community, the couple got to...
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TODAY'S HOMES

Homeowners refinancing to pay down mortgage debt

The American home no longer is a piggy bank to be tapped whenever the homeowner needs cash.

Eight of every 10 U.S. homeowners who refinanced their first mortgage in the second quarter of 2012 either maintained about the same loan amount or lowered their principal balance by paying in additional money at the closing, reports a new analysis by Freddie Mac.

Of these borrowers, 89 percent maintained about the same loan amount, while 83 percent of refinancing homeowners reduced their principal balance, according to Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist.

"The share of borrowers that kept about the same loan amount was the highest in the 27-year history of the analysis," noted Nothaft. The net dollars of home equity converted to cash as part of a refinance, adjusted for consumer-price inflation, was at its highest since the second quarter of 1995.

An estimated $5 billion in net home equity was cashed out during in the second quarter refinancing of conventional prime credit home mortgages. That is substantially less than during the peak cash-out refinance

month period was $200,000 loan, that translates into saving about $2,900 in annual interest, or about $241 a month.

Fixed-rate mortgage rates hit new lows during June, with benchmark 30-year loans averaging 3.68 percent and 15-year loans averaging 2.98 percent that month, reported Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey.

The rock-bottom home loan rates also sparked a long-awaited rebound in home sales in the seven-county Chicago metropolitan real estate market during the first half of 2012, according to an analysis of area home sales by RE/MAX of Northern Illinois.

The number of homes changing hands was 22 percent higher than in the first half of 2011. The median price of a home, while 3 percent lower for the full six-month period, increased in both May and June.

Home sales activity rose solidly through the first half of 2012. Sales of detached homes increased by 19 percent in both the first and second quarters, while sales of attached homes — primarily condominium apartments and townhomes — were up 28 percent in the first quarter and 26 percent in the second quarter.

Detached home sales for the entire first half of the year totaled 26,484 units, while 14,706 attached homes changed hands.

The median price for all homes sold during the six-month period was $190,000 but median values climbed to $185,000 in June.

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The Schnobels also customized their Jefferson model with a three-car garage, modified the exterior elevation of the home with custom stone work and added a stunning stone entry to the great room. A number of options and upgrades were also installed.

Gerstad installed hardwood flooring, ceramic wall and floor tile in the bathrooms, quarts countertops and the kitchen and stainless steel appliances (stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave range hood).

"The building process was very easy and stress-free. When we did have questions, our calls were returned quickly and answers were provided," said David. "Our home was finished ahead of schedule and at the price we expected. After this experience I would highly recommend Gerstad Builders to my family and friends."

The sales center for Bailey Estates at 439 Ashley Drive off Bailey Road, approximately 3/4 mile west of Route 67. The sales center is open on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment during weekends. For more information, call (262) 245-9790 or (262) 903-5555, or visit www.gerstadbuilders.com.
Quarter of quality

KLM marks 25 years of custom home building, remodeling

KLM Builders, Inc., has earned a reputation for remodeling and building custom and semi-custom homes that meet or exceed the standards of its clients. This year, it marks the 25th anniversary of that effort.

"Whether building a brand new home or remodeling an existing home, we have the same commitment to excellence that we had when KLM Builders took its first breath 25 years ago," said Kim Meier, president of KLM Builders.

As a full-service builder, KLM understands that buyers have different tastes and needs, so it offers a selection of single-family home designs to present homeowners with choices to match their lifestyles. That includes more than 45 unique customizable ranch and two-story floor plans ranging in size from a modest 1,500 square feet to a more spacious 5,000 square feet.

KLM currently offers a choice of four new home communities: Forest Ridge Estates and Thousand Oaks in Spring Grove, Sunset Ridge Estates in Richmond and Woodland Ridge in Antioch. Copious amenities and features for all ages and interests are trademarks throughout the communities, including wooded walking trails, active parks, lakes, and golf courses.

Already, have the perfect piece of land? As a full-service design and build company, KLM can also help prepare a homebuyer's own lot or assist the buyer in finding a desirable site for purchase. From architectural design and product selection to permits and complete construction, KLM coordinates each project from start to finish, working closely with each customer throughout all phases of construction to ensure that when the home is completed, it's exactly what they wanted.

Every KLM home is constructed with ample standard amenities, including quality, name-brand products and energy-efficient features that some other builders consider options. Plus, with the ability to completely customize any home design, buyers are sure to get a home that suits their individual styles, needs and budgets.

Beyond KLM's custom home building is specializing in home restorations and remodeling. Projects range from updating kitchens and baths to new room additions and whole-house restorations.

"Whether you're seeking to accommodate a growing family or enhance the appearance of your existing home, we offer a complete range of design and build services to help you turn your vision into reality, on time and on budget. From extensive home renovations to minor upgrades, we help you achieve your goals no matter the size of the project and even make the process enjoyable by being your one-stop-shop for all of your home improvement needs," said Meier.

Founded by Kim Meier in 1987, the entire KLM team works together to inspire homeowners in Northern Illinois, turning their dream homes into reality.

For more information, visit www.klmbuildersinc.com.
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Nielsen applauds Women's Business Development Center's supplier diversity initiatives and is proud to co-host the Entrepreneurial Woman's Conference on Thursday, September 20th.
The Importance of Parity

Welcome letter from the co-presidents

Since its inception, the Women's Business Development Center, now in its 26th year, has been committed to affirmative action and the implementation of contracting goals, advocacy, public policies, programs and services to strengthen women and minority-owned businesses.

Unfortunately, parity has not yet been achieved for women and minority-owned businesses, but we have made major progress! Women and minority-owned businesses are now the majority of businesses in the U.S. However, the revenues of 80 percent of all businesses and more than 90 percent of minority and women-owned businesses in the U.S. are under $500,000.

Small business is the driving force of the economy. It is responsible for nearly half of all sales, employing more people, creating new jobs and starting businesses at a faster rate. Minority and women-owned businesses are the fastest growing segment of our economy today. The private and public sector's commitment to and implementation of diversity and economic opportunity contracting programs enhance their success.

In our search for parity, the horizon is looking brighter at the federal, state and local levels. The U.S. Small Business Administration is committed to and implementing an expanded 8 percent contracting goal for women business enterprises for every federal agency. In Illinois, Governor Quinn expanded the power of the Illinois Business Enterprise Council to ensure that women and minority businesses will have significant access to contracts and subcontracting opportunities with the state of Illinois and that all its state agencies and institutions, including state colleges and universities.

In Cook County, President Preckwinkle's administration has increased the goals for women and minority businesses in all county agencies by enhancing monitoring and compliance as well as implementing new initiatives on bonding, insurance and prompt payment. In the city of Chicago, under Mayor Rahm Emanuel, new and increased resources expedite W/MBE certification and commitment to contract compliance is enhanced. All city sister agencies are on board to expand business opportunities for women and minority business enterprises. New initiatives are being implemented to provide more prime contracting opportunities.

For business and job creation in the U.S., the case for diversity is clear and uncompromising. Corporate America is committed to strengthening its relationships and to sustaining and increasing market share with women and people of color as consumers of their goods and services and as employees, vendors and suppliers.

What we all want is a level playing field, parity and equal opportunity. We can do much together. We can support efforts to strengthen supplier diversity and vendor development initiatives. We can encourage, commend and buy from corporations that have diversity in employment and purchasing plans. We can let these companies know we recognize and appreciate their fair-minded practices.

Join us at this year's Entrepreneurial Women's Conference, and take advantage of opportunities in the Women's Business & Buyers Mart to build relationships and find opportunities with the committed corporations and government agencies who, like you, understand the value of diversity and the business case for the utilization of diverse suppliers.

Our country's economic strength depends upon all of us. Our businesses, our families, our communities and our country are strengthened by diversity and parity. You can make a difference.

S. Carol Dougall and Hedy M. Ratner, Co-Founders and Co-Presidents of the Women's Business Development Center

Conference Co-Chairs

Mindy Mercaldo
Illinois Division President
Citibank, N.A.

"Women business owners are the fastest growing segment of the economy and a major source for economic and job growth, and Citibank committed to the economic empowerment of women through business ownership and the small business capital initiatives."

Cheryl Pearson-McNeil
Senior Vice President,
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"Regardless of what we do professionally, we are consumers first. The really successful entrepreneurs are those who strategically synchronize their business operations to meet their consumer's most pressing needs."

Conference Co-Chairs:

Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois
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While you're here, don't forget to follow @WBDC on Twitter and use official conference hashtag #exc26.

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Learn from and be inspired by nationally renowned women business owners as moderator Terry Savage, appearing courtesy of the Chicago Sun-Times, leads this year's panel of entrepreneurs through a lively, candid and always fascinating discussion about the ups and downs of entrepreneurship.

**FORUM MODERATOR**

**Terry Savage**

Chicago Sun-Times Financial Columnist, Best-Selling Author of The Savage Truth on Money, and President, Terry Savage Productions, Ltd.

Terry Savage is a nationally recognized, award-winning financial authority, television personality and the author of best-selling books on personal finance. Her most recent book is a new edition of The Savage Truth on Money, which was named one of the ten best money books by Amazon.com. Released in 2009 was The Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?

A nationally syndicated personal finance columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times and a regular contributor to the popular investing websites MoneyShow.com, YahooFinance.com and TheStreet.com, she is also a frequent guest on radio and television shows including CNN, NBC, and CNBC. Terry's financial expertise comes from experience. A founding member and the first woman trader on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, she is also the president of her own company, Terry Savage Productions, Ltd.

