Charles Jacob, 13, picks up a veggie burger from Angela Harisis in the serving line at Emerson Middle School in Niles on Aug. 27, one of the more-healthful options now offered. RYAN PAGELOW-Sun-Times Media
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Niles Herald-Spectator

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Healthful school lunch options abound, students eating it up

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

PARK RIDGE
Karen Rutili is always thrilled to hear all about her child’s new favorite fruit that she tried at school during lunch.

And she is just as thrilled to receive emails from parents who say they are equally excited about the healthful food items their children are trying at school.

Rutili is co-president of the PTO at Roosevelt elementary School in Park Ridge-Niles District 64, which began using Healthy Kids Kitchen last year as its lunch service.

“It’s getting such a phenomenal, overwhelming response,” Rutili said, adding that this is the first year Roosevelt will be offering hot meals three days a week.

Rutili said that instead of offering things like regular old pizza and hot dogs, they now offer whole-wheat pizza and turkey dogs. They also focus on fruits, vegetables and protein, and offer tasty—but-healthful dishes such as Swedish meatballs and buttered noodles, and turkey and stuffing.

“We are constantly looking for healthier entrees to serve our kids,” said District 64 Superintendent Philip Bender.

Bender said the PTOs of the elementary schools have become very involved and they run the hot-lunch programs at the schools, some providing hot lunches one day a week and others a few days a week.

“They’ve really taken that bull by the horn,” Bender said of the PTO’s involvement and dedication to finding more-healthful food options for elementary students in the district.
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Community

Thursday, September 6, 2012

The salad bar, which gives District 64 students healthier food options, awaits a taker in the Emerson Middle School cafeteria during eighth-grade lunch on Aug. 27. | RYAN PAGELOW-Sun-Times Media

Lunch

Continued from page 5

The district also no longer allows students to bring in treats for parties.

"We're trying to educate people to try to move away from rewards that have to do with food," Bender said, adding that the district is trying to emphasize that fun activities should be the focus of school parties, as opposed to sweets.

Bender said officials are also being cautious about children who have severe allergies, such as peanut allergies.

"Eating healthy and having our kids healthy is very important to me as superintendent," Bender said.

District 64 has a Wellness Council that has a goal of encouraging better eating at school, physical activity and teaching youngsters about the importance of good nutrition. The council is composed of various staff members from each school, the superintendent and a parent representative.

Providing healty food options has also been a big initiative at Maine Township High School District 207's three schools.

"Over the last three solid years we've been making a lot of different changes," said Anne Benson, food-services director at Maine South High School, who works for Quest Food Management.

"There is something for everybody," said Benson, noting that the schools try to introduce new food items gradually.

Benson said the made-to-order deli line, which is similar to the format of a Subway restaurant, is very popular among students.

According to Benson it has been the district's mission to move away from processed foods, and to provide entrees and sauces made from scratch.

Benson said many of the students are great dining consumers at restaurants, and they expect similar options from their school cafeterias.
A new approach to local news

The newspaper you hold in your hands today was redesigned to be more attractive, easier to navigate, and chaptered in such a way that improves the user's experience.

The typefaces are less dense, a little bit taller than in our previous format, and allow for an easier read. Our pages are more colorful, and the design aesthetics are forward-focused — intended to reflect the vibrancy of Chicago's most dynamic suburbs. Our calendars not only offer a quick overview of what's happening in the community, but also help you match events with your family's interests.

But the redesign goes beyond new fonts and fluidity of design. It also reflects our new approach to providing an enhanced report that meets your content and information needs. As we were re-imagining what a local media company should offer its communities, we took a deep look at what we need to provide our readers each week in print and what we can deliver digitally online. We knew that we needed to be timelier and offer a deeper understanding of what's happening in our hometowns.

You will not see stale stories in print. What you will see are articles that reflect the news of the community with much richer perspective — as well as our efforts to utilize the best sources to explain what the news around town means to you.

We will still be where you need us to be, providing daily updates and breaking news. In fact, we have taken steps to improve our online report. The stories you need in a hurry won't sit in a queue and wait for publication in the print edition. They will be delivered throughout the day, seven days a week, on our website. We will update breaking news stories to keep you in the know.

Our commitment is to evolve into a complete source for local news, and to offer what you have told us that you want — and the way that you want it — in the market's most attractive format.

Thanks again for reading,

Chris Krug, publisher
ckrug@pioneerlocal.com
847-486-7201
An 81-year-old Morton Grove woman was diagnosed with West Nile virus on Aug. 7. | SUN-Times Media file photo

West Nile virus case confirmed in Morton Grove

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

MORTON GROVE

With a confirmed human case of West Nile virus in Morton Grove the village joins a list that this year includes Skokie, Glenview and Evanston.

An 81-year-old Morton Grove woman was diagnosed with West Nile virus on Aug. 7.

Bonnie Burnett, environmental-health inspector of the village of Morton Grove, said the woman was hospitalized. She suffered a neuroinvasive case (potentially affecting the central-nervous system) of the virus and has since been released from the hospital.

More human cases of West Nile virus have been confirmed this year than the previous year, reported David Zazra, communications manager of the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District.

This year so far Zazra said two neuroinvasive human cases have been
BP: Tainted gas sold at local stations

Several local BP gas stations have been identified as having sold tainted gasoline related to a problem at BP's oil refinery in Whiting, Ind.

The stations include the following:
- Park Ridge:
  - 1220 W. Touhy Ave.
  - 1118 W. Touhy Ave. (Thornton's)
- Niles:
  - 7662 N. Milwaukee Ave.
  - 5601 Dempster St.
- Morton Grove:
  - 8801 Waukegan Road
- Lincolnwood:
  - 7200 N. Cicero Ave.
- Skokie:
  - 5035 Touhy Ave.
  - 3750 Touhy Ave.
  - 3301 Dempster St.
  - 5001 Old Orchard Road

According to BP, each gas station was immediately instructed to stop selling the off-specification gasoline from the Indiana refinery, clean out gas tanks and replace the gasoline.

BP has also posted a searchable database for consumers who want to check whether gas stations they use sold tainted gasoline. To check a station, go to BP's website, www.bpresponse.com, click on "claims information" and "retail site list."

To file a claim customers may call 1 (800) 599-9040 and find the copy of a claim form at www.bpresponse.com.

West Nile

Continued from page 8

reported in Skokie; one human case that was neuroinvasive in Glenview; and one neuroinvasive case in Evanston; and five people with the virus who experienced a fever.

In 2011, Zazra said the district had three human cases, one of which was in Glenview. The two women who suffered from the virus in Skokie were hospitalized and went to rehabilitation after their release, said Catherine Counard, Health Department director for the village of Skokie. Counard said one was in her 50s and the other in her 70s, both in good health.

"We want to make sure that people are aware," Burnett said. "They need to be careful."

The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District has the responsibility of spraying and larviciding, Burnett explained.

"Mosquitoes can survive in surprisingly small amounts of water," said Counard, who encourages residents to dump any standing water.

"This is a very active West Nile virus year again because of the weather," Burnett said.

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Personal use of cop cars as crime deterrent mulled

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Should police officers who live in Niles be able to take their squad cars home for personal use?

The contentious topic was discussed during the village of Niles' Committee of the Whole meeting before the village board meeting Aug. 28.

"It's more presence in the village," Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki said of having more police cars on the street to help deter crime.

Strzelecki said he is the only member of the Niles Police Department who takes his police car home with him.

"I see it as a huge benefit for the village," Trustee Chris Hanusiak said.

If the board decides to allow the practice, there would be eight officers and three members of the command staff who live in Niles and would be able to take their cars home and run personal errands.

Trustee Jim Hynes said he didn't see a problem with officers taking the cars home and parking on the street, but he did see a potential issue with using the vehicles to run errands, bringing up possible overtime issues.

Other trustees felt there could also be potential liability issues.

Mayor Robert Callero brought up a safety issue, saying that someone may be more likely, for example, to shoot someone if a police officer were not in uniform at the time of a crime, even if the officer was in a police car. Callero said he could see the need for more police presence on the streets if gangs were an issue in Niles, but he said that isn't the case.

Callero requested that the police chief conduct a survey of other municipalities regarding whether their officers take their vehicles home with them.

Strzelecki said he would do the survey, but he told the mayor that Niles is unique because officers all get their own squad cars.

Also at the committee meeting, Village Manager George Van Geem stated that he would not discuss past retirement bonuses given to former village managers and other staff members without documented board approval. The item was on the committee of the whole meeting agenda.

Van Geem said he was advised by legal counsel not to discuss the information at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

"I will cooperate fully in any manner with requests put forth by the U.S. Attorney's Office," Van Geem said.
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The following incidents were listed in the weekly bulletin prepared by the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

**DUI**

Danny Machado, 23, of 8287 Oak St., Niles, was arrested Aug. 26 and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol on the 9000 block of Milwaukee Avenue. He has a Sept. 18 court date.

John Stryszky, 34, of...

**INDECENCY**

Fuad Billeh, 44, of 9503 N. Greenwood Ave., Des Plaines, was arrested Aug. 25 at the Niles Police Department on the 7000 block of Touhy Avenue and charged with public indecency. The Morton Grove Police Department contacted a Niles investigator because that village's police had taken the suspect into custody Aug. 22 for a public-indecency case. The victim positively identified the suspect from a 2011 Niles case as the same suspect. Billeh has an Oct. 3 court date.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Kedar Patel, 24, of 8833 Washington Ave., was arrested Aug. 25 on the 8000 block of Dempster Street and charged with knowingly damaging property. Patel allegedly damaged a vehicle at a liquor establishment on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue.

**BATTERY**

A 19-year-old man said five men in their 20s drove a gold van Aug. 26 onto his driveway on the 9200 block of Golf Road, all separately and within a few minutes of each other, police said. When all of the suspects left the store the manager noticed two cellular phones missing from the display. The value of the phones was estimated at $1,200.

**MISSING PROPERTY**

A 43-year-old Niles man reported that while he was working Aug. 24 with one of his patients he took off his Rolex watch, valued at $12,000, and put it in one of the rooms in his office on the 9000 block of Golf Road. When he went to get it at the end of the day, the victim told police it was not there.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**

A 29-year-old Des Plaines man told police that someone between Aug. 26 and Aug. 27 forced their way into a 2005 Toyota four-door vehicle in a parking lot on the 8600 block of Golf Road and ransacked the vehicle. An investigation was pending.

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'Top transit' rating or no, Niles commuters can get around

By Natasha Wasinski | Contributor

Niles

Neighboring Park Ridge may have earned the distinction of being the 13th "top transit suburb" of 20 in a DePaul University-based study focused on metropolitan development, but locals insist an extensive network of public buses keeps Niles just as connected.

"It's all about location, location, location," said Village Manager George Van Geem. "If you live in Niles you can go in any direction fairly quickly."

Though Niles lacks its own train station, the village has six major arterials and a public-bus system that makes getting around fairly easy.

Niles, in partnership with Regional Transit Authority, subsidizes three of the dozen Pace bus routes that wind through the village.

Several of the buses also feed into nearby Metra stops in Park Ridge and Edgebrook.

"The Free Bus program, established more than three decades ago, "separates Niles from other communities," Van Geem said. "It makes Niles a better place."

"Riders can pick up the bus for no fare at village fixtures such as the Civic Center Plaza, the Niles Public Library, Leaning Tower YMCA, Golf Mill Shopping Center and Village Crossing Shopping Center."

Van Geem said most residents without their own mode of transportation rely on the Niles Free Bus to get to other critical places like a doctor's office or grocery store.

The service has community-wide benefits, as well. More bus riders equals fewer cars, and thus, not as much pollution. The fairly extensive bus network also keeps shoppers connected with retail.

"It's important to economic development if people can get to where they need to go," Van Geem said. "The bus system is so good that we don't have to offer any other options."

Niles resident Lillian Dresmal began using the village's Free Bus service and now-defunct taxi subsidy four years ago when she stopped driving.

"I know the cab and bus drivers well," she said. "They're quite nice."

Dresmal said riders who use the Free Bus are those who need it: seniors, immigrants, and disabled, wheelchair-bound and ill people. The service also keep residents attune to the community.

On some days she takes up to four Free Bus rides.

"It's a connection," Dresmal said.

She also takes a taxi some mornings to the Niles Senior Center to attend a 9:30 a.m. class; Free Bus rides don't start until 10 a.m., she said.

Dresmal said riders who use the Free Bus are those who need it: seniors, immigrants, and disabled, wheelchair-bound and ill people. The service also keep residents attune to the community.

Despite its positive reputation, officials are weighing benefits of the Free Bus service against factors inherent to a public program, namely, cost and use.

Niles hosted two public hearings last month on a proposal to eliminate service on certain days and charge most passengers 25 cents per ride.

"Nothing is free anymore," Van Geem said. "We need to talk about it every once in a while."

Niles Village Trustee Joe LoVerde said he hasn't been on board with changing the service because of the way discussions have played out.

"We're throwing darts against the wall," he said.

LoVerde said cost-reduction measures should be considered before implementing fees.

Van Geem said collecting fares would allow the village to measure ridership in addition to raising some revenue.

"It's another way of gauging how well-accepted it is," he said. "It will be a good, positive message that people need this."

The Village Board is expected to discuss and vote on the matter this month.
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Detective John McGowan, with the Barrington Police Department, field sobriety tests a driver early one recent morning while conducting a driver-safety check at Route 59 and Franklin in Barrington. | DAVE SHIELDS-For Sun-Times Media

Niles police offer safe-driving tips

NILES

An intensified enforcement effort by Niles police against impaired drivers and seat-belt-law violators during this week's Labor Day holiday underscored the disproportionate number of traffic deaths involving alcohol and unbelted motorists, the release stated.

According to data from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the midnight-to-3 a.m. time frame is the deadliest time on Illinois roadways. The data also shows this time of day has the highest percentage of alcohol involvement and the lowest seat-belt-usage rate.

The Niles Police Department recommends designating a sober driver and not letting friends and family drive impaired as just two of several simple steps to avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving. Other important tips include:

- Plan ahead. Designate a sober driver before going out and give that person your keys.
- If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely.
- Promptly report impaired drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement.
- Wear your seat belt and make sure all passengers are buckled up. It is your best defense against an impaired driver.

The holiday law-enforcement crackdown ran concurrently with a media campaign to remind motorists, “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” and “Click It or Ticket.”

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Niles Township ELL Parent Center begins fifth year

BY MIKE ISAACS | misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

SKOKIE

In the four years that the Niles Township English Language Learner Parent Center has existed, hundreds of families have entered and exited its doors, almost all of them feeling more confident and with a better grasp of English as they assimilate into a new place.

If anyone doubted a need for the center when it opened in 2008, they likely don't now. That's why nine of the 10 Niles Township school districts fund the center, which helps immigrant parents of schoolchildren navigate day-to-day life in Niles Township.

Corrie Wallace, the center's popular director, has been open to new ideas and pilot programs that advance the center's main objectives: English literacy so that parents can effectively communicate; access to community resources so that parents can support raising healthy children; and parent education so that parents themselves can model lifelong learning.

“You can see an impact almost instantly here,” Wallace said.

Earlier this month, families finished the summer's pilot ELL Booking With a Buddy program, a joint initiative by the ELL Parent Center and the Skokie Public Library. The program was a success by all accounts, a spin-off of sorts from the library's own Booking With a Buddy program, which has been offered to children for years.

But in this version, parents and children were paired in reading. And many of the program mentors had been English-language learners themselves.

In eight weeks, the progress of participants was profound, families and organizers say, and it's likely to be offered again next summer.
Rogelio and Noelia Cardenas, of Skokie, know the importance of the tucked-away ELL Parent Center.

Noelia moved from Mexico to join her husband here not knowing English. Rogelio persuaded his wife to attend the ELL Parent Center and two years later she was able to converse and get along fine.

"I don't even have the words to describe how important this center has been to us," Rogelio said. "My wife didn't speak one single word in English and as soon as she started coming here, it helped. Corrie reached out and made such a difference."

Lorena Martinez, of Morton Grove, also came from Mexico nine years ago. She said the Booking With a Buddy program allowed her to "practice English more and to be with my children." Domenica Patino, of Skokie, also says she and her kids "definitely learned a lot" from the program.

Though new, Booking With a Buddy fit right in with the center's mission. It advanced English learning, of course, and it also felt inclusive and welcoming to those wanting to volunteer or participate.

College students Matthew Nelson, 20, of Northbrook, and Julia Sheppard, 19, of Skokie and Wilmette, heard great things about the center so they volunteered this summer. They said the experience met high expectations.

Serving Skokie, Lincolnwood, Niles and Morton Grove, the ELL Parent Center has helped well over 700 families, Wallace estimates.

She thought that after four years, there might be a leveling out of new families from other counties, but the influx has remained strong.

Demographics over the past decade have shown that Niles Township has become home to the largest growing population of immigrants and refugees in the Chicago area. About 100 different languages are spoken in Niles Township homes.

The center was to offer its first class of the school year this week, intensive English, as a kickoff to its fifth year. Other programs will be rolled out in coming weeks.

On the schedule are offerings in computers, English fluency including family literacy, a social conversation class called "Tea-n-Talk," "Encuentro Cultural" in which families celebrate speaking Spanish and literacy, and "Reading For Healthy Families," which provides health information while strengthening English skills.

"The feedback I've gotten over the years is that people love learning here," Wallace said.

No one celebrating the end of another successful pilot program this month at the center would disagree.
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- Innovative Inspirations from American Gardens (BOT E32-01). Explore some of the most ingenious innovations in landscape. Course meets 7-9 p.m. Sept. 14. Course fee is $29.
- Ferns for the Chicago Region (ORN E22-01) - Learn more about the elegant and useful outdoor plant and expand your use of ferns in any garden design. Course meets 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 15. Course fee is $59.
- Fall Lawn Care for Homeowners (BOT E35-01) - Learn the basics of lawn renovation to have a healthy and lush lawn next year. Course meets 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 15. Course fee is $29.
- Discover Ornamental Grasses (BOT E27-01) - Ornamental grasses have gained great favor in recent years due to their adaptability. Discover how to add these attractive yet undemanding selections to a home landscape. Course meets 1-4 p.m. Sept. 15. Course fee is $59.

All students will be charged an $8 non-refundable processing fee at the time of registration. For a complete Alliance for Lifelong Learning class schedule, visit www.oakton.edu/all, or call (847) 982-9888, press 3.

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Fred Duerkop will be remembered by all for his easy personality, generous nature, devotion to family, and loving heart.

He was born in Des Plaines, the fifth child of Frederick and Marie Katherine (Weber). He was the last surviving member of his family.

He attended local elementary schools and met his future wife, Janis Sethness, at Maine High School. They were sweethearts throughout high school and one year of college during the years of the Great Depression. They were married at St. Luke’s Church in Park Ridge in 1935. In 2010, they celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary quietly with family members and received a congratulatory greeting from President and Michelle Obama. Janis died five months later, just short of her 99th birthday.

The couple settled in Park Ridge in 1943 and raised three sons there. Mr. Duerkop owned Irving Auto Glass and Logan Square Glass, both in Chicago, before selling those endeavors and opening Maine Glass in Park Ridge in 1956. He was an active businessman and served in many community organizations and was president of the Park Ridge Lions Club in 1963-1964. He also volunteered at Advocate Lutheran General in the hospital’s early years.

Mr. Duerkop retired in 1966 and the couple spent summers in Wisconsin and winters in Florida for more than for 20 years. They had many friends and an active social life in both places and enjoyed playing golf and cards with friends and family, bowling, boating, and fishing. Their cabin on a lake in northern Wisconsin was a favorite gathering place for their family for many years. Fred and Jan were able to travel throughout the world, and finally settled into The Heritage in Des Plaines in 2008 to be closer to family.

Mr. Duerkop is survived by his sons, Frederick (Corinne) of Duck Lake, MI, Stephen (Joan) of Park Ridge; and Henry (Kathleen) of Boy Lake, Minnesota. He was a very special Pop Pop to nine grandchildren, Stephen (Tess), Andy (Jennifer), and Daniel (Shelley), all of Park Ridge, Timothy (Kathleen Mullin), Scott, and Molly, of Chicago, and Keri (Matt) Peterson in Minnesota, Erik in Nebraska, and Erin in Colorado. He was also a deeply grateful loving great-grandfather to nine great-grandchildren, Jana, Jillian, Lulie, Erick, Gracie, Katie, and Audrey Duerkop and Mackenzie and Henry Peterson; and a favorite uncle to dozens of nieces and nephews. He is further survived by two nieces and nephews. He is further survived by two nieces and nephews. He is further survived by two nieces and nephews. He is further survived by two nieces and nephews. He is further survived by two nieces and nephews. He is further survived by two nieces and nephews.

Fred Duerkop will be remembered by all for his easy personality, generous nature, devotion to family, and loving heart.

Final arrangements were private, according to his wishes. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Doctors Without Borders (www.doctorswithoutborders.org, PO Box 5030, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5030 (888-392-0392) in his memory.

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What's that chewing sound coming from the furniture?

BY STEPHANIE ZIMMERMANN | The Fixer

Dear Fixer: Several months ago, I purchased a piece of furniture from T.J. Maxx.

It's a chest/cabinet that appears to be hand-carved, possibly made in India.