**Sue Bhatia**

Chief Executive Officer

Rose International, Inc.

 Ranked 13th on Fast Company's list of the Top 25 Women Business Builders in North America, Rose International has emerged as a force in the IT and Business Services arena, and is a leader in providing innovative technology services to both commercial organizations and government agencies from branch offices and development centers in 21 U.S. cities and India. With 6,000-plus associates and steady revenue growth, the company is recognized as one of the country's fastest-growing and most successful companies, and the largest woman-owned business in St. Louis.

**Christie Hefner**

Former CEO, Playboy Enterprises, Inc.

Executive Chairman, Canyon Ranch Enterprises

Christie Hefner serves as Executive Chairman of Canyon Ranch Enterprises, a new company leveraging the brand and knowledge of Canyon Ranch via media and business partnerships. From 1988-2008 she served as Chairman and CEO of Playboy Enterprises, Inc. overseeing global expansion of Playboy's legendary brand to a wide array of new platforms and markets, transforming a domestic publishing-based business into a global multi-media and lifestyle company. She was the longest serving female CEO ever of a public company, and she was named one of the 100 Most Powerful Women in the World by Forbes magazine for three consecutive years.

**Laura Ricketts**

Director of Chicago Cubs Major League Baseball

Chairman of the Board, Chicago Cubs

Laura Ricketts is a Director and part owner of the Chicago Cubs Major League Baseball as well as Chairman of the Board for Chicago Cubs Charities. Much of her work with the Cubs is focused on community relations, government relations and philanthropy. She is active in several organizations in the Chicago area community and beyond, currently serving as the Co-Chair of the Democratic National Committee's LGBT Leadership Council, and serving on the National Leadership Council for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national non-profit organization that litigates, educates and engages in public policy work on behalf of LGBT civil rights.

**Richelle Shaw**

Chief Executive Officer

RTS Publishing, LLC

Once the only female African-American public utility owner in the nation, Richelle Shaw's story of entrepreneurial success is one of true tenacity, hardship and hard work. The author of a book, How To Build a Million Dollar Business in Las Vegas, Richelle is a noted speaker whose expertise comes from building a $36-million business, losing it after the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy, and then, successfully rebuilding the company in five months. Since 2007, Richelle has been committed to helping entrepreneurs avoid the mistakes she made in her business and has successfully mentored over 12,000 men and women in 88 different industries through her international coaching programs.

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The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) extends its gratitude to the following entities for their commitment, consistent generosity and support to ensure the success of the 26th Annual Entrepreneurial Women's Conference. Without them, this conference would not be possible.

Companies listed are those committed as of July 31, 2012.

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Each year, the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) recognizes women entrepreneurs who have demonstrated unequaled strength, perseverance and creativity in their businesses, and who have embodied entrepreneurial success in various ways. The WBDC also recognizes advocates, corporations and government agencies that have demonstrated their enthusiastic commitment to strengthening women's business ownership and economic development. Congratulations to this year's Hall of Fame Award Recipients!

**26th Annual Entrepreneurial Woman of the Year: WBE Success**

**Heather Sanderson**
*President, Overture Premiums & Promotions LLC*

Heather Sanderson leveraged a wealth of operational and financial expertise to establish Overture Premiums & Promotions eleven years ago. Today, the company has more than 2,500 clients in nearly 20 industries, which it serves with a team of 65 employees who have industry-specific experience. Based in a 70,000-square-foot building in the Chicago suburbs, Overture has an in-house graphics support department to help ensure quality branding for its clients. For the past five years, Overture has been named one of the top 50 promotional marketing companies in the U.S. An innovator and strong believer in the value of employee morale, Sanderson spearheaded a successful Mentor Program at her company, which now has five successful product experts, two of whom are women whose sales topped $1 million in 2011.

**26th Annual Entrepreneurial Woman of the Year: Rising Star**

**Danielle Hrzic**
*President and Co-Founder, Gourmet Gorilla*

Inspired by the desire to provide healthier meals to her sons' school in Chicago's South Loop, Danielle Hrzic co-founded Gourmet Gorilla. This foodservice company delivers healthy meals to more than 90 pre-schools and elementary schools throughout Northern Illinois. The company serves up more than 5,000 healthy, organic meals a day. It primarily uses locally grown products. Hrzic started the company using a personal credit card and a $6,000 microloan, but she has managed to grow the company with minimal debt, reinvestment of profits and hard work. An alumni of Chicago's first Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program, Hrzic was recently featured on MSNBC's popular Morning Joe program. Previously, she spent 12 years in the financial and insurance industries in sales and marketing positions.

**26th Annual Advocacy Awards**

**Joset B. Wright**
*President, National Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc. (NMSDC)*

Joset B. Wright is president of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), a private non-profit organization that expands business opportunities for minority-owned companies of all sizes, and the leading third-party certifier of MBEs in the country. She is an attorney and former procurement executive with a broad range of professional experience in the corporate and private sectors, including a 13-year career in the telecommunications industry.

The WBDC is the largest certifying regional partner organization of WBENC, and it has enjoyed a partnership with the Chicago MSDC for more than two decades. The collaboration with both organizations has led to much of the important legislation that supports the creation and growth of women and minority-owned businesses in the State of Illinois, the County of Cook and the City of Chicago. Today, the WBDC honors the collaborative accomplishments of both Pamela and Joset on behalf of women and minority-owned businesses nationally.

Pamela Prince-Eason is president and CEO of the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the leading third-party certifier for WBEs in the country. Her professional career has included roles as both a corporate executive and business owner. She was vice president of Worldwide Procurement for Pfizer Inc., headquartered in New York City, and was co-owner of RMR Associates, a business process consulting company.

Joset B. Wright is president of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC), a private non-profit organization that expands business opportunities for minority-owned companies of all sizes, and the leading third-party certifier of MBEs in the country. She is an attorney and former procurement executive with a broad range of professional experience in the corporate and private sectors, including a 13-year career in the telecommunications industry.

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Allstate Insurance:

**Cheryl A. Harris**
*Chief Procurement Officer*

**Margaret Klingsport**
*Director, Supplier Diversity*

The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) is proud to honor Allstate Insurance as its 26th Annual Corporate Support Award recipient for their ongoing commitment to the advancement of women and minority-owned businesses and its steadfast dedication to the Women's Business Development Center and its mission.

Accepting the award are Cheryl A. Harris, C.P.M., senior vice president, sourcing and procurement solutions, and Margaret Klingsport, director, supplier diversity. Harris oversees Allstate's spend portfolio of $14 billion through collaboration with internal business partners and external suppliers. Klingsport works with minority suppliers, helping them earn the opportunity to compete for Allstate's business.

**Lisa Price**
*Founder, Carol's Daughter, Inc.*

Lisa Price is the founder of a multimillion-dollar company, Carol's Daughter, Inc. (lovingly named after her mother Carol), whose fragrances and lotions are a favorite among celebrities like Jada Pinkett-Smith, Erykah Badu, Rosie Perez and Halle Berry. Products are sold at nine company-owned stores, including its flagship store in Harlem. Price is the author of a book, Success Never Smelled So Sweet, and is a philanthropist who serves on the boards of the National Women's Business Council and the Foundation for Advancement of Women Now, founded by Mary J. Bige and Steve Stoute.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11B
Rusted Root with Mr. Blotto and Mike Himebaugh of Hello Dave. $30-$50. Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.; John Mayell. $25-$50. Sept. 21, 8 p.m.; The Smithereens, $20-$40. Sept. 28, 9 p.m.; Ronnie Baker Brooks with Cedric Burnside Project. $15-$38.

ART GALLERIES

Perspective Group and Gallery, 1310-1/2B Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.perspectiveorgillery.org. (224) 200-1155. Gallery hours are noon-6 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays or by appointment. All art is for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting SASI. There is no pay. Production dates are Oct. 3-11. For more information, visit www.perspectivegallery.org.

Auditions for the Performing Arts at Oakton's production of "Lysistrata" will be held from 6-9 p.m. Aug. 27-28 at Oakton Community College's Studio One, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. No appointment is necessary. The director seeks 17 actors — men and women of all ages — who should prepare a comedic monologue (one to two minutes in length) or be ready to read from the script. Monologues need not be memorized. Production dates are Oct. 11-21. For information, call (847) 635-1897.

Auditions for the Six Piano Ensemble, a group that performs classical, jazz, and contemporary music arranged for six pianos, will be held from 7-9 p.m. Sept. 10 and 12 in Room 3360 at Oakton Community College's Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Music is provided, and candidates also may play a prepared selection. For more information, contact Glenn Sprague at (847) 635-1905 or gsprague@oakton.edu.

The Oakton String 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 Bartok, Joplin, New Orleans jazz, and Bollywood music. Rehearsals are held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays or by appointment. All art is for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting SASI. There is no pay. Production dates are Oct. 3-11. For more information, visit www.simplychicagoart.com.

The James Downing 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 to 65. No appointment necessary. Cold readings from the script. Bring a current headshot and resume, if available. There is no pay. Production dates are Oct. 13-28. For information, visit jamesdowningtheatre.typepad.com.

Auditions for the Daily Show at Oakton's production of "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 to 65. No appointment necessary. Cold readings from the script. Bring a current headshot and resume, if available. There is no pay. Production dates are Oct. 13-28. For information, visit jamesdowningtheatre.typepad.com.

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Kosta serves up comedy at Zanies

BY DAN PEARSON
Contributor

Former tennis pro Michael Kosta has made it in a new racket.