I recently discovered some very fine sawdust in several places surrounding the chest. I investigated and found out this is caused by a wood-destroying insect that resides within this piece.

The larvae of the powderpost beetle can stay dormant inside wood for months and even years before the right temperature conditions arise, at which point it develops into a little beetle that lays eggs and eats its way out of the wood (thus the sawdust) before it dies.

I contacted the store where I had bought the piece. The woman I spoke with was extremely nice at first; she was apologetic and advised me to not bring the item back to the store, but to instead destroy it, as they did not want further spread of the infestation.

She requested proof of purchase for a full refund. I told her I did not have a receipt, as I never thought I would be returning such a beautiful piece, but said I would be able to find my credit card statement.

She said I could just fax the info and she would credit us for the amount.

So I faxed the statement to the store. After a few hours, I received a call from her saying she had spoken to the district manager, who had decided not to make the refund because the item was bought in January.

She further said that they did not cause the infestation and no other customers had complained. I told her this was most likely not a store infestation, but rather something that had been in the wood since before it left the country of origin. She disagreed, to which I replied that if it did not originate in the furniture, then she is telling me the bugs originated in my home, which is not true. I told her they are welcome to come to my house and look for signs of infestation.

They are lucky I removed the item from my home before it caused any damage that they could be responsible for.

I took the cabinet out of my house, but I am glad I did not dispose of it, as it is evidence for my claim. Can you help?

Isabel Kodros

Dear Isabel: Truly, we thought we'd heard everything, but this bugs-in-the-furniture problem was a new one for us.

It turns out, you are correct. These pesky powderpost beetles commonly live in wood that is not dried or stored properly—including tropical woods from places like India—and they can live undetected for long periods as they feast on the starch inside the wood. When they finally feel ready to come out, they leave a telltale fine, powdery sawdust from the exit holes they make in the wood.

In your case, you'd put some dishes in the cabinet, so when the beetles exited and died, some of them conveniently landed in your china bowls.

We sent your photos of the little buggers along with some info on the habits of powderpost beetles to Sherri Lang, senior VP of global communications at TJX, the parent company of T.J. Maxx.

To their credit, TJX immediately moved to exterminate this problem. You soon got a call from a very apologetic company representative, who said they'd be happy to make an exception to their normal return policy, considering the unique nature of your problem.

They're sending you a check for your $427.99 purchase price and they promised "a little extra" for your troubles.

Keep us posted (but please, not powderposted).
Payments to disabled cop halted after Chicago Sun-Times reports

Chicago's police pension board has suspended the disability benefits of a police officer who, after going on disability because of an injury he said made it impossible for him to safely fire a handgun, has shot and killed several animals while on safari.

The eight-member board stopped short, though, of permanently revoking the disability benefits of Charles T. Siedlecki, citing a snafu in notifying him of the "duty-disability status review." The board mistakenly sent Siedlecki's father — retired police Commander Charles C. Siedlecki — a notification about the review, rather than Siedlecki.

The board took up Siedlecki's case as the result of a Chicago Sun-Times investigation of disability payments to police officers and firefighters in Chicago.

Siedlecki now works as a lawyer and a funeral home director.

The news reports previously prompted the pension board to ask Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez's office to investigate whether criminal charges should be filed against Siedlecki.

The pension board also is reviewing the medical records of the other officers identified in the Sun-Times reports. Siedlecki, 57, has collected more than $715,000 in disability pay since injuring a shoulder 20 years ago, records show.

- Chicago Sun-Times

Gov. Quinn vetoes gambling expansion; override effort next

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn vetoed a sweeping gambling expansion plan, but continued to leave open the possibility that he would be supportive of some sort of gambling expansion.

The governor's veto was widely anticipated ever since legislators approved putting casinos in Chicago as well as four other locations across the state. The bill also would add slot machines at racetracks. In issuing the veto, the governor sent a letter to legislators alleging that the proposal "includes loopholes for mobsters."

At a news conference in Oak Park, Quinn also repeated that he would not sign any bill that does not ban campaign donations from gambling interests.

A chief sponsor of the bill, State Rep. Lou Lang (D-Skokie), said proponents will attempt to override the governor's veto later this year.

"The governor's action today is disappointing but predictable," Lang said.

Lang said he was confident the override effort would succeed, but Quinn responded: "That veto will be sustained. I don't have any doubt about it."

Senate Majority Leader Christine Radogno (R-Lemont) welcomed Quinn's veto and doubted there is any likelihood gambling-expansion supporters can mount an override effort.

- Chicago Sun-Times

New mileage standards would double fuel efficiency by 2025

The Obama administration has finalized regulations that will force automakers to nearly double the average gas mileage of all new cars and trucks they sell in America by 2025.

The rules mean that all new vehicles would have to get an average of 54.5 miles per gallon in 13 years, up from 28.6 mpg at the end of last year. The requirements will be phased in gradually between now and then, and automakers could be fined if they don't comply.

The regulations will change the cars and trucks sold in U.S. showrooms, with the goal of slashing greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption. Automakers will need to improve gasoline-powered engines, and sell more alternative fuel vehicles. Critics say the rules will make cars unaffordable by adding thousands of dollars to the sticker price.

The "Corporate Average Fuel Economy" will vary by automaker depending on the mix of models they sell.

The administration says the latest changes will save families up to $7,400 on fuel over the life of a vehicle. The standards also are the biggest step the U.S. government has ever taken toward cutting greenhouse gas emissions, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson said.

- The Associated Press
Don't sack recycling of plastic bags

Everyone hates the sight of plastic bags blowing down the street.

But that doesn't prevent them from being a popular item at the grocery store.

So it would be discouraging if the leading legislative effort to promote plastic recycling fades away without a better plan to replace it.

Gov. Pat Quinn vetoed an industry-backed bill that would have required plastic bag manufacturers to set up recycling programs in the suburbs and Downstate.

In his veto message, Quinn said, "While well-intentioned, this legislation is a roadblock to innovation that would do little to boost recycling in Illinois. We can do better."

We would amend that to say: We have to do better if we’re going to send the only bill that shows it has General Assembly support to be trucked off and dumped into a legislative landfill.

Back-to-school joys and nightmares

Last week we attended another open house at the high school.

It was our ninth consecutive year of open houses. It always reminds me of what I did and didn’t like about school.

I like the idea of starting fresh and having the "tabula rasa" of another year of learning before me. So far, every class is a potential "A."

I also like blank sheets of paper, new pens and pencils, and clean crisp books that have yet to be opened. Secret knowledge is tucked away in those books.

I like meeting the teachers. Over the years, they’ve gotten younger and younger. I have to fight the urge to think that they can’t possibly know what they are talking about because they are so young.

When I was in high school a million years ago, my teachers seemed ancient. My son’s teachers are young and with it.

I see an advantage to that. Being young, they are still excited and energized about teaching.

I like seeing the English teacher get all revved up about teaching "Romeo and Juliet" again.

Back in the day, my teachers seemed tired and disinterested. They’d done it a million times and it was rote by now.

So that’s a good change.

Of course, meeting the teacher also meant getting a copy of the course syllabus. It described the work to be done and how that work would be evaluated.

At first, it all looked great. But then I go to the second class, and the third class and fourth class and the syllabuses started piling up.

One teacher talked about what her students needed to be successful, including 10 or so hours of sleep each night.

I started doing the calculations. We wake up the boy at 6:30 a.m. That means he has to get to bed by ... what ... 8:30 p.m.? He gets home at 3:30 p.m. What about all the homework and downtime and eating and washing dishes? Well, that’s not going to work.

YOU KNOW THAT DREAM ...

So then I start thinking of that recurring nightmare. You know what I’m talking about.

My two nightmare scenarios involved me having a great year all the way to the end of the semester. And then a week before the end of school, I realize there is one class I forgot about all year. Either I didn’t go to any classes or I forgot to do the assignments.

Then the bell rang, and I saw some of my adult friends passing in the hallway. Perhaps I can get whatever notes I missed from them?
Remember when TV reception was simpler?

I speak to you from the past.

Long past?
No, just from June 11, 2009.
That was the last day we were one country bound together by the strongest tie - television.

June 11, 2009, was the last day before, by federal decree, all TV broadcasting was switched from analog to digital.
The transition was done - as Moe, Larry and Curly would say - for duty and humanity. More of the broadcast spectrum could be used for public safety, and consumers would get sharper pictures on our TVs.

All this would just automatically happen June 12, 2009, unless we did not subscribe to some form of cable service. Then we had to buy something called a converter box and install that on our TV or it would cease to function after June 11, 2009.
The government helped pay for the converter box - the first one only. After that, everything would be hunky-dory.

But on June 12, 2009, two classes of TV watchers were created: the Haves and the Have-nots. The Haves were cable subscribers. They automatically received clearer TV pictures. And, indeed, everything was hunky-dory.

But the Have-nots did not fare so well. They received fewer channels. There are just some channels the TV Have-not. There are millions of us. Some choose to be TV Have-nots. But for a great many, choice is not involved. Millions of Have-nots can't afford to subscribe to a cable service.

What Congress really did was deny millions of Americans the ability to watch TV based almost solely on their income.

I mention all this because my converter box is dying. It will have to be replaced at a cost of about $60. And if my converter box is dying, so are other converter boxes.

Also, I thought my TV had finally expired. But by madly clicking buttons on two remotes, I finally got it breathing again.

But when it finally does give up the ghost, how do I replace one of these antique TVs? Will I have to subscribe to some service? How much is that? I liked it before June 12, 2009.

E television unum.
Question of the Week

At the Niles Public Library we asked, “How do you think the Chicago Bears will do this season?”

Mike Jakubow
Niles

“They might do it. They’ve got a chance. If they’re winning real good, I’ll be watching.”

Rich Janyia
Morton Grove

“I think they’ll do a lot better if they get rid of Jay Cutler.”

Abid Khan
Des Plaines

“I don’t think they are going to do good. They’re still a good team, but the coach they have is not that good. They have a couple more years to go.”

People Poll

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION: “Which federally-recognized holiday means the most to you?”
RESPONSES:
1) Labor Day 13%
2) Memorial Day 56%
3) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 6%
4) Veterans Day 13%
5) Columbus Day 13%

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION: “What is your favorite pizza topping?”
RESPONSES:
1) Sausage
2) Pepperoni
3) Mushrooms
4) Anchovies

To respond to this week’s People Poll question, visit niles.suntimes.com.

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As of July 1, 2012
I LLINOIS CARES RX has been terminated

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**Education in Focus**

**District 207, 219 educators top paid among neighbors**

**BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com**

**CHICAGO**

As dissatisfaction among teachers in Chicago Public Schools mounted amid talk of possible strike, an analysis of local teacher pay shows the minimum salary earned by Chicago educators exceeds that of many suburban districts.