Since 2006, the Ann Arbor, Mich., native has been telling jokes for a living and he’ll serve them up this weekend at Zanies in Rosemont.

“I was very happy to give tennis a shot and get as far as I did, but comedy is my passion and the fact that I even make a living is the biggest joke of all to me,” said Kosta.

He played tennis professionally for three years after college and was ranked internationally at 864th in singles for three years and 439th in doubles.

“My doubles partner and I were in the top 10 in the country, but I didn’t win any individual championships,” said Kosta. He still plays tennis once or twice a week and loves it now more than ever. “I feel less pressure and I enjoy the camaraderie of an opponent more,” he said.

It’s Kosta’s college major — speech and communications — not his sport that’s in play now. “All the other people in class were afraid of public speaking and I always saw it as an opportunity to make people laugh,” he said. “That’s what started everything and lead me down the comedy path.”

Kosta was coaching tennis at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and doing stand-up comedy at open mics when he received an invitation to showcase for the HBO Aspen Comedy Festival. That initial showcase was held in Chicago and led to additional TV appearances and finally to his move to Los Angeles in 2008.

Kosta starred in his first “Comedy Central Presents” special last year and served as the backstage host for the 2011 Emmy awards.

As a comedian, Kosta views the audience as both friend and foe. “I want to make my friends laugh,” he said. “But sometimes I treat them like it’s a tennis match, in that the audience is my opponent and I need to win.”

On stage, he goes with a subjectively? In comedy, we don’t have a scoreboard but it would be kind of fun if we did.”

While attending the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana on a tennis scholarship, Kosta was part of a tennis team that took home four Big Ten championships for a first-place national ranking.

Doubles champ

“My doubles partner and I were in the top 10 in the country, but I didn’t win any individual championships,” said Kosta. He still plays tennis once or twice a week and loves it now more than ever. “I feel less pressure and I enjoy the camaraderie of an opponent more,” he said.

It’s Kosta’s college major — speech and communications — not his sport that’s in play now. “All the other people in class were afraid of public speaking and I always saw it as an opportunity to make people laugh,” he said. “That’s what started everything and lead me down the comedy path.”

Kosta was coaching tennis at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and doing stand-up comedy at open mics when he received an invitation to showcase for the HBO Aspen Comedy Festival. That initial showcase was held in Chicago and led to additional TV appearances and finally to his move to Los Angeles in 2008.

Kosta starred in his first “Comedy Central Presents” special last year and served as the backstage host for the 2011 Emmy awards.

As a comedian, Kosta views the audience as both friend and foe. “I want to make my friends laugh,” he said. “But sometimes I treat them like it’s a tennis match, in that the audience is my opponent and I need to win.”

On stage, he goes with a couple trustworthy isms to build his laughs, and mostly they work. “I find that if the audience doesn’t get sarcasm or didn’t get that the narcissism is a joke, I have a very difficult time,” Kosta explained.

Still a sport

He’s capitalized on his sports expertise in several ways. He has an Internet comedy show “Sports. Kosta. Basement.” It can be viewed on line at funnyordie.com and on YouTube.

Kosta has won two Michigan Emmys for hosting a Detroit-based show for Fox Sports, and he wrote the 2006 book, 101 Tips To Win More Tennis Matches.

He’ll wait a while to write his comedy book, “When I wrote that (tennis) book,” said Kosta, “I’d been playing tennis for around 25 years. I think it would a little bit presumptuous for me to write a book right now about how to be funny.”

Michael Kosta

Zanies Comedy Night Club, 5437 Park Place, MB Financial Park, Rosemont 8 and 10:15 p.m., August 17-18
Tickets are $20 with a two drink/food minimum (847) 813-0484 or visit www.zanies.com or www.michaelkosta.com

MICHAEL KOSTA

Zanies Comedy Night Club, 5437 Park Place, MB Financial Park, Rosemont 8 and 10:15 p.m., August 17-18
Tickets are $20 with a two drink/food minimum (847) 813-0484 or visit www.zanies.com or www.michaelkosta.com

Full event schedule at: www.BacklotBash.com

Friday
8:30 PM: Tributosaurus becomes Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
6:30 PM: We Killed The Lion

Saturday
8:30 PM: The Fixx
6:30 PM: The Handcuffs
4:30 PM: Certain Stars
Many more - music begins at 11:15

Sunday
6 PM: Local H
4 PM: The Steepwater Band
2 PM: Rivals of the Peacemaker
12 PM: Tristen

Carnival Rides • Food and Beer • 5K Run
Bingo • Business Expo
Classic Car Show • Pancake Breakfast
Silent Movies at the Skokie Theatre

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FOR CONSISTENTLY UPDATED INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT!
Chicago Master Singers will hold vocal auditions for the 2012-13 season Aug. 21 in Palatine. Dedicated singers are invited to call (877) 825-5267 or send an e-mail to cms.information@gmail.com to make an audition appointment. CMS is a 130-voice choral ensemble featuring singers from throughout the Chicago area. The ensemble will perform this season with the Ars Viva Orchestra and the Lake Forest Symphony. At the auditions, singers are encouraged to sing a prepared piece of their choice, and bring three copies of the music. Auditioners without a prepared piece will be asked to sing a familiar song provided at the audition. A pianist will be provided for accompaniment. Auditioners will also be asked to sight-read an unfamiliar piece. Members pay dues of $100 per year and purchase their own music. Chicago Master Singers rehearsals are held from 7-10 p.m. Mondays in Palatine, beginning Aug. 28, and also on Tuesdays and Thursdays of concert weeks. For information, visit www.chicagomastersingers.org.

Northwest Choral Society will host “Meet & Greet” from 7-9 p.m. Aug. 21 at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, 1095 Thacker St., Des Plaines. The chorus is seeking singers, who are at least 17 years of age, with previous four-part choral experience. For the 2012-13 season, the chorus will feature the Christmas portion of the “Messiah” in early December, “The German Requiem” by Brahms in April, and a medley of Broadway musicals at its June concert. For information, visit www.nwchoralsociety.org or call (224) 585-9127.

Dancers ages 7-17 are invited to audition to perform with the Moscow Ballet in its annual Chicago performance of “The Great Russian Nutcracker.” Auditions will be held at 4 p.m. Aug. 29 at Southport Performing Arts Conservatory, 3433-37 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago. Dancers should have two years of ballet training and be no more than 5 feet tall. $5 audition fee. Registration required.
Showcase celebrates masters of craft

The American Craft Expo is a highly competitive, juried show.

BY MEREDITH MORRIS
Contributor

The American Craft Exposition, held annually in Evanston, is a gem of its kind. It's known for an exquisite array of handcrafted work in 12 media, ranging from basketry to jewelry, furniture to fiber arts.

Now in its 28th year, the American Craft Exposition is returning August 24-26 to Northwestern University's Henry Crown Sports Pavilion. A highly competitive juried show, the expo is also a major fundraiser to benefit breast and ovarian cancer research and care at NorthShore University Healthsystem.

"We're very excited about this year's expo. The artists are masters at what they do," said Barbara Weiss, co-chair of the 2012 event and member of the Auxiliary of NorthShore University Healthsystem.

Finding the best

To prepare for this year's expo, which is expected to draw up to about 10,000 visitors, Weiss and her fellow co-chair, Sue Levin, visited two other major American craft events, one in Baltimore and another in Philadelphia, to assess the playing field. They caught up with artists who typically exhibit at the expo to see their latest efforts, and also encouraged others, whose work impressed them, to apply for the Evanston event.

As a result, this year's show will feature plenty of noteworthy first-time exhibitors.

"They're new, they're interesting and fresh, and they're excited about the show," Levin said.

Out of about 700 applications received by this year's expo, 154 outstanding artists were selected plus 10 showcase "emerging artists"—those who've practiced their craft for six years or less and demonstrated exceptional promise.

Expo artists will be on hand at their exhibits to engage with visitors and discuss their creative vision and craft technique. And in addition to viewing exhibits, expo visitors will be able to watch artist presentations, join interactive discussions, bid at an online auction, and watch a fashion show (Saturday only).

Local artists

Two artists exhibiting at this year's event, JoAnn Baumann, a 38-year resident of Glencoe, and Valerie Hector, a Wilmette native who now lives in Evanston, both specialize in beaded jewelry but arrived at the expo by different paths.

Baumann, who's practiced for more than 20 years, will exhibit for the first time after applying once before, two decades ago. A regular attendee of the expo for its quality, she describes being part of it as a "feather in my cap."

"It's a show I've always liked to go to because it has some of the best artists in the country," she said. "I've lusted after pieces I've seen there for so many years, it's exciting to actually be part of the event."

Baumann's work includes beaded jewelry and hand-dyed scarves adorned with her own handcrafted beads. A particular technique she employs is making beaded beads; larger beads created by weaving smaller ones together.

Hector, by contrast, uses Czech glass beads and sterling silver, balancing sparseness of form with a richness of surface finish. She unites her beads in various ways—netting or layering techniques—and adds clasps of her own design and fabrication.

Hector, who opened her studio in 1988, first exhibited at the expo in 1992 and has returned every year since.

"I look forward to the American Craft Exposition because the audience understands my work so well," she said. "That doesn't happen in every city."

Craft for a Cure

The mission of the American Craft Exposition is to raise money for the funding goals of the Auxiliary of NorthShore University Healthsystem, to support the Healthsystem's breast and ovarian cancer research and care.