A look at teacher salaries within the 15 school districts that make up Pioneer Press central area shows elementary-school teachers with bachelor’s degrees in Maine Township, Park Ridge, Niles, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood, Skokie and Evanston all earn a minimum salary that is lower than Chicago teachers, according to data found in the 2011-12 Illinois Teacher Salary Study.

According to the study the minimum scheduled salary for Chicago District 299 teachers is $48,632 annually and the maximum scheduled salary is $90,209. These salaries include contributions to the Teachers’ Retirement System pension fund.

Data shows that, locally, only Maine Township High School District 207, Niles Township High School District 219 and Golf School District 67 pay their teachers a higher minimum salary than Chicago Public Schools.

At the same time the maximum salary paid by most districts is greater than Chicago. The salary study shows maximum salaries of between $86,775 and $119,936 for elementary- and high-school districts in Park Ridge, Niles, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood, Skokie and Evanston.

District 207, with schools in Park Ridge and Des Plaines, ranks first among the 15 school districts analyzed when it comes to minimum and maximum teachers salaries.

“We are pleased about the fact that we are able to compensate our teachers well,” said District 219 spokesman Jim Szczepaniak.

“We believe it attracts top candidates to the district.”

With a beginning salary of $55,091 for a teacher with a bachelor’s degree, Reavis High School in Burbank ranks first in the state for teacher salaries.

For Northeast Illinois the median minimum salary for a teacher with a bachelor’s degree is $40,009, while the median minimum salary for a teacher with a master’s degree is $44,279, according to the salary study.

Teachers can actually earn more the maximum scheduled salary, though, if they coach teams, sponsor clubs or teach summer school. Longevity can also bump up salaries.

A Sun-Times salary database using information from the Illinois State Board of Education shows that a Niles North High School science teacher earned $167,768 during the 2011-12 school year — the highest among the 15 school districts — while a now retired driver’s-education teacher at Maine South High School in Park Ridge earned $158,368 last year.

When it comes to administrator salaries,
Speak your mind Sept. 10 on District 64 budget

PARK RIDGE

A public hearing on the proposed 2012-13 budget for Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 will take place at 7 p.m. Sept. 10 at the District 64 Educational Service Center, 164 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

The Board of Education is expected to adopt the budget during a regular meeting Sept. 24 at Franklin School, 2401 Manor Lane, in Park Ridge. Public comments will also be heard during this meeting, which begins at 7:30 p.m.

The tentative budget includes revenues of $72.1 million and expenditures of nearly $70.4 million. Business Manager Becky Allard reported. The budget does not yet reflect teacher salaries as contract negotiations with the Park Ridge Education Association are still ongoing. The current teachers contract expired Aug. 20.

"The successful passage of the 2007 referendum is the primary reason that District 64 continues to hold its own during these very difficult economic times," Allard said in a news release issued by the district. "The Board and administration, however, must continually examine expenditures as District 64 looks into the future."

---

CAMPUS NEWS

Niles students Martha Disclafani and Brendan Ryan were named to the dean's list during the winter term at North Central College, Naperville.

Shannon Meyer, of Niles, qualified for the winter-semester dean's list at Carthage College.

Graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University were Niles students Samee Kan Patel, majoring in theatre arts, with research honors, and Kevin Seske, majoring in psychology.

Named to the spring dean's list at Illinois Wesleyan University were Niles students Kevin Kapolnek, Sam Patel, Casey Plach and Kevin Seske.

Sophie Nielsen, of Niles, earned recognition on the spring-semester dean's list at Albion College.

Samantha M. Fitzgerald of Niles was named on the spring-semester dean's list at Alcorn College.

Niles students received bachelor's degrees from Western Illinois University.

Michael M. Gorski of Niles, earned the winter dean's list honors at Carthage College for the spring semester.

Darcy Foreman of Niles was recognized on the spring-semester dean's list at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

The following Niles students earned bachelor's degrees from Illinois State University:

Jennifer M. Ghisolfi, Anthony M. Glorioso, and Anthony M. Glorioso.

Eddy B. Ymeri.

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Top administrator pay

This chart shows the highest paid superintendents in each school district within the Pioneer Press central area. Salaries are taken from a Sun-Times database of information provided by the Illinois State Board of Education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Employee</th>
<th>Number of schools</th>
<th>2011 Salary</th>
<th>2010 Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niles Township High School</td>
<td>Nanciann Gatta</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>$299,597</td>
<td>$250,167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skokie 68</td>
<td>Frances McTague</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Hardy Murphy</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>$224,843</td>
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<td>Gary Zabika (retired)</td>
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<td>Scott Clay</td>
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<td>Amy Krupke</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$189,034</td>
<td>$175,496</td>
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</table>

Source: Illinois State Board of Education

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Top paid

Continued from page 27

District 219 Superintendent Nanciann Gatta earned $299,587 in compensation last year, making her the highest-paid Illinois school administrator. Her salary was nearly $50,000 higher than it was the previous school year, according to the state data.

"The successful passage of the 2007 referendum is the primary reason that District 64 continues to hold its own during these very difficult economic times," Allard said in a news release issued by the district. "The Board and administration, however, must continually examine expenditures as District 64 looks into the future."

"The successful passage of the 2007 referendum is the primary reason that District 64 continues to hold its own during these very difficult economic times," Allard said in a news release issued by the district. "The Board and administration, however, must continually examine expenditures as District 64 looks into the future."

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District 219 Board of Education President Bob Silverman said Gatta's salary "represents less than 0.19 percent of the district's ($150 million) budget."

"Although school superintendents work in the public sector, their compensation levels are driven by market forces," Silverman said in a statement. "Successful school districts struggle to employ the most qualified and experienced administrators to head their institutions. As is the case with the private sector, the laws of supply and demand drive compensation levels."

Two other superintendents of the 15 school districts analyzed by Pioneer Press received bumps in compensation of more than $10,000 between the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years, data shows. They include District 207 Superintendent Ken Wallace, a $27,000 increase, and East Maine District 63 Superintendent Scott Clay, a $21,000 increase.

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Most Niles students graduated with degrees from Western Illinois University.

Maura T. Kapolnek, of Niles, graduated with a master's degree from Illinois State University. The following Niles students earned bachelor's degrees from Illinois State University:

Jennifer M. Ghisolfi, Anthony M. Glorioso, and Anthony M. Glorioso.
District 219 employees: Let’s make a deal

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

SKOKIE

A sea of gray T-shirts at the Niles Township High School District 219 administrative building Aug. 27 sent a unified message to district officials: School employees are committed to meeting the highest professional standards and securing fair contracts.

A standing-room-only crowd packed the monthly school-board meeting to express support for a swift and satisfactory end to collective-bargaining discussions.

Pending contract talks also resulted in the board’s decision to delay adoption of an operating budget for the 2012-13 school year until next month.

District 219 teachers and support staff are currently working under agreements that expired Aug. 20, the day before Niles West and Niles North high schools were back in session.

Presidents Pankaj Sharma, of the Niles Township Federation of Teachers, and Dave Dorf, of the Niles Township Support Staff, addressed officials on behalf of more than 100 union members present in the room. They were flanked by several dozen more supporters outside the building.

Union members “see ourselves as your most important partners in creating and maintaining these excellent schools,” Sharma told the board.

“We are privileged to work in these buildings,” he said. “We love our students and we love the sense of fulfillment we receive from our work with them.”

Sharma described the negotiation process, which formally began in March, as “smooth, positive, and drama-free.”

Since July a federal mediator has assisted teachers union and district representatives in settling the new contract.

The parties met Aug. 25 and were expected to have reconvened Aug. 30. Sharma’s closing statement — “We know that we can all look forward to the day in the very near future (when) there will be signed a fair and just contract” — evoked a thunderous round of applause.

Board President Robert Silverman thanked union members for their diligence in preparing students for college and reminded them of the board’s fiduciary responsibilities.

“We ultimately need to agree on a contract that people believe is fair but that our taxpayers also believe is fair,” he said. “I do think we’re really close.”

District 219 tentatively approved a new budget in July of $156 million, a 7.31-percent increase in spending over last year’s expenses.

The board allocated about $94 million for salaries, benefits and other expenses for instructional and support services, though that amount may be adjusted as a result of contract negotiations.

Property taxes comprise 88-percent of total direct revenue.

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RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

P.29

Thursday, September 6, 2012
Teacher is on the job while out to lunch

NILES
Emerson Middle School lunchroom supervisor Keith Liddell admits that he gets a good laugh out of Adam Sandler's parody of lunchroom workers, "Lunch Lady Land."

“When I think ‘lunch lady' I think of that lunch-lady song. That cracks me up,” he said of the "Saturday Night Live" tune paying homage to female lunchroom workers, albeit in stereotypical, comedic fashion — hair nets, orthopedic shoes, sloppy joes and all.

Liddell, who teaches industrial technology at Emerson in Niles, says the school's cafeteria-line workers barely resemble the lunch-lady caricature and he doubts the eighth-graders he supervises each day even perceive them in the way Adam Sandler does.

"The ladies are very nice in there,” Liddell remarked. “I don't think the

kids know that stereotypical lunch lady like we know it. There's also a couple of guys that serve in there, too.”

Liddell has been a lunchroom supervisor for about 10 years and is one of four teachers who keep an eye on the Emerson cafeteria during eighth-grade lunch. Each week the teachers rotate between lunch-line supervision, table observation and keeping track of students who sign out from the lunchroom.

After lunch, while three of the teachers head outside with the class, one stays behind to monitor the week's lunch-table captains, students who are in charge of cleaning up their tables for the next class.

"The kids are really good, luckily,” Liddell noted. "For having over 250 kids in a lunchroom, they're pretty well-behaved."

Though a paid position, lunchroom supervision is a voluntary opportunity for any Emerson teacher. Liddell says he does it for the chance to further interact with students, many of whom he has in class or sees during
Boys volleyball practice, a sport he coaches. Seeing a familiar face, he added, shows the students there is someone they can go to for help if, for instance, they are the victims of bullying.

"The kids get to know who you are, I think," Liddell said of his lunchroom role. "You can have more of a rapport when they know who you are and what you do."

Physical fights, another lunchroom cliche, are rare and average less than one per year, Liddell said. Last year there weren't any, he added.

Bullying can be harder to identify, Liddell acknowledges, but it is something the supervisors are always on the look for. Their eyes are also peeled for cell phones and music players, which are prohibited outside lockers during the school day.

Most challenging: getting 250 students to reenter the building after recess in an orderly fashion, Liddell said. As for the food itself, Emerson's students are big fans of Bosco Sticks, stuffed bread sticks that come with dipping sauce, and warm cookies that come straight from the oven. Taco Tuesdays are also days the children anticipate.

"There's always a big line for tacos," Liddell said.