The cause is as important to the expo's significance as its art, according to 2012 co-chairs Barbara Weiss and Sue Levin.

"I am so proud to be a part of it," Levin said. "Women need to support other women. It's not just me with cancer, but it could be. It's not my daughter-in-law, but it could be."

The cause is also important to many artists.

JoAnn Baumann, an exhibitor from Glencoe, is a breast cancer survivor who describes her desire to participate in the show as "two-fold": raising cancer prevention funds as well as professional achievement.

Valerie Hector, an Evanston artist, also acknowledges the importance of the expo's fundraising goal, stating: "I believe in the greater mission of the show, generating funds for breast and ovarian cancer research in addition to supporting artists."

At the expo, visitors can keep an eye out for art objects marked by pink ribbons. As part of the expo's "Craft for a Cure" program, participating artists will donate a portion of the sales price of these items to the fundraising effort.

Complete information at americancraftexpo.org
Choir traditions in Chicago enrich children's lives

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Contributor

You won't have to audition for this choir, but be warned, standards are high. The repertoire includes sacred works by William Byrd, William Harris, Herbert Howells, Orlando Gibbons and Thomas Tallis, as well as works by Durufle, Faure, and Messiaen.

“We want to be as good as we can be,” said Mark Kraemer, who also sings bass in the Choir of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston. “But we are a welcoming congregation. If you want to sing, you can join the choir.”

Rich sound

Kraemer, who plays bass in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, praised the legendarily acoustics in the stone cathedral-like edifice at the corner of Hinman and Lee. “It has an unique sonority,” he said. “It has such a warm reverberance. It is rewarding to sing in that space.”

The choirmaster is Andrew Lewis of Highland Park, a choral-conducting dynamo. He has been directing the small, prestigious cappella ensemble Bella Voce since 2005, and since 2004, the Elgin Choral Union, a 125-voice community symphonic choir, which partners on programs with the Elgin Symphony. He is also conductor of the Young People’s Chorus of Chicago.

The very young choristers begin in the St. Luke’s training choir. “We accept children from five to seven years of age,” said Lewis. “They move to the treble choir once they are eight.” At this time there are 18 youngsters in the treble choir. “Their voices are so inspiring and their musicality is beyond what I imagined was possible,” the choirmaster said.

His own three sons, the oldest of whom is 10, are in the treble choir: “One of the big reasons I took this job was the opportunity to have my boys in a top choir, where they could sing high-quality, challenging church music,” he said. “We don’t do the easy hymns.”

In addition to two choir rehearsals a week for the upcoming Sunday service, the treble study materials from the Royal School of Church Music. “There is no pressure,” Lewis explained. “They move at their own pace.”

Music education

The young people learn to read music, study music theory and become familiar with church modes, including Anglican chant. “They receive an all-around musical education in our choir,” he continued. “After the girls graduate from high school and the boys’ voices get to a place, they can move into the adult choir, which has about 40 singers.”

There are no auditions for the choir, but Lewis meets personally with each applicant. “Any parent who wishes their child to be in the training choir, should send me an email,” Lewis said. “I want to meet the child, check their ear. If they can’t catch a pitch right away, don’t worry. That can be taught.”

The children come from a number of North Shore communities, and no one has to be a member of the congregation to sing in St. Luke’s Choir.

Adults also do not have to be a member of the St. Luke’s congregation to sing in the church choir.

“Your voice is your instrument,” Kraemer declared, “It’s what makes St. Luke’s Choir unique. It informs the whole worship experience.”

The St. Luke’s Church Choir

SAINT LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

939 Hinman Ave., Evanston

Rehearsals are on Monday and Thursday evenings
To reach Andrew Lewis, send an email to chorusmaster@stlukesvanston.org

Church information at (847) 475-3630

Go on page 15

Call (773) 463-1220 or visit www.southportsarts.com. Artisans and craftspersons are invited to jury to be among the exhibitors in the 22nd Annual Arts & Crafts Adventure, to be held Sept. 15 in Hodges Park, Park Ridge. Potential exhibitors should submit four images representative of their work they wish to exhibit, one of their display set-ups, their first/last names, address, and daytime telephone number. A resume/show listing is helpful. Call (847) 991-4748 or visit www.americansocietyofartists.org.

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

The Norwood Park Historical Society is accepting applications from crafteres, artists, and high-quality chefs/bakers to fill positions at the 25th annual Victoria’s Holiday Boutique, a fund-raiser for the museum and organization, to be held Nov. 28- Dec. 2 at 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. Fee is $35-$65 per space, and each seller must donate 15% commission on sales. During the event, the center sponsors dress a minimum of five hours to working the sale. Hand-made or homemade items only. For more information, call (773) 531-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

Crafteres are sought for the St. Luke’s Choir annual holiday concert, to be held Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s Cathedral, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. Church telephone number is (847) 475-3630. Applications are available at www.stlukesevanston.org or by sending an email to chorusmaster@stlukesvanston.org.

For more information, call (847) 991-4748 or visit www.stlukesevanston.org.
Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwood.library.org. Aug. 17, 1 p.m.: "Big Miracle." Aug. 23, 10:30 a.m.: "Thin Ice." Aug. 23, 1 p.m.: "The Lady Eve." Aug. 24, 1 p.m.: "Footnote" (English subtitles).

Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. 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.northwestchicagofilmsociety.org. Aug. 22: "This Day and Age" (1933), with the Popeye cartoon "Tom in the Flying Trapeze." Aug. 29: "The Chase" (1966), with the Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner cartoon "Fast and Furry-ous."

Walking on Water Films presents the Chicago premiere of "Promised Land: Israel Through The Eyes of Surfers" at 4 p.m. Sept. 9 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. The screening will be followed by a meet-and-greet with director and co-producer Todd Morehead. The film is appropriate for all ages. Free. Call (312) 560-5680.

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 Greenwood St., Evanston. 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 khartzell@evanstonhistorycenter.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 the north to Touhy on the south, offers free, docent-led tours featuring a different section of the two-mile long park each month. Tours last approximately one hour and feature discussions of the sculptures, their creating artists, types of materials used and techniques employed as well as the artists' concepts for the various pieces. The park is handicapped accessible but the tours require walking between the sculptures, so people who have difficulty are encouraged to bring a wheelchair. All tours begin promptly at 1 p.m. No reservations are required. For information, visit www.sculpturepark.org or call (847) 679-4265, Aug. 26: Section I, park in the lot between Dempster and Main streets on the east side of McCormick Boulevard. Sept. 23: Section II, park in the canoe lot behind the channel bridge to McCormick to begin the tour.

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 Skokie 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, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Cars on display will include classic cars, muscle cars, hot rods, motorcycles and vintage military vehicles. There will also be music, food and hourly raffles. Visit www.mondaynightcarshows.com.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 666-4898. www.iholocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 6-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through Jan. 6, 2013: "Spies, Traitors and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America," a creation of the International Spy Museum. The exhibit explores how the United States should balance civil liberties and individual rights during times of conflict, crisis and fear. At interactive stations following the themes of the exhibition — revolution, sabotage, hate, radicalism, world war, subversion, protest, extremism and terrorism — visitors are able to record their opinions on issues of national security and civil liberties and compare their reactions to those of past Gallup polling results. Aug. 19, 1:30 p.m.: Screening of "Eulogy Justice," a PBS documentary about the more than six decades-long commitment to apprehend Nazi war criminals and place them on trial for crimes against humanity. Free with museum admission. Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. (847) 491-4000. www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu. Summer hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free. Through Aug. 26: "Art on Paper: Prints, Drawings and Photographs from the Block Museum."

RAVINIA

Ravinia Festival, Lake-Cook and Green Bay roads, Highland Park. Tickets can be ordered at www.ravinia.org or (847) 666-5100. Aug. 18, 1 p.m.: Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Mozart's "The Magic Flute," in the Martin Theatre. $80; lawn $10. Aug. 17, 6 p.m.: David Greilsammer, piano, in Bennett Gordon Hall. The program includes works by Mozart, Schubert and others. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 17, 7 p.m., and Aug. 19, 1 p.m.: Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Mozart's "Idomeneo," in the Martin Theatre. $80; lawn $10. Aug. 18, 11 a.m.: Kraft Kids Concert featuring Justin Roberts & The Not Ready For Naptime Players, in the Pavilion. $10; lawn $8. Aug. 22, 6 p.m.: Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Mozart's "Idomeneo," in the Martin Theatre. $80; lawn $10. Aug. 23, 8 p.m.: Rachel Barton Pine, violin, in Bennett Gordon Hall. The program includes works by Schubert, Brahms and others. $10; no lawn sales; ticket and dining package $40. Aug. 22, 6 p.m.: Wolfgang Schmidt, cello, and Marco Astorri, piano, in Bennett Gordon Hall. The program includes works by Bach, Beethoven and others. $10; no lawn sales; ticket and dining package $40. Aug. 22, 8 p.m.: The Knights, featuring cellist Yo-Yo Ma, in the Pavilion. $40-$60; lawn $10. Sept. 7, 8 p.m.: The Knights, performing with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, in the Pavilion. $40-$60; lawn $10. Aug. 23, 8 p.m.: The Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the Martin Theatre. $40-$60; lawn $10; ticket and dining package $75. Aug. 25, 1 p.m.: Kraft Great Kids Concert featuring River North Dance Chicago, in the Pavilion. $10; lawn $5. Aug. 28, 8 p.m.: Urinal Farm, in Bennett Gordon Hall. The program includes works by Borodin, Tchaikovsky and others. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 28, 8 p.m.: "Big Miracle." Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m.: Julia Bullock, piano, and Awadagin Pratt, piano, in Bennett Gordon Hall, in an all-Brahms program. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 31, 6 p.m.: Orion Weiss, piano, in Bennett Gordon Hall. The program includes works by Schubert, Schumann and others. $10; no lawn sales; ticket and dining package $40. Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m.: The Duke of September — Donald Fagen, Michael McDonald and Boz Scaggs, in the Pavilion. $85; lawn $38. Aug. 22, 6 p.m.: Rachel Barton Pine, violin, and Matthew Hagle, piano, in Bennett Gordon Hall. The program includes works by Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 23, 8 p.m.: "Breakfast in America with the Legendary Voice of Supertramp," in the Pavilion. $55; lawn $16. Aug. 24, 6 p.m.: "Lincoln Trio performs Schubert and Schumann in Bennett Gordon Hall. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 25, 5 p.m.: "Reginald Robinson plays jazz, stride and ragtime piano in Bennett Gordon Hall. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 26, 6 p.m.: Inon Barnatan, piano, in Bennett Gordon Hall. The program includes works by Debussy, Ravel and Schubert. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 28, 6 p.m.: "An Evening with Yo-Yo Ma: A Journey Through Europe," in the Pavilion. $45; lawn $10. Aug. 28, 8 p.m.: "Ruth Page Festival of Dance featuring Momix, in the Pavilion. $45; lawn $10; ticket and dining package $60. Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m.: "Duran Duran," in the Pavilion. $85; lawn $38. Aug. 31, 6 p.m.: "Brahms at 150," featuring Ruth Page Civic Ballet, in Bennett Gordon Hall. $10; no lawn sales. Sept. 7, 9 p.m.: "The Knights, featuring violinist Itzhak Perlman, in the Pavilion. $85; lawn $38. Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m.: The Knights, featuring violinist Itzhak Perlman, in the Pavilion. $85; lawn $38. Aug. 24, 6 p.m.: "Lincoln Trio performs Schubert and Schumann in Bennett Gordon Hall. $10; no lawn sales. Aug. 31, 6 p.m.: "An Evening with Yo-Yo Ma: A Journey Through Europe," in the Pavilion. $45; lawn $10. Aug. 31, 8 p.m.: "Duran Duran," in the Pavilion. $85; lawn $38.
HOROSCOPES

For the week of August 22 — August 28

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This week could offer more opportunities for ambitious Lambs eager to get ahead. But don't rush into making decisions until you've checked for possible hidden problems.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Some light begins to shine on professional and/or personal situations that have long eluded explanation. Best advice: Don't rush things. All will be made clear in time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although you might want to protest what seems to be an unfair situation, it's best to keep your tongue and temper in check for now. The full story hasn't yet come out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work prospects are back on track. But watch what you say. A thoughtless comment to the wrong person — even if it's said in jest — could delay or even derail your progress.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A colleague might try to goad you into saying or doing the wrong thing. It's best to ignore the troublemaker, even if he or she riles your royal self. Your supporters stand by you.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be careful not to let on-the-job zealousness create resentment with co-workers who might feel you shut them out. Prove them wrong by including them in your project.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although it's not quite what you hoped for,

use your good business sense to make the most of what you're being offered at this time. Things will improve down the line.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A more positive picture of what lies ahead is beginning to take shape. But there are still too many gaps that need to be filled in before you make definitive plans.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Continue to keep a tight hold on the reins so that you don't charge will-nilly into a situation that might appear attractive on the surface but lacks substance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You still need to demand those answers to your questions. Remember, your wise counselling earns you respect, but it's your search for truth that gives you wisdom.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You'll find that people are happy to help you deal with some difficult situations. And, of course, knowing you, you'll be happy to return those favors anytime. Won't you?

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Give that special someone in your personal life a large, loving dollop of reassurance. That will go a long way toward restoring the well-being of your ailing relationship.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are a delightful person — even if it's said in jest — could delay or even derail your progress.
Dori Fay Moses & Timothy Clark Brinkley
Engagement

Ms. Moses holds a B.A. in economics from Grinnell College, where she graduated summa cum laude and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She later received her law degree from the University of Illinois Law School, where she graduated magna cum laude. She is the founder and president of Moses Legal Search, an attorney placement firm servicing the legal community nationwide. She is the daughter of Jacqueline Zoller Moses, a prominent Chicago artist, and the late Professor Ronald Peter Moses, Skokie, Illinois, who taught economics for 30 years at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Dori is the granddaughter of the late Rose Yaffee Moses and the late Arthur Moses, Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the late Estelle Falkowski Zoller and the late Jacob “Jack” Zoller, Kenosha Wisconsin.

Mr. Brinkley holds a B.B.A. in Finance from East Tennessee State University. He is an award winning Commercial Interiors Sales Executive with Business Interiors by Staples, a Fortune 500 Company and is a member of the International Interior Design Association. He is the son of Brenda Clark Brinkley and James Walter Brinkley II, Johnson City, Tennessee, owners of Brinkley Adjustment Company, Inc. and Brinkley Properties. Tim is the grandson of Norma Greene Clark and the late Albert Britton Clark, Johnson City, Tennessee and Virgie Julian Brinkley and the late James Walter Brinkley, Jr, Roan Mountain, Tennessee.

The couple will be married in a private ceremony on September 30, 2012 at the nationally registered historic Green Pastures of Austin, Texas.

Heather Frystak - Christopher Horton
Wedding

Mary Beth and Ken Frystak of Edison Park proudly announce the marriage of their daughter, Heather, to Christopher Horton. The couple was married at Mary, Seat of Wisdom in Park Ridge on June 30th. Christopher is the son of Sue and Steve Horton of Pickerington, Ohio. The couple had a reception at The Elmcrest in Elmwood Park, and vacationed in the Dominican Republic. Christopher is employed by Lifetime Fitness, and Heather is a graphic artist for Midwest Air Technology. The couple will reside in Hanover Park.

Irv and Doris Abramson of Skokie, Ill. will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on August 24th. The two were married at the Beldon – Stratford Hotel in Chicago on August 24th, 1947. The couple owned and operated their family business in Chicago (Friedman Auto Parts) for over 45 years. Irv is a decorated World War II, Purple Heart Veteran. Since the couple's retirement, they have both been active volunteers. Doris has volunteered at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston for the last 20 years. Irv serves on the Consumer Affairs Commission in Skokie, Ill. among a number of other volunteer jobs that include Honor Flight Chicago. Doris and Irv are super proud of their five children and nine extra super grandchildren. They both agree that the secret to a long, happy marriage is falling in love many times... always with the same person.

TITLE- PARK RIDGE WARRIOR U11 TAKES CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE NEW BERLIN WISCONSIN TOURNAMENT

The Park Ridge Warrior U11 year-old team took off for New Berlin Wisconsin to be the only team from Illinois and take the Championship home. They ended the tournament in their third game of the day with a victory over the New Berlin Heat.

From bottom to top left to right: Henry Hoetscher, Patchy O'Malley, John Wessel, Luke Passaneau, Rob Pape, Mike Passaneau, Mike Cristiano, Tommy Brander, Bobby Rinaldi
Middle row left to right: Nick Cristiano, Jimmy Nuzzo, William Wachowski, Ryan Kilburg, Andy Pape, Kevin O’Sharry
Top row left to right: Rob Pape, Mike Cristiano, Mike Passaneau, Tom Brander
Cold Lentil Salad (Yemisir Azifa)
(Adapted from Almaz Yigizaw)

1 pound whole lentils
1 red or Spanish onion, chopped
1 tomato, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon cumin
1 lemon
2 teaspoons olive oil

Rinse lentils under cold water and drain. Place lentils in small kettle and cover with double the amount of water as lentils. Cook over medium-high heat. Bring lentils to boil and reduce to simmer. Cook lentils until they break; continue simmering lentils to desired tenderness. Refrigerate until cold.

Grind tomato, onion and garlic and combine with lentils. Mix oil with salt; add juice of half the lemon to mixture and blend all three ingredients together. Stir into lentils, mix well.

Squeeze the juice from the other half of the lemon on top of the salad and mix a bit more.

Ramadan, the month-long religious observation that requires Muslims to fast during the day and consume only small meals after sunset, will end on Sunday, Aug. 19. For many who observe Ramadan, the end of the period of fasting and reflection is perennially marked with a special meal.

Endal Hailemariam, owner of Addis Abeba, an Ethiopian restaurant in Evanston, is familiar with many of the foods that mark the end of Ramadan. Hailemariam, a Christian, moved to Chicago from Ethiopia 30 years ago.

"Close to 30 percent of Ethiopians are Muslim," Hailemariam estimated. "Very often, groups of 10 to 15 or 20 break their Ramadan fasts together over meals including stews of lamb, beef or pork."

Meat stews, ranging from extremely spicy (wot) to mild (alecha), are popular Ethiopian foods. Yesiga Wot, a spicy beef stew, is made with beef simmered in a red pepper sauce. Lamb is often featured on Ethiopian menus, and a popular dish is የበቅ ማጥር. The stew is made of lamb, cooked slowly in a mild sauce with spiced butter, onions, garlic and turmeric.

Ethiopian style

Whether wot or alecha, it is Ethiopian custom for a group of people to share a meal around many different kinds of stews and vegetables that are spooned onto a large, round Ethiopian sourdough flatbread called injera. The injera disappears like a pizza as hands reach in to pull pieces of the bread and use it to scoop up the stews.