When not teaching, supervising or coaching, Liddell is involved with Emerson's Remote Control Car Club, in which students race toy cars over ramps and through marked courses. He also supervises the morning bus drop-off at the school.

Liddell describes teaching and the other roles he takes on at the school as "a fun job." "I love being with the kids," he said. "It's a job that I could see myself doing for awhile, easily, because it is so much fun to interact with the kids. It gives me pleasure to see them as a shop teacher, too, working with their hands and building, creating new things."
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**

**Schedule**

- **65+**

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

  - **Tuesday, Sept. 18** - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
  - **Wednesday, Sept. 19** - Grief and loss support group (call first).
  - **Saturdays, Sept. 8 and 22** - Legal counseling, by appointment.
  - **Monday, Sept. 10** - Alzheimer's caregivers support group, 10 a.m.
  - **Mondays, Sept. 10, 17, and 24** - Employment counseling, by appointment.

**CLASSES**

- **13+ 18+ 65+**

  - **Raiho Animal Assisted Therapy Inc.**
    - Offers "Introduction to Animal Assisted Therapy" dog training classes at various locations, including 6042 W. Oakton St., in Morton Grove. The fee is $60. Contact Dorida King at dhking4@yahoo.com or call (773) 736-9021, for schedules and locations.

**Niles Township Clerk**

- **65+**

  - Niles Township Clerk's Office is open 9 a.m.-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.

**CLUBS**

- **18+ 65+**

  - **Holy Name Men's Club**
    - The St. John Brebeuf Holy Name Men's Club will host a Farewell to Summer Bingo at 3 p.m. Sept. 9 at the St. John Brebeuf Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem Ave. Refreshments will be sold. Admission is $2; games are $15 for 15 games. Must be 18 and older.

  - **Knights of Columbus**
    - The 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.

  - **Luncheon program**
    - Morton Grove Hadassah will host a Welcoming Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 19 at the Chateau Ritz, 9100 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. Listen to the voice of Maureen Christine. Cost is $20. Reservations are required. Contact the Hadassah Northshore office at (847) 205-1900; email northshore@hadassah.org or visit www.northshore.hadassah.org.

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

**COMMUNITY**

- **18+ 65+**

  - **Classic and Antique Car Show**
    - The Polish National Alliance will host this event on the grounds of the Home Office Building, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, from 1-5 p.m. Sept. 9. Rain date is Sept. 16. It will feature hot cars, food and music. Trophies will be awarded to the best cars. The car show is free and open to the public. 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.pnanzn.org, events section or from the car show link on the main page. Questions about the car show, call Dave at (847) 970-1040. Early registration fee before Sept. 1 is $5; onsite registration the day of the event will be $10, cash only.

**FUNDRAISERS**

- **18+ 65+**

  - **Wine Fest**
    - The Norwood Park Historical Society will hold its annual Wine Fest from 4-7 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, Chicago's oldest home, 5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago. Participants will experience various wines and foods at a unique outdoor venue. Foremost Liquor Center will coordinate a "never-ending glass" of wine filled by a wide-ranging selection of flavors from around the world; Gourmet cuisine provided by Honest Foods. Inside the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House, guests can bid on a silent auction featuring vacations, sports memorabilia, gift certificates, and wine merchandise. Tickets are $50 before Sept. 2 and $55 afterward, or $70 for VIP tickets, which includes high-end wines and an extra 45 minutes of tasting (beginning at 3:15 p.m.). The Wine Fest is one of the largest fundraisers for the Norwood Park Historical Society. Tickets must be 21 to attend. Tickets are available for purchase by phone at (773) 631-4633, email to info@norwoodparkhistorical-society.org or online at...
I follow-up care, if necessary, recommending and giving participants the opportunity to perform screenings.

1700 Luther Way, Park Ridge, for Advanced Care, on the first floor of the building.

The visual screening will take place Sept. 20 at Harry Semrow Forest Preserve Golf, 1150 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Registration will begin at 6 p.m., with shotgun start at 7; dinner and awards follow at 8. Tickets are $60 per golfer ($220 foursome) and include 18 holes of golf, appetizers, dinner, beverages and prizes. Use of your own putter is encouraged. Online registration is available at maryvilleacademy.org. Contact Nancy Woulfe at (847) 294-1982 or woufen@maryvilleacademy.org.

A benefit golf outing will take place Sept. 20 at Harry Semrow Forest Preserve Golf, 1150 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Registration will begin at 6 p.m., with shotgun start at 7; dinner and awards follow at 8. Tickets are $60 per golfer ($220 foursome) and include 18 holes of golf, appetizers, dinner, beverages and prizes. Use of your own putter is encouraged. Online registration is available at maryvilleacademy.org. Contact Nancy Woulfe at (847) 294-1982 or woufen@maryvilleacademy.org.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

See page 32 for this
week's Super
Crossword
and Sudoku
puzzles.
Business Spotlight

Indo-Pak grocery store stocks South Asian staples

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE

For the average American the jars of chutney, boxes of round, sugary ladoos and packages of spicy garam masala lining the shelves inside Hari Om Grocers in Park Ridge may take on an exotic air.

But for the local South-Asian community they are staples found in just about every kitchen.

Hari Om, which opened in July at 2628 Dempster St. in the Landings shopping center, is Park Ridge’s very first Indian-Pakistani grocery. The name refers to a religious mantra recited by followers of the Hindu faith.

Co-owners Pradeep Patel and Piyush Patel stock the small grocery with ingredients that are common in cuisine originating from across South Asia, from the spices and sacks of basmati rice to the fresh ginger and 10-pound bags of flour.

“What we have is the regular day-to-day requirement,” Pradeep Patel said, explaining that while bread recipes, for example, might be made differently in South India than they are in parts of the north, the ingredients used remain the same.

That said, the store is, in large part, geared toward meeting the nutritional needs of the primarily vegetarian Gujarati community. Nearby neighborhoods in unincorporated Maine Township, Des Plaines and Niles have large

UP CLOSE

NAME: Hari Om Grocers
ADDRESS: 2628 Dempster St., Park Ridge
SPECIALTY: Indian-Pakistani groceries
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sundays.

Pradeep Patel and Piyush Patel stand behind the counter of their new grocery store, Hari Om, at 2628 Dempster St. in Park Ridge. It is Park Ridge’s very first store specializing in Indian and Pakistani foods. | JENNIFER JOHNSON-Sun-Times Media
'Liberal speed-dating' event planned in Niles

NILES

Date Liberal is hosting what it bills as the single event specifically geared toward politically progressive and community minded singles to go on a way for progressive-minded musical entertainment.

Date Liberal offers a way for progressive-thinking singles to go on numerous dates in one night with like-minded individuals.

"Couples have enough people to stay together without introducing the issues of political, social, and lifestyle disagreements," company co-founder Stuart Chaseman said. "Political compatibility is a huge priority to many singles in these politically diverse times."

Date Liberal was founded by Chaseman and his friend and fellow liberal Ken Samson as a result of not only convenience but also "pure desperation from one too many bad dates," said Samson. "I can't believe this didn't already exist. It just seemed too obvious, like most great ideas do."

Participants go on a series of 5-minute dates while marking a confidential scorecard indicating their interest in seeing someone once again, the release stated. If both parties are interested in one another then contact information is provided to the speed daters.

The organizers plan to differentiate their brand of speed dating in ways beyond just the liberal slant, the release stated. Date Liberal speed dating includes a free drink, food and live music following the dating.

"I want to make this more of an event than just the speed dating; I want to give people a great value for their money," Chaseman said in the release.

Samson added: "This will undoubtedly be the first of many; we want people to tell their friends and come again if they're still looking to meet someone."

Grocery

Continued from page 36

populations of residents who identify themselves as ethnic Gujaratis. Basically whatever the Gujarati people use, we have," Patel explained.

That includes eggless pastries and bread.

Shoppers with a sweet tooth, regardless of their ethnic background, can find the popular, syrupy dessert, gulab jamun, while those looking for healthy fruits and vegetables can find a stock of mangoes, eggplant, beans and squash. Traditionally, South Asians make most of their meals from scratch, which takes both time and a number of ingredients. But a growing number of busy families in America have opened up a new market for frozen, but still traditional, foods that many Indo-Pak grocery stores are embracing.

"Because the young generation works they need ready-to-eat foods," Patel said.

Some of the frozen foods available at Hari Om include samosas (a fried pastry, usually with vegetables and potato inside), chicken tikka masala (marinated pieces of chicken in a spicy, tomato-based sauce), and dum aloo (a spicy potato dish).

Hari Om also sells henna cones for decorative body art, hair oil, incense and small religious statues.

The owners hope to reach out to the large population of Indian and Pakistani residents who live in neighborhoods very near their store.

"We feel really good we are part of Park Ridge now," Pradeep Patel said. 

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### Property Transfers

Information is provided by Record Information Services, P.O. Box 894, Elburn IL 60119; phone (630) 557-1000; fax (630) 557-1001.

#### Niles

- 6755 N Milwaukee Ave. Apt 306, Mayerbock Trust to Betty G Cusimano, $130,000, Aug. 3
- 7029 W Seward St., Brown Trust to Alexander Vucenovic Olga Vucenovic, $218,000, July 27
- 7125 W Keeney St., Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Martin M Mcdonagh Barbara J Mcdonagh, $220,000, July 27
- 7334 W Howard St, Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Adelaide Busillo Alfonso Busillo, $255,000, July 27
- 7547 W Monroe St., Marco Coronado to Jose C Zepeda Sandra Zepeda, $340,000, July 31
- 7635 N Nora Ave., Privatrr Trust to Leslie A Roth, $245,000, July 27
- 7654 N Waukegan Road, Fannie Mae to Johnson Yokhanenpo Edson Youkhanneh, $180,000, July 27
- 8327 N Oconto Ave., Minore Trust to Carmen Cinton Desiree Shalqidi, $197,500, Aug. 3
- 8409 W Roseview Drive, Rudolph Zettmeier to Jacob Ishak

### Edison Park

- 6442 N Oketo Ave., Patricia Ann Collins to Renee Jordan Sean Bourke, $158,000, Aug. 6
- 6550 N Harlem Ave., Richard J Finnerty to James P Flynn Kathleen

### Lincolnwood

- 3954 W Wallen Ave., Chicago Title Land Trt Co Ttee to Sunanda Batta Varun Arora, $259,000, July 30
- 6612 N Ramona Ave., Robert F Tucker to Robert F Tucker Jr, $330,000, Aug. 1

### Morton Grove

- 5844 Keeney St., Burtles Trust to Farrah S Vo Duc Vo, $195,000, Aug. 2

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**Pioneer Press Mortgage Guide**

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### United Home Loans

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(1) 3 Westbrook Corporate Center, Suite 1010, Westchester, IL 60154

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Hassel Free - Local closing and funding

| (C) 1515 W. 22nd Street, Suite 125, Oak Brook, IL 60523 | 456099 |

### Kenilworth Financial, Inc.

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— John Puterbaugh, jputerbaugh@suntimes.com
What can you do with a paper towel roll?