The same way Americans embraced Spain's tapas culture, the custom of sharing an Ethiopian injera meal is a growing trend. And as more and more people discover this tradition, they learn that the right hand is always used to break injera; equally important is to ensure fingers do not come in contact with stew sauces or lips.

Most commonly made with sourdough batter, the distinct taste of injera is reminiscent of a loaf of sourdough bread fresh out of an oven in San Francisco. Just as distinctive is the unusually moist and spongy consistency of injera.

"Our mothers and grandmothers never used baking powder, baking soda or processed yeast to make injera," said Almaz Yigizaw, owner of Chicago restaurants Ethiopian Diamond and Ethiopian Diamond II. "At Ethiopian Diamond, we strictly follow this old tradition."

Yigizaw moved to Chicago from Gandor, Ethiopia, around the same time Hailemariam relocated to the U.S., and she brought many of her grandmother's recipes and traditions with her. Yigizaw, a Christian, is also familiar with the observance of Ramadan. Many of the foods eaten at the end of Ramadan are on the menu at her restaurants.

Lentils for summer

One of those, her grandmother's Cold Lentil Salad (Yemisir Azifa), is a refreshing alternative to those who thought lentils were relegated to the realm of cold weather comfort foods. Lentils are flavored with onion, tomato, cumin, garlic and lemon. The longer the flavors are allowed to mingle, the better.

"Cold Lentil Salad is both nutritious and filling offering much protein and at a modest cost," Yigizaw said. "The trickiest part of making the salad is mixing the oil, salt and lemon, in that order."

For a sweet end-of-Ramadan indulgence, Destaye is on Yigizaw's dessert menu. The treat, as rich with flavor as texture, is made by baking thin shells of dough stuffed with a mixture of raisins, pistachios, almonds, coconut and cardamom powder.
A BENEFIT FOR THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY
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AUGUST 24-25, 2012

AUGUST 24-25, 2012

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Center of Concern
The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge. (847) 823-0453. The Center offers legal, counseling, and volunteer opportunities. For more information, visit www.centerofconcern.org. Call (847) 823-0453 Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for services that require an appointment, please call (847) 823-0453 Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to Noon (no appointment needed).

Other Services: Preparation of simple wills and durable powers of attorney for health care and property also available by appointment. Homeowners desiring additional income, companionship or the ability to remain in their homes may wish to consider The Center of Concern's shared housing program. Residents are matched with screened applicants who possess a temperament suitable to shared accommodations. All services are offered at The Center of Concern offices at 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, in Park Ridge. For services that require an appointment, please call (847) 823-0453 Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; or Friday 9 a.m. to Noon. The Center of Concern also offers friendly visitors for the homebound, programs designed to prevent homelessness, and volunteer opportunities in the office and in the field. Visit www.centerofconcern.org. Call (847) 823-0453 to schedule an appointment for any of the above services.

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

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

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

Maine Township Neighborhood Watch: Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the basement of Maine Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Road in Park Ridge. Meetings address issues within the unincorporated area of the township and all residents are invited. Reports from the Cook County Sheriff's Police, North Maine Fire Department, and the township's Code Enforcement Department are shared, and residents are invited to ask questions and report concerns or problems in their neighborhood.

Arts/Crafts
Holiday Craft Fair: St. John Brebeuf's Catholic Women's Club will hold its annual Holiday Craft Fair from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 11 in the May Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles. Any crafter wishing to receive an application may call Judi Stephens, (847) 296-6421.

Crafter: Needed for the annual Holiday Fair at Martin Luther Church, 6850 W. Addison St., Chicago, to be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 20. Table rental fee and sample for raffle are required. Call (773) 777-8821.

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

Classes
Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Inc.: Offering "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy," dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., Morton Grove. The fee is $60.

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712: Meet at 7 p.m. every second Wednesday of the month at 7580 Caldwell Ave. (next to Tam Tennis in Niles on Howard Street). The Post is open on Fridays 7 p.m. until closing. All veterans from Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan Korea and World War II are welcome. Call Bernard Beverley, (847) 966-5479, email bev1946@comcast.net or call (847) 470-9890.

Korean War Veterans Association Greater Chicago Chapter No. 25, meets 7 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Montclare-Leyden VFW Post, 6940 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago. Call Joe Henmueller, (773) 774-9871.

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:

Theresa Olson, president of the Chamber board, did the honors of cutting the red ribbon with the owners of Elements Therapeutic Massage and other board members. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

BUSINESS BRIEF

Massage therapy facility opens
PARK RIDGE — The Park Ridge Chamber board of directors, members, friends and family welcomed Elements Therapeutic Massage to Park Ridge.
Located at 33 S. Northwest Highway, owners Ralph Epifanio and Tom Peters hosted a grand-opening celebration with food catered by Panera Bread and chocolates by Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. Chair massages were given to those present and a raffle for a free massage was held.
For massage therapy call (847) 430-3800.
For more information go to www.touchofelements.com/parkridge.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 35
Those wishing to participate showing off their cars, 1986 and older models, (muscle cars, antique cars, sports cars, classic cars, and motorcycles) must register; contact the PNA, (800) 621-3723, Ext. 380, or download a form from www.pna-znp.org, events section or from the car show link on the main page. Questions about the car show, call Dave at (867) 970-1040. Early registration fee before Sept. 1 is $5; onsite registration the day of the event will be $10, cash only.

Live concert: Local music pop star-André Bella 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 The Dance Floor.” Concert-goers will enjoy a live meet and greet with Bella after the performance and have a chance to snap a photo and take home an autographed poster. The excitement will continue as Studio 2 High Tek Dance Team performs their award winning routines at 4:15 p.m. Director of Studio 22, Jackie Grady, is currently a Chicago Luvabull. Goody 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.

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 premiere tickets $20. Tickets can be purchased from the Polish National Alliance, (800) 621-3723, Ext. 316; Polish Roman Catholic Union, (800) 772-8632, Ext. 2601; Polish Falcons of America, (574) 289-2140; the Polish Women’s Alliance, (888) 522-1898, Ext. 1208, or through Ed Kaczynski, (708) 496-6784. See www.pna-znp.org.


See Calendar, Page 52

ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

CHICAGO — Park Ridge resident ‘chips’ in for Shamrocks’ financial assistance
Park Ridge resident Dom Colletti, of 176 Dental Associates, was a two-hole sponsor at the 24th Annual Shamrock Golf Outing held June 29 at St. Andrews Golf Club, according to a news release. The annual outing benefits students of Saint Patrick High School through the Financial Assistance Program.

This year 230 golfers turned out to raise funds close to $60,000.

Colletti golfed with his fellow alumni from the class of 1979.
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Community More local stories

Learn more on August 23
DEADLINE FOR DEATH NOTICES IS NOW 5PM ON MONDAY FOR THURSDAY EDITION

Remembrance
Love's Greatest Gift
Place a Card of Thanks or an In-Memoriam
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
Email: deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com

In Memoriam

Remembrance: Love's Greatest Gift
Place a Card of Thanks or an In-Memoriam
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
Email: deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com

In Memoriam

Mitzvah Memorial Funerals
Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
Email: deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com

In Memoriam

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

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SUN-TIMES MEDIA

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)
IT Hiring and the Growing Demand for IT Skills and IT Talent

By: Connie Blaszczyk, Managing Editor, Monster Resource Center

According to the Monster 2011 IT Job Conditions Report, the need for IT skills will continue to expand in 2011. The demand means that competition for IT skills and IT talent for both big and small companies will grow and evolve.

We spoke with Judith Hurwitz, author of Smart or Lucky? How Technology Leaders Turn Chance into Success, about the post-recession IT recruitment landscape and how companies can compete for talent as part of their IT hiring.

Monster: What impact has the recession had on IT recruitment?

Hurwitz: The recession has had a major impact on IT jobs. But it isn’t what you might expect. There is actually a lack of resources in many areas of technology recruiting. I am seeing that individuals who have continued to upgrade their skills focused on what companies need are actually doing quite well.

Monster: Will there be sufficient talent to meet demand for IT skills as more and more companies recover and grow within IT recruiting?

Hurwitz: I think that there is a lack of talent to meet the demand of companies that are inventing new technology to meet emerging needs. I am constantly hearing from technology innovators that they are having trouble finding enough computer engineers. The good news is that students who used to focus only on Wall Street jobs are now looking at opportunities in the technology market.

Monster: The economic recovery will make it challenging for small businesses to retain their IT talent. How can they compete with larger firms to both retain and attract IT skills?

Hurwitz: While it is clear that small companies can be at a disadvantage in recruiting IT talent, they also have a strategic advantage. Many smart entrepreneurs like the idea of working for an emerging company where they can make a difference as an individual.

Monster: On average, do skilled IT employees tend to move from company to company more frequently than other employees?

Hurwitz: IT professionals do have a tendency to move around based primarily on the types of projects they want to work on. The smartest professionals like to be challenged and they like to work on the most important emerging technologies. However, in a down market, you do see more IT professionals becoming more cautious about moving too much.
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Don’t Miss This Sale!

HIGHLAND PARK, garage sale Sun, Aug 25th 9am-3pm, kids, clothing, antiques, books, dishes, t-shirts, sports memorabilia, contacts, jewelry, rustic furniture, kids’ books, appliances, sports equipment, clothing, and much more! Call 847-498-6558 for info.

CHICAGO - 3454 N. Halsted St. Aug 25th & 26th 8am-4pm, Full-time & part-time clothing, luggage, sports equipment, housewares, kitchen utensils, and much more.