Decorate, celebrate and organize your home with easy crafts made from recycled cardboard tubes. One thing's certain, you'll never throw away a paper towel roll again.

**NAPKIN RINGS**

Surprise guests at your next dinner party with custom made napkin rings worthy of a Martha Stewart spread.

**You need**
- Paper towel rolls
- Decorative paper (varying patterns)
- Strong adhesive (such as tacky glue or double-sided tape)

**Directions**
- Cut paper towel rolls into thirds.
- Cover rolls with decorative paper by layering two to three different patterns on top of each other. Allow time to dry.
- Slip napkins through rings and place on table.

**PARTY CRACKER FAVORS**

Goody bags are so 2011. This year send guests home with "party crackers" filled with mini sweets and treats.

**You need**
- Paper towel rolls
- Colorful tissue paper
- Ribbon
- Mini goodies (such as candy, stickers, erasers and beads)

**Directions**
- Cut paper towel roll into halves or thirds. Place goodies inside cardboard tubes (two tubes per cracker) and then wrap with colorful tissue paper. Secure ends with ribbon. To open, pull both ends of cracker to reveal surprise treats inside.

**PING-PONG BALL HOLDER**

Errant Ping-Pong balls have met their match with this paper towel roll turned Ping-Pong corral.

**You need**
- Paper towel roll
- Decorative paper
- Ping-Pong balls

**Directions**
- Cover roll with decorative paper. Add cute label if desired (such as "Bounce" or "The Ping-Pong Corral"). Place balls in holder and set on table for easy access for gameplay.

**MULTI-LAYERED DESK ORGANIZER**

I might be dating myself, but all I can say about this cheap and inexpensive organizer is "it's totally tubular!"

**You need**
- Paper towel roll
- Heavy cardboard tubes (such as ribbon spools)

**Paint**
- Scissors
- Strong adhesive (such as tacky glue or double-sided tape)

**Directions for horizontal organizer**
- Cut paper towel roll in half lengthwise.
- Set aside one half and paint the other as desired. Note: Be sure to use just one coat of paint so as to not weigh down the tube.
- Cut two 2-inch strips from the discarded tube half. These strips will be used as compartment separators for your organizer.
- Paint the separators and when dry, secure them to the organizer with tape or a dab of glue.

**Directions for vertical organizers**
- Trim cardboard tubes to ensure they are all the same height.
- Paint each tube as desired. Allow time to dry.
- Place tubes on flat surface (such as on a shelf, desk or inside a drawer). Fill with small objects that easily get lost or roll away.
Sixty years ago this month, Ernest Hemingway's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, *The Old Man and the Sea*, debuted in Life magazine.

Hemingway's novella told the story of Santiago, an aged fisherman who fought for three days to catch an enormous blue marlin in the Gulf of Mexico. The story is set in the 1940s, but much of Hemingway's inspiration to write the fish tale came during the decade prior, while he was living large in Key West, Fla. The knowledge of deep-sea fishing Hemingway acquired during that time was as influential to his work as the foods and drinks that then dominated his life.

Fresh fish was as much a menu staple as the frosty Papa Doble daiquiris Hemingway famously loved. "In the Keys, snapper and grouper were plentiful and would have been eaten regularly by residents," said author Erika Robuck. She studied the foods of Depression-era Key West while researching her novel, *Hemingway's Girl*, about an imagined Hemingway romance.

Robuck will read from *Hemingway's Girl* to kick off The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park's fall series of author events at 7 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Hemingway Museum in Oak Park.

And directly across the street from the museum, at Hemingway's Bistro, chef/co-owner Christopher Ala will cook a red snapper meal fit for Hemingway.

"I think he would have liked our bar," Ala said about the author, who was born in a Victorian home two blocks north of Ala's eatery.

On the night of the Robuck event, Ala will feature crispy whole-roasted bimini red snapper with citrus mango butter. The fish is abundant off the coast of Bimini, an island in the Bahamas where Hemingway lived during the 1930s.

To make the glimmering hot pink-colored snapper, Ala gives it a quick flip on each side in a plate of cornstarch before frying it in palm oil on the stovetop. Using the cornstarch is an Asian technique that makes the snapper crispy and allows for it to stand upright on the plate to be served. The presentation is as colorful as it is stunning: The hot pink fish stands in a sauce thick with julienned mango and segments of oranges, lemons, limes and pink grapefruits cooked on the stovetop with whole butter and rum.

"Fish and citrus fruit always work together," Ala said.

### Crispy Whole-Roasted Bimini Red Snapper with Citrus Mango Butter

1 pound red snapper, scaled and gutted
1 ripe mango, peeled and julienned
1 pink grapefruit, segmented
1 orange, segmented
1 lemon, segmented
1 lime, segmented
4 ounces whole butter
2 ounces dark rum
1 ounce cornstarch
3 cups palm oil (substitute: vegetable oil)

**FISH**
Season fish with salt and ground white pepper inside and out.

**Sauce**
Put fish into hot oil with fish falling away to avoid impact in case of splash.
Sear fish on both sides until brown and crispy.
Drain oil from the pan and finish in 350 degree oven for 10 minutes or until fish starts to flake away from bones.
Place fish on serving platter and set aside.

Heat a small skillet over medium heat and then add citrus segments and rum. (Rum will ignite flames for a few seconds until alcohol burns off.)
Burn off rum and remove from heat.
Add mango, and slowly whisk in butter to create sauce.

Pour over fish and serve or pour on plate and stand fish upright in sauce.
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<td>CHICAGO</td>
<td>Edison Park Lutheran Church</td>
<td>6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago, IL</td>
<td>773.631.9131, <a href="http://www.edisonparkchurch.com">www.edisonparkchurch.com</a></td>
<td>Services: Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m. Sunday Worship 9:15 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby Sr. Pastor Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry Matt Haider, Worship /Music Michael Lydia, Children/Youth/Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHFIELD</td>
<td>Willow Creek Community Church</td>
<td>315 Waukegan Road</td>
<td>847-441-6599, <a href="http://www.willownorthshore.org">www.willownorthshore.org</a></td>
<td>Services: 9 &amp; 11 am Promised (Infants-Gr5): 9 &amp; 11 am Elevate (Grades 6-8): 11 am Impact (Grades 9-12): 6 pm For more information visit <a href="http://www.WillowNorthShore.org">www.WillowNorthShore.org</a></td>
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<td>NORWOOD PARK</td>
<td>St. Alban’s Episcopal</td>
<td>6240 N. Avondale, near Devon &amp; Harlem</td>
<td>stalbanschicago.org</td>
<td>Services: Holy Communion Weekly Communion every Sunday, 9:30 St. Paul Lutheran Church 5650 N. Canfield, 60631, (708)687-5044, <a href="http://www.stpaulcanfield.org">www.stpaulcanfield.org</a> Street Level, Air Conditioned Services: Sunday Worship 8:15 &amp; 10:45AM Sunday School &amp; Adult Bible 9:00AM Saturday Worship 6AM Lutheran Unity School - West Pre K-Grade 8, SHARING GOD, TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE</td>
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<td>NORWOOD PARK</td>
<td>Zion Lutheran Church</td>
<td>8600 W Lawrence Avenue</td>
<td>(708) 435-3514, <a href="http://www.zionschurch.org">www.zionschurch.org</a></td>
<td>Services: Sunday Worship 9:30 am Holy Communion 3rd &amp; 5th Sunday Early Communion – 1st Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School – 10:35 am Adult Bible Study – 10:45 am Handicapped Accessible Serving the Community Sharing God’s Promises</td>
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</table>
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Our picks for the week's best entertainment.

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Prairie Park offers walkable location, great lifestyle

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Prairie-style architecture combine to make Prairie Park in

Great lifestyle

thats certainly add to the
ticker price. The transmission
does an adequate job in the
shifting department. I do find
Acura's release button on the
shifter takes some getting used
to. The steering wheel does
have shift paddles.

Even though the TSX
has a typically front-heavy
front-wheel-drive arrange-
ment, it does exhibit nimble
handling. The electrically
assisted power steering is
nicely modulated. Ride quality
is on the firm side, which
auxiliary power steering is
nimble handling. The electrically
assisted power steering is
nicely modulated. Ride quality
is on the firm side, which


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**2012 Forester Premiums**

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With a variety of excellent restaurants, easy access to Northbrook Court and other shopping areas, and a wide choice of golf courses and other recreation options, Wheeling has all this and more. But with a welcoming clubhouse community and luxury condos priced from $229,900, Wheeling’s Prairie Park offers value that would be difficult to duplicate elsewhere.

As a bonus, several of the area’s most exciting restaurants are actually an easy walk from Prairie Park, including the newest offerings from local superstar chef Rick Tramonto and popular restaurateur Pete Miller. Residents make the short drive south to Dundee Road for grocery and convenience shopping, or head east on Lake-Cook Road to Northbrook Court.

A look at the local map shows a long strip of green just to the east of Prairie Park: Potawatomie Woods and the Des Plaines River Trail, popular with bikers and hikers who enjoy the meandering path through the peaceful forest. For more outdoor fun, the Wheeling Park District offers a range of facilities including several parks, an outdoor aquatic center, and the Chevy Chase Country Club, rated one of the Chicago area’s top public courses.

Prairie Park residents also will find plenty of recreation opportunities in the community. They gather at the clubhouse to swim, exercise and meet their neighbors, and enjoy parties and get-togethers in the large lounge area with kitchen and big-screen TV. In summer, they enjoy cocktails and barbecues on the patio overlooking the lake. Those who prefer quieter pursuits can stroll the 18 landscaped acres, enjoying prairie-style plantings of native flowers and grasses. They can sit and gaze at the tranquil beauty of the lake, or feel the spray from the cascading waterfall that marks the entrance.

But the real value at Prairie Park is in the homes, designed in a sophisticated prairie style with rustic wood and stone touches, and strong horizontal lines that evoke the beauty of the midwestern landscape. Twelve distinct plans feature a choice of one, two or three bedrooms, bright open living areas and large expanses of windows in buildings that are designed to maximize natural light and offer views of the landscaped grounds. Each home includes a private terrace with gas line for outdoor grilling. Stylish kitchens include top-of-the-line appliances and fixtures, and nearly three feet of insulation ensure peace and quiet.

To view the floor plans, visit on-line at www.prairieparkatwheeling.com or visit the on-site Information Center, 700 North Wolf Road in Wheeling, just south of the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Lake-Cook Road. The center is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Buyers can also contact the builder, Smith Family Construction, at (847) 229-0100.
Gerstad Builders offers limited giveaway of sites with home purchases

Receiving considerable homebuyer interest after its recent announcement of free homesites at its Pheasant Ridge community in Richmond, Gerstad Builders is now offering this opportunity at its three other communities: Liberty Trails in McHenry, Dawson Creek in Poplar Grove, and Bailey Estates at Williams Bay in Wis.

Starting immediately, the builder will give two homesites away for free in each of these communities, but the deal expires Dec. 31, 2012. This offer means that, depending on the community, that buyers will be able to subtract $10,000, $15,000, and $20,000 respectively from advertised home prices in Dawson Creek, Liberty Trails and Bailey Estates.

As an example of the savings Gerstad is offering on its 13 different single-family homes at Dawson Creek, buyers can select any of the 1,382- to 2,929-square-foot ranch and two-story homes and then subtract $10,000 off the listed base price.

For example, the Roosevelt, a 2,030-square-foot, three-bedroom, 2½-bath two-story home normally priced at $178,990. but is only $168,990 after subtracting the value of the homesite. This savings, combined with a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage at an all time low, means the time is right for families to purchase a new home in any of Gerstad Builders' communities.

Plus, in a Gerstad community, residents are not subject to special service area (SSA) or homeowner association fees.

If a family was to purchase the Roosevelt for $178,990 and deduct $10,000 for the homesite and secure a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage of 3.55 percent on the $168,990 balance, the monthly payment would be approximately $783 (does not include property taxes, private mortgage insurance or property insurance).

"With my willingness to give homesites away for free, a homebuyer in our communities will never purchase a home at a

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Chicago-based real estate firm @properties has been named to Inc. magazine's exclusive Inc. 5000 list of the nation's fastest-growing private companies again. This marks the sixth time in the last seven years that the firm has been ranked on the Inc. 5000 list. The firm made the Inc. 500 list in 2006, ranking 341st.

@properties was the No. 1 real estate broker in the city of Chicago throughout 2011 with 14.8 percent market share. The company also was the No. 2 brokerage firm in Chicago's North Shore suburbs with 12.7 percent market share, and was the third largest brokerage firm in the Northern Illinois region (source: BrokerMetrics, LLC).

@properties posted three-year revenue gains of 31.8 percent, and had the 8th highest revenues of the 69 real estate companies on the Inc. 5000 list. The firm was one of only five real estate companies from Illinois to make the list and the only one specializing in for-sale brokerage.

"While most real estate brokerage firms downsized as a result of the housing crisis, we focused on growth," said @properties co-founder Thaddeus Wong. "We invested in new marketing, technology and training programs, and continued to recruit top-producing agents. We brought new energy and resources to the business during a particularly difficult time."

"We've outperformed the industry throughout one of the toughest real estate markets in the U.S.," added @properties co-founder Michael Golden. "We opened new offices on the North Shore and gained significant market share, putting us in a great position for continued growth as the market shows strong signs of recovery."

"Now, more than ever, we depend on Inc. 500/5000 companies to spur innovation, provide jobs, and drive the economy forward. Growth companies, not large corporations, are where the action is," said Inc. Editor Eric Schurenberg.

For more information on @properties, visit www.atproperties.com. Complete results of the Inc. 5000, including company profiles and an interactive database that can be sorted by industry, region, and other criteria, can be found at www.inc.com/inc5000.

Established in 2000, @properties is the No. 1 residential brokerage firm in the city of Chicago by market share and the third largest brokerage firm in Northern Illinois. @properties is also the Chicago area's leading firm for the sales and marketing of new-construction and condominium conversion developments. @properties has offices in River North, Streeterville, Lincoln Park, Bucktown, Lakeview, Evanston, Winnetka, Highland Park and Lake Forest. For more information, visit www.atproperties.com.

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures, Inc. is the only major brand dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies, with the aim to deliver real solutions for today's innovative company builders. Total monthly audience reach for the brand has grown significantly from 2,000,000 in 2010 to over 6,000,000 today. For more information, visit www.inc.com.

Market leaders: @properties co-founders Thaddeus Wong, left, and Michael Golden have seen their firm grow and prosper to the point that prestigious Inc. has named the company to its 5000 List for the sixth time. (SUPPLIED PHOTO)
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- Pool complex, Flag Park, green areas
- Residents enjoy coffee hours, game nights, dinner parties & day trips
- Walk to shopping, restaurants & medical facilities

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Social values

Three Oaks promotes health benefits of ‘social’ lifestyles

No matter the age, socialization allows people to connect with their communities and with one another in meaningful ways. It encourages mental, physical, and emotional well-being, and substantially increases the quality of one’s life. In short, engaging with others allows us to thrive. This becomes especially important as we age. Research demonstrates that having a healthy social life is just as important to survival as regular exercise and can actually add years to one’s life.

For seniors, the benefits of socialization extend far beyond the extra years. Developing friendships and participating in activities help to reduce stress, while increasing feelings of self-worth and subsequently reducing the risk of depression. Additionally, a socially active senior will benefit from the stimulation of the mind and memory, as well as the strengthening of bones, joints, and muscles that engaging in a variety of activities provides.

At Three Oaks Assisted Living in Cary, the activities and lifestyle are designed around those goals. It offers a variety of activities and amenities that are designed to promote health, friendships and fulfilling lifestyles, and also to stimulate the mind. Residents are encouraged to participate in dynamic scheduled events and use the on-site amenities to the fullest extent to help them feel connected with the community.

Three Oaks has something for everyone, including:

- Signature Programs: Great Moments in Entertainment, History’s Mysteries, HUGS, Just for Laughs, SpectraMoments and Spectrum Travel Adventures.
- Physical Exercise: Aquatic Exercise, SpectraFit and SpectraFun.
- Social: Activity Grab Bag, Bingo, birthday celebrations, Coffee Connections, Happy Hour and movies.
- Outings: Trips and Cultural Experiences: sporting events, sightseeing tours, shopping, lunch outings, plays, movies and museums, dinner outings and community events.
- Creative Arts: acting (plays/scripts), art classes, crafts and arts.
- Musical: entertaining entertainment/performances, musical events, Rhythms of Spectra.
- Intellectual: book club review, Marvelous Minds and What’s News?
- Spiritual: Aging with Grace, Bible study, Reflections of a Life Well Lived, services in community and religious services speakers.
- Quality Living: Guest speakers on important topics, such as self-image, healthy relationships and how to handle loss.
- Planning/meeting/socials: Activity Steering Committee, community meeting, Monthly Chat Time, New Resident Social, resident council and volunteer committees.
- Special Events: Family and Friend Night, holiday programs, intergenerational monthly program and theme events.
- Total lifestyle: Three Oaks assisted living offers everything for a complete assisted living lifestyle, right from attractive curb appeal. Among its many features is a wellness center and exercise facility geared to meet the needs of residents. 1 SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Four Seasons ‘dream homes’ a reality for seniors

Imagine living in a “modern day Mayberry” where neighbors are around for a friendly chat or a helping hand and costs are down and quality is up.

That feeling can be recaptured when you spend your retirement years at Four Seasons-Dream Homes in Belvidere. The residents of Four Seasons describe their community as a “present day Mayberry” because it’s a friendly, supportive community reminiscent of years gone by.

Four Seasons-Dream Homes offer retirees a way to reduce their cost of living and enhance their retirement lifestyle. Many Four Seasons residents have second homes in a warm climate, own an RV, travel the world or simply enjoy spoiling their grandchildren.

Four Seasons-Dream Homes afford buyers quality-built, luxurious, energy-efficient homes priced from only $69,900 to $118,900. These prices provide seniors the opportunity to save on housing costs, save on heating and cooling costs as well as improving their way of life.

Dream Homes are new construction and are quality-built with 2-by-6 walls. They are energy efficient with upgraded insulation and high efficiency furnaces and water heaters.

For example, the Winchester model home, priced at only $69,900, includes three bedrooms, two baths, a gourmet kitchen with oak cabinets and appliances, master bedroom with walk-in closet, window treatments, centralized air, attached 2-car garage, newly sodded lawn and more.

The kitchens will please any gourmet. They are spacious, well-lit and include an abundance of cabinets. Many homes have kitchen islands, ceramic accents, walk-in pantries, pull-out cabinet shelves and kitchen desks. The home price also includes appliances including ranges, built-in ovens and microwaves, side-by-side refrigerators and dishwashers.

The living rooms are large and feature fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, bay windows and lighted ceiling fans. Skylights offer much light and make the homes more livable while also saving money on energy costs. Master suites include walk-in closets. The baths include whirlpools, walk-in double showers, double sinks, upgraded faucets, linen closets and vanities with plentiful storage. The exterior doors feature leaded glass.

All Dream Homes include central air and attached 2 1/2-car garages.

Four Seasons-Dream Homes offers value for the housing dollar because the homes are factory-built in a very efficient environment. Manufactured homes are competitive with site-built homes in appearance, but cost much less to purchase. Today’s manufactured homes are built with the same building materials as site built homes, but in a controlled factory environment where quality of construction is invariably superior to what can be done outdoors. Weather does not interfere with construction or cause costly delays and damage building materials.

Many Dream Home models are available, or homes may be custom-designed at no additional cost. Choices include kitchen cabinets, countertops, flooring, exterior design and more. Dream Homes offer the latest in design trends and styles in everything from lighting and plumbing fixtures to flooring and trim treatments.

Four Seasons is an award-winning community where entrances are boulevards filled with flowers, with landscaping and meticulous maintenance. Residents walk lighted sidewalks on curving tree-lined streets. They enjoy the pool complex, picnic areas, green areas and a flag park.

The community has many free social activities, such as community coffee hours, dinner parties, holiday parties, game nights, events around the pool and events that involve the community. In August, the pool complex became an Italian diner and the Four Seasons neighbors gathered under the stars to enjoy a Lasagna dinner.

Shoppers, banking, restaurants, a clinic and hospital are all within walking distance, so residents can save money on gas. For longer distances, transportation is available through the Boone County Council on Aging.

The model homes may be visited seven days a week. Four Seasons-Dream Homes’ hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Additional information on Four Seasons-Dream Homes is available at the Website www.foursseasonsdreamhomes.com. Call (888)373-2604 or (815)544-2700 or email to dreamhomesusa@gb.com.
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1445 North Shore Rd 10A: Aull, Jeffrey

**Winnetka**

199 Sheridan Rd: Harold, Mark & Seennand, Neela; $3,210,000

cheaper price than we are offering right now," said Roger Gerstad, president of the namesake company.

"This unbelievably low purchase price combined with interest rates at an all time low of 3.55 percent means that ownership of a single-family home hasn't been this affordable since the mid-1980's. As a result, they may pay less per month for one of our homes than they are currently paying for a small two-bedroom apartment."