HOMEWOOD - Aug 25th & 26th, 10am-4pm, Full-time & part-time clothing, shoes, housewares, kitchen utensils, and much more.

SUNSET PARKWAY - Aug 25th & 26th, 10am-4pm, Full-time & part-time clothing, shoes, housewares, kitchen utensils, and much more.

MIDWYN - Aug 25th & 26th, 10am-4pm, Full-time & part-time clothing, shoes, housewares, kitchen utensils, and much more.

MERRILLVILLE - Aug 25th & 26th, 10am-4pm, Full-time & part-time clothing, shoes, housewares, kitchen utensils, and much more.


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MERRILLVILLE - Aug 25th & 26th, 10am-4pm, Full-time & part-time clothing, shoes, housewares, kitchen utensils, and much more.
NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure, the property is to be sold at public auction to the highest and best bidder. Upon payment in full of the judgment amount, the purchaser shall have no further interest in the property, and the property shall be sold in "as is" condition.

The property is located at 1000 E. Linn Street, Chicago, IL 60607. The sale is scheduled for 10:00 AM on September 1, 2012. For more information, please contact the Sheriff's Office at (312) 236-9990.

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, any person who fails to pay the judgment amount shall be subject to a civil penalty of $500 for each violation.

Dated: September 1, 2012

Sheriff's Office
Judicial Sales-Realtor Est.

JUDICIAL SALES 

14701 W. Touhy Avenue, Suite 203, Des Plaines, IL 60018

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CODE, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18.5 of Section 19 of the Condominium Act, the subject property is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser at the Foreclosure Sale shall be entitled to a deed to the real estate after the Foreclosure Sale, and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Plaintiff has the right to a return of the deposit, paid at the sale. The Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be the Purchaser of the subject property. The purchaser shall have no further right against the Plaintiff for the mortgagee's allowances or the Deposit. Upon full payment of the purchase price and the settlement of sums due, a Certificate of Sale will be issued to the Purchaser. The purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a deed to the real estate after the sale, and the subject property is subject to a judgment lien of record. The property will not be open for inspection and the purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a deed to the real estate after the sale. The subject property is subject to any liens of record. The party will be subject to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and view the property. The property is a condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. The property is a condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. The property is a condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. The property is a condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. The property is a condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. The property is a condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property. The property is a condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to read all notices and to view the property.
### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 11-74-6.6 of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, as amended (the Act) that on the 10th day of September, 2012, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Morton Grove (the Village) will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. at the Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center, 6101 Capulina Avenue, Morton Grove, Illinois 60053, to consider the adoption of Ordinance No. 2012-12, an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Morton Grove, Illinois, by adding Section 8-8.2, Zoning Districts, to the Village of Morton Grove Zoning Ordinance (the Ordinance), as set forth in the matter of the Ordinance and on the following matters:

1. The adoption of Ordinance No. 2012-12, an Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Morton Grove, Illinois, by adding Section 8-8.2, Zoning Districts, to the Village of Morton Grove Zoning Ordinance (the Ordinance), as set forth in the matter of the Ordinance.

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, 75 ILCS 75/7-8.7, as amended, the Village of Morton Grove, Illinois, by use of the Village's Self-Service Storage Facility, will hold public sales of personal property stored in said facility.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, 75 ILCS 75/7-8.7, as amended, the Village of Morton Grove, Illinois, by use of the Village's Self-Service Storage Facility, will hold public sales of personal property stored in said facility.

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage 6700 N. Elston, Chicago, IL 60642 on August 30th, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., on the premises where property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage, 6700 N. Elston, Chicago, IL 60642. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage/PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage 4114 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60613 on August 30th, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., on the premises where property has been stored, and which are located at Public Storage, 4114 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60613. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale is subject to adjournment.

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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 contacts on each battery or place in an individual self-locating plastic bag to avoid sparks. Local drop-off sites include: Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave., (847) 588-7900, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; Niles Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-8000, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays; Park Ridge Public Works, 400 Busse Highway, (847) 318-5240, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Additional drop-off sites are posted at swancc.org/recycling/batteryrecycling.html.

Solid Waste Agency: Northern Cook County, recently 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 recycling events and facilities due to their benign nature and high

CALANDAR | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

treason, and deception that Americans have contended with since the founding days of the republic. Opening day, July 15, features talk with Anna Staler, director of exhibitions and programs, International Spy Museum. Free with museum admission. "Ethnic 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.

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**Health**

Kidney and Diabetes Screening: The Polish National Alliance will have free kidney and diabetes screening at the PNA Office, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 15. The program will include blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, waste circumference, urinalysis, blood draw, and private consultations with medical professionals, through the Kidney Mobile program. Appointments are required; call (800) 621-3723 or (773) 286-0500, Ext. 380, or check www.pnana.org.

Whopping Cough Vaccine: All three of the Jewel-Osco Pharmacies in Niles are offering the whooping cough vaccine booster in response to recent whooping cough outbreaks across the state. It is recommended that all individuals ages 11 and older receive the vaccine, called Tdap, which specially-trained and certified pharmacists are available to administer. Consumers can obtain the vaccination at Jewel-Osco Pharmacies seven days a week and no appointment is necessary.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital: hosts a free skin cancer screening from 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 8 for early detection and prevention of skin cancer. Visual screenings will take place in the lobby of the hospital's Center for Advanced Care, 1700 Luther Way, Park Ridge. Physicians will perform the screenings, and will give participants their results immediately. The physicians will also recommend follow-up care, if necessary. Free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, call (800) 323-8622 and mention the event code "8CO3" or visit www.advocatehealth.com/luth/click on "I need a class or support group" and type the class code (8CO3) in the keyword box. Participants may park for free, with validation, in the parking garage adjacent to the Center for Advanced Care.

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

Niles Historical Museum: 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., open to the public 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Drop in, make arrangements for a tour, drop off artifacts and collections, or just come to visit. The new magnetic elevator makes the auditorium easily accessible. Call (847) 390-0160.

**Library**

Niles Public Library: 6950 W. Oakton St., (847) 653-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

**Programs for Kids**

**Stuffed Animal Sleepover**

6:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 20. Bring your stuffed animal to a special pajama storytime, then your fuzzy friend gets to stay overnight at the library! For ages 2-8.

**Saturday Family Movie**

The Adventures of Tintin 2 p.m. Aug. 25. Free big-screen movie and a movie treat! Lego Club: 4 p.m. Aug. 27. For ages 5 and up.
Barrington — A few weeks ago, Barrington senior Ryan Burgoon's goals for the upcoming cross country season included taking first at the MSL Meet and pressing the runners to win state. 

Those still might be his goals, but they are on hold for the time being while Burgoon recovers from an iliotibial band injury affecting his right knee. The wear and tear seemingly was the result of a heavy summer training program.

Burgoon, who finished 23rd and earned all-state honors the Class 3A IHSA state meet last fall, is undergoing treatment on the leg, going on short runs and swimming. But he's not training with his able-bodied teammates. He expects to return at some point — maybe sooner, maybe later — and he'll adjust his aspirations accordingly.

“My goals were to be top five in state and win conference. If I get back soon, those will be the same goals. If I get back midway through the season, maybe those goals change,” said Burgoon, who had a similar injury his sophomore year which forced him to miss the final weeks of that season.

Barrington coaches are understandably cautious about rushing Burgoon back from his injury. However, Broncos head coach Ty Gorman knows the more time a runner misses, the harder it becomes to return to full fitness.

“Our biggest fear is that he won’t be healthy, it’s how much training he’s going to lose, and what type of training,” the coach said. “It gets to the point where he misses too much, he’s not going to be the same guy (he was last year). We’re not there yet. It’s a concern, but we’re not worried about losing anything yet.”

Gorman points out that pool and exercise bike work can help a runner maintain his fitness, but not improve it. There is no, the coach said, substitute for running and racing.

Burgoon came on strong late in 2011, finishing fourth at the MSL Meet and then setting a personal best (14:57) at state. His effort helped Barrington take eighth.

“Burgoon has a chance to blossom, and a couple weeks before conference, he started to round into form,” Gorman said. “(At state) he had a great effort. To his credit, he had his best effort on the biggest day.”

With Barrington teammates Erik Peterson finishing eighth overall, it was the only time other than in 1979 that two Broncos earned all-state honors.

Peterson, one of the school’s all-time greats, has graduated and moved on to Butler. His absence certainly will be felt by the team, especially by Burgoon, who credits Peterson with playing a pivotal role in his own success.

“Peterson was probably why I did so well last season,” Burgoon said. “All the work I put in was to stay with him.”

If Burgoon comes back healthy, he is expected to be the guy other Broncos chase in practice and at meets this fall.

Leonard, Lemersal feed off different challenges

Maine South senior cross country runners Emily Leonard and Megan Lemersal must balance both personal and team goals when choosing their workout programs.

The runners, who finished sixth and ninth, respectively, at last fall’s IHSA Class 3A state meet, must do what is necessary to maintain their status among the elite runners in Illinois. However, the dynamic duo also plays an important role in helping their Hawks teammates train at a high level.

Last season, both Leonard and Lemersal spent time working with the school’s boys team, which allowed both to be pushed to the limit.

“With the boys for the first two weeks (of the summer), and when the girls went, I switched. I thought that if we all were running together, I could motivate them,” Lemersal said. “It’s something I’ve wanted to do. I’m proud of the girls, they’ve shown they can run faster, and they are pushing me too. It’s worked out for everyone and it’s made the team closer, which I like.”

Leonard, a junior, likely will assume a similar leadership role in the future.

After finishing fifth in the state last season, Maine South is hoping to crack the top 10 this year. But reaching that goal will depend heavily on how the runners not named Leonard and Lemersal perform.

Girls coach Jeff Downing recognizes the dilemma.

“We want to see (the front two) really push our girls forward. Last year, at the end of the year, that didn’t happen as much as it could have. Like I said, it’s a fine line between who is being held back. Are we holding back the two up front or is it the rest of the pack? We’re going to need (the others) to be close to them, maybe not with them mile-per-mile, but close enough to make a difference.”

The good news is that Leonard and Lemersal often are able to push each other during training and competition, something that clearly has been instrumental in the success of both runners.

“It’s really helpful to have (Leonard) there,” Lemersal said. “If I’m lagging behind, she motivates me. We both push each other. We’re both on the same level and know how hard you have to work to get a top 10 finish in the state. I’m grateful to have her.”

RUNNERS TO WATCH
Courtney Ackerman, New Trier Sr. *
Jessica Ackerman, New Trier Sr. *
Becca Battliner, Barrington Sr. *
Leslie Christiansen, Maine East So. *
Rhiannon Flanagan-Corsaro, Evanston Sr.
Molly Kruger, New Trier Jr. *
Jackie McDonnell, Loyola Jr.
Maddie McGrady, Maine South Sr.
Cary Reynolds, Barrington Jr. *
Emma Ropski, Maine South Sr. *
Rachel Simon, Barrington senior *
Mimi Smith, New Trier So. *
Caroline Zaworski, Loyola Jr.
Cam Zecker, Evanston So.
* returning state qualifier
They are known simply as the "The Z Team" or by the even simpler moniker "The Zs." They are three-time qualifiers to the IHSA girls tennis state meet and defending CSL North and sectional doubles champions. They are Glenbrook North's seniors Anna Zelechonok and Katrine Zhado- vich, they are good friends and they are among the area's — and likely the state's — top tandems.

"They complement each other, on and off the court," Glenbrook North head coach Peg Holecek said. "They get along so well and have excellent court communication. They are strong girls who volley well, have quick hands, really reliable ground strokes and an ability to see the court and create a point."

Zelechonok and Zhado- vich first met in seventh grade and were already pals when they paired together as a doubles team freshman year. The partnership has remained intact, and the friendship has blossomed.

"We were definitely good friends (before high school), but playing together has brought us closer," Zelechonok said.

Zelechonok said the friendship allows the duo to have honest post-match conversations.

"We're just so comfortable with each other, that when it comes to criticism and talking to the other person about tennis, it comes easier to us than it would to strangers," she said.

In addition to repeating as conference and sectional champions this season, the Zs will be looking to remain longer at the state meet. Last fall, they cruised through their first three matches before running into eventual state champs Marika Cusik and Caroline Lorenzini of Hinsdale Central, who prevailed 6-2, 6-3.

"It's definitely our goal every year to do a little better than the year before. This year is no different," Zelechonok said. "We ran into the state champions in the round of 16 last year and that was tough. Hopefully, this year we'll get a little luckier in the draw."

Of course, those who draw the Zs will consider themselves unlucky. Though the pair does share certain traits on the court, they, like many great doubles partnerships, complement each other well.

"Anna, with her height, has the power up at the net, and that's been a crucial part of the partnership," Zhado- vich said. "She's not scared to be up there and that helps. I set up points at the baseline and with her at the net ... we are an all-court team."

The Zs also serve as the captains of a Glenbrook North squad expected to do well this season. The Spartans return five of their six players who competed at the state tournament last season.

"We've been waiting to be captains since the end of our freshman year," she said. "I think it's really about keeping the team together, getting involved and getting them pumped up for matches, dual meets and invites. We have to make sure the girls are working hard because we want this to be the best season yet."
Santa Clara clears up a roster spot for New Trier’s Nelson

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

WINNETKA — As a captain of the New Trier girls golf team, senior Callie Nelson has this season’s speech all prepared.

“Your round is not over until you sign your scorecard.”

In other words, she and her teammates may suffer some setbacks, but there’s always time to salvage a decent score.

Nelson clearly took her own advice on the final day of last fall’s IHSA Class AA state tournament, where she rebounded from a front-nine 44 to shoot a 36 on the back. Her score of 80 helped her finish 15 over for the tournament and tie for 11th in the state.

Nelson’s never-say-die attitude also extended to her college decision. Last spring, coaches at Santa Clara told the golfer they would not have a spot for her in their 2013 recruiting class.

Undeterred, Nelson decided to make a spring break visit to the school. When she arrived, something had changed, and Santa Clara coaches made Nelson an offer. She gave them her verbal commitment over the summer.

“I met with the coaches and they were really great and the school was really great, and they offered me a spot,” Nelson said. “It just goes to show that nothing is ever official until it’s official. Anyone who is playing college sports should always go for it, don’t fold. I almost folded, and now I’m going there.”

Nelson said she ultimately selected Santa Clara over Georgetown, Richmond and Bucknell. Of course, the California school has one major advantage over the others — the opportunity to play golf year-round.

Additionally, Nelson will be close to two siblings who live on the West Coast.

But that’s a year down the road. In the present, Nelson is looking to guide the Trevians back to a state championship. New Trier won the crown in 2010, before finishing a close second to Prospect last season.

“I think winning state is always the goal,” Nelson said. “We have a lot of strong players and a lot of potential. Everyone just needs to buckle down and start really practicing. I think it will be close again.”

New Trier for the top spot.

As for personal goals, Nelson said she doesn’t really think about them, choosing instead to focus on team success.

“You know, I don’t go for individual finishes,” she said. “It’s all about the team and not about me. When it comes to New Trier golf, it’s about the team and how we perform.”

The mentality is different in the offseason, when Nelson competes in amateur tournaments.

This past summer included one extra-special performance, when she teed off at the Junior World Championships at the world-famous Torrey Pines, near San Diego.

“It was incredible,” she said. “I played against girls from Australia, Mexico and China. It was really a learning experience about how golf is a sport anyone can play and that people play it around the world. There is a lot of competition out there. If I want to pursue golf as a profession, I’ll really need to grind it out to try and get better. There are a lot of good players competing.”

Though Nelson still has some way to go before she’s competing at the highest level, she already has come pretty far. New Trier head coach Scott Fricke said she has improved steadily throughout her high school career.

“IT just seems like all facets of her game have gotten really good,” the coach said. “Her short game is really good. She’s a kid who chips well and puts well. She is hitting a lot of fairways. When you shoot in the 70s, you have to be good at everything pretty much.”

“She works really hard, not only during our season, but she plays a ton of golf during the summer. She plays a lot of tournaments and is ready to go once the season starts.”

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New Trier’s Callie Nelson fired an 80 on the final day of the state tournament to finish tied for 11th last fall. | SUN TIMES MEDIA
Vikings in position to climb up CSL North

BY DAN SHALIN
Contributor

SKOKIE — If it was after 1 p.m. this summer, there was a good chance several members of the Niles North boys golf team were playing at Wilmette Golf Course.

For the first time, all Vikings golfers have become junior members, a privilege that allows them to play any afternoon. The golfers certainly have taken advantage of the membership, some of them playing as many as 40 times over the summer.

The high school helped subsidize the cost of the memberships, which Vikings head coach Ryan Geu said, "were important to bring (the team) to a new level."

Geu said there were numerous benefits to the program, which actually began when a few of the Vikings joined the club in 2011.

"I think it built some team unity," the coach said. "Also, it's one thing to go out and play with your dad and just kind of practice. But it's another thing to be playing with other high school golfers, where you are forced to be more serious and competitive when you're practicing."

The afternoons spent at the Wilmette club won't come to an end now that the season is starting. After playing all home matches at Chick Evans Golf Course, in Morton Grove, for many years, Niles North will compete in some home matches at Wilmette.

The Vikings bring back seven experienced golfers from last season, one of them being junior Quynh Nguyen, who plays with the boys team during the regular season and in the girls postseason competitions.

Junior Zach Oppenheimer shot the team's best round last season, in the low 80s. He also earned a medal at the eight-team Grant Invite.

Classmate Danny Wolf also is back, and he'll be joined by seniors Dan Amrner, Jack Burke, Ross Drucker and Brad Schneider.

"They're all pretty close together in terms of talent, and nobody really stands out (above any others) at this point," Geu said. "I know a lot of them played over the summer, so I think there will be some improvement this year based on that."

The six-team CSL North is loaded with talent, and the Vikings once again will be expected to finish behind state powerhouses Highland Park, Deerfield and Glenbrook North. Niles North came in fifth last season.

"I don't think anything is changing there (as far as talent in the conference)," Geu said. "I think all the players know and accept that our conference is one of the best in the state. They know the way to close the gap is to be doing some of the things the others (in the conference) have been doing for years, and that's playing a lot in the summer, taking lessons and practicing."

Nguyen is actually Niles North's most accomplished returning golfer. Although she played on the frosh/soph boys team last season, she did compete on the varsity in the IHSA Class 3A State Tournament, where she reached the sectional.

Geu said Nguyen is an intelligent golfer who benefits from playing from the men's tees during the regular season.

"She has good power despite not being really big, and she has a good mental game," the coach said. "She's strong mentally and a bright girl who excels in school. That helps her on the course because she makes good decisions when she's out there. She loves the game and works hard to get better at it."
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