No matter which community is selected, Gerstad offers a variety of luxury amenities in its homes at no additional cost. For example, homes come with vaulted ceilings (per plan), furniture-quality cabinetry, General Electric appliance package, Kohler bathroom fixtures and faucets, basements (per plan) and a one-year warranty program.

Design highlights include two to four bedrooms, two or 2 1/2 baths, kitchens with islands (per plan), breakfast areas, living rooms, family rooms, formal dining rooms, dens (per plan), master-bedroom suites and attached two-car garages.

Gerstad Builders also offers a variety of optional features including skylights, central air conditioning, three-car garages (per plan), wood-burning or gas fireplaces, additional volume ceilings, custom millwork, imported ceramic tile, Corian or granite countertops, hardwood flooring, and English or walkout basements.

**THE PLACES TO BE**

**Liberty Trails, McHenry:** Offers 1,382- to 3,177-square-foot ranch and two-story homes base-priced from $186,990 to $278,940. (Price does not reflect $15,000 homesite discount). Liberty Trails' sales center is on Lincoln Road, about one mile west of Chapel Hill Road and north of Route 120. For more information call (815) 385-4495.

**The Trails of Dawson Creek, Poplar Grove:** Offers a selection of semi-custom ranch and two-story homes. The seven ranch plans provide 1,382 to 2,170 square feet of living space, base-priced from $149,990 to $214,990, and six two-story homes offering 1,980 to 2,929 square feet of living space are base-priced from $174,990 to $290,990. (Prices do not reflect the $10,000 homesite discount.) The community is on the north side of Orth Road, approximately 1/2 mile east of Route 76. For more information call (815) 547-0800.

**The Trails of Pleasant Ridge, Richmond:** Located on Route 12 (Rand Road), approximately 1 mile north of Route 173. Homes start at $162,990 and top out at $231,990 (price does not reflect $13,000 homesite discount). These ranch and two-story homes offer 1,382 to 2,929 square feet of customizable living space. The sales center is open by appointment only. For more information call (815) 985-4400 or visit www.gerstadbuilders.com.

**Ballay Estates, Williams Bay, Wis.:** Sales center is on 349 Ashley Drive off Bailey Road, about 3/4 mile west of Route 16. Eleven ranch and two-story floor plans are available with 1,382 to 2,317 square feet and are base-priced from $212,990 to $284,990. (Price does not reflect $20,000 homesite discount). For information call (262) 245-7950 or visit www.gerstadbuilders.com.
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Meet the women of Shakespeare

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

It's easy to figure out who wrote the script and cast the roles for “Shakespeare's Female Women” at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre.

Alicia Queen plays the main character, who is embarking on a journey. Ever Mainard plays the 131 characters that she meets along the way.

Amazingly, the two entertainers are still friends.

Memphis native Queen and Mainard, who is from Temple, Tex., met at the coffee shop where they both work. They soon realized that they had compatible talents so they decided to embark on a joint project.

The monumental Shakespearean writing task Queen set for herself was to try to get the essence of all of the different women into one short bit and also apply our sense of humor to it.

Mainard agreed to be part of the project because, “I knew it was really silly to do and Alicia and I have such a fun time together. "I don't know anything about Shakespeare," Mainard admitted, "so it was teaching me as well. I do a lot of stand-up; being in a play is something I haven't done since high school."

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The two are convinced that the script will appeal to a wide range of tastes. "We wanted to have a play that people who didn't understand Shakespeare would understand, and people who knew Shakespeare would get the inside jokes," Mainard said.

The main character in "Shakespeare's Female Women" is Volumnia, a minor character in "Coriolanus." "Her quest is to become the most popular 'female woman,'" Mainard said.

Mainard's main character guides Volumnia on her search.

"She is taking me through the wilderness, showing me each different kind of woman that Volumnia could aspire to be like," Queen said.

Mainard, who moved to Chicago three years ago, has already established an impressive comedy career here. She has performed in the Just for Laughs Festival, Bridgetown Comedy Festival, Chicago Sketch Fest, and Chicago Women's Funny Festival. She also performs at the Beat Kitchen every Tuesday night, and is a member of Chicago Underground Comedy. Metromix/Redeye named Mainard one of the Top Seven Acts to Watch in 2012 and Chicago magazine listed her as one of the Top 100 Comics in Chicago.

Queen focused her studies on Shakespeare and Elizabethan history at Rhodes College in Memphis, graduating in 2010. She studied Commedia dell'arte in Italy for three months. Since arriving in Chicago, she has performed at Gorilla Tango and in an all-female version of "Reservoir Dogs" with Roundhouse Theatre Company. Lately, though, she has been focusing all her creative energy on fine-tuning the script for "Shakespeare's Female Women."

Although Queen and Mainard have all the speaking parts in this world premiere, they're joined onstage by professional flautist Steven Haschke. "He is a hunky looking dude and he's going to perform with a cape on," Mainard said.

You guessed it. He's a fellow barista.
Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

1. Art-in-Bloom, floral interpretations of artwork show, takes place Sept. 7-15 at the Winnetka Community House. Call (847) 446-8215 or see www.northshoreartleague.org.


3. 'Promised Land: Israel Through the Eyes of Surfers' film will be shown at 4 p.m. Sept. 9 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. Call (312) 560-5680.

4. Bonnie Koloc CD release show is at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 7 at FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Road, Berwyn. Call (708) 788-2118 or visit www.fitzgeraldsnightclub.com.

5. Beauty and fashion bloggers Elle and Blair Fowlder will sign their novel, Beneath the Glitter, at 7 p.m. Sept. 12 at Old Orchard Barnes & Noble. See www.bn.com.
‘Tusk Tusk’ shows how kids get on when parentless

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Three siblings are on their own in a London apartment because their mentally ill mother has vanished.

That’s the premise in Piven Theatre Workshop’s American premiere of “Tusk Tusk” by Polly Stenham.

Director Jennifer Green has cast three impressive young actors who capture the spirit of each of the kids and skillfully handle British accents.

Green said she enjoys directing young people because of the “energy” they bring to their roles.

Chicagoan Bryce Lunsky, 15, a student at Chicago Academy for the Arts, plays Eliot, who is also 15.

“Eliot is a complex character,” Lunsky said. “In some ways, he’s very mature. In some ways, he’s very immature. He’s not ready for a certain independence, yet he feels obligated to rush into this independence in the absence of a mother. He’s not really competent enough or prepared enough to take care of a family, but yet he feels it’s his job to do it.”

Olivia Cygan, 18, of Evanston who will be a freshman in Northwestern University’s Theatre Department this fall, plays Maggie, 14. “Maggie, in her mother’s absence, kind of becomes the matriarch of the family,” Cygan said. “She’s very funny, she’s very witty, she’s very smart. I think that as young as she is, she’s kind of an old soul. She’s had to deal with a lot. Her mother has been unstable and unreliable pretty much all of their lives.”

Cygan, who appeared in Green’s staging of “Great Expectations” at Piven when she was 10, performed in many plays at Evanston Township High School and elsewhere.

The youngest sibling, 7-year-old Finn, is played by high-energy, angelic-looking, Gabriel Stern, 9, of Evanston.

“Finn is a very loving character, yet he has a side where he can be very obnoxious and mean,” Stern said. “And...
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Siblings
Continued from page 49

Sometimes he gets hurt through that other side. He usually likes to hide in a fort that he made when he gets in trouble.

Stern has been in shows with the Lyric Opera, BoHo Theatre Ensemble and the Music Theatre Company.

Cast as Eliot’s girlfriend Cassie is Austin Moore, 17, a Timothy Christian senior from Elmhurst. “Cassie is from the wrong side of the tracks, but she’s trying to better herself,” Moore said. “She is kind of the voice of reason throughout this whole situation.”

Moore has done a number of shows, including some with American Girl Theater, Porchlight Music Theatre and Victory Gardens Theater.

Green said she was attracted to this script because, “It is incredibly well-written. It’s a beautiful story. It’s funny, it’s heartbreaking and it felt like a really great fit for us.”

The show is most appropriate for teenagers and adults. Green said that’s because the children portrayed “aren’t fictionalized kids. They’re kids who are dealing with big, deeper issues. And there’s no adults around them. They’re not watching their language. They’re experimenting with drinking. They’re experimenting with their identities.”
'Hamlet' cast high energy

BY SARA BURROWS | Contributor

“When you put together a brilliant actor and a great play, it attracts other great actors to the project,” says Michael Halberstam, artistic director at Writers’ Theatre in Glencoe.

That happens with some regularity at Writers’, and it’s happening again with the theater’s upcoming production of “Hamlet,” opening Sept. 13.

To play Hamlet, Halberstam tapped Scott Parkinson, an award-winning actor who has worked in New York and Chicago, as well as at Writers’. “Scott has such a far-reaching imagination, and an ability with language that feels absolutely available and accessible, that he was a natural choice,” the director says. And, he adds, the primary reason a director chooses to do “Hamlet” is that he has a great Hamlet.

Halberstam has gathered a cast worthy of his Hamlet. It includes Shannon Cochran, just off her stellar performance in Writers’ “A Little Night Music,” playing Gertrude; Michael Canavan, TV and film actor, as Claudius; versatile and much-lauded Chicago actor Timothy Edward Kane as Laertes; two respected Chicago favorites, Larry Yando as the Ghost and Ross Lehman as Polonius; and as Horatio, Kareem Bandealy, who appeared in Writers’ “The Caretaker” last winter.

For Halberstam, the many choices each actor, designer and technician must make, will set it apart from all other productions of “Hamlet.”

It helps too that “Hamlet” is “one of the most far-ranging pieces of dramatic literature ever written,” says Halberstam. It’s a romantic intrigue, a family saga, a ghost tale, a murder mystery, a political drama. The play is ideal for the multi-tasking, over-informed, always-engaged audiences of 2012. Or for those who just like a rousing good story.
RAVINIA NEWS

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

Building on the success of the summer’s $10 classical concerts in Bennett Gordon Hall, Ravinia Festival is presenting eight programs in the theater this season for that same attractive price.

Titled “BGH $10 classics,” the series runs October through April and includes the Chicago premiere of James Whitbourn’s “Annelies: The Choral Setting of the Diary of Anne Frank” in 2013, as well as what surely must be the first-ever Christmas concert that Ravinia has ever presented. Those two concerts are only available for $10 to persons who have purchased three other concerts.

The series begins with cellist Sebastian Bäverstam, an alum of the Ravinia Steans Institute, giving a recital Oct. 13, with pianist Pei-Shan Lee. The program will be Beethoven’s Cello Sonata No. 2; Kodály’s Cello Sonata, Op. 8; and Franck’s Sonata for Cello and Piano in A Major. Bäverstam debuted at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall at the age of 12, won the 2009 Concert Artists Guild Competition and most recently was awarded first prize at Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Concerto Competition.

Another Steans alum, violinist Tessa Lark, gives a solo recital on Oct. 20. Lark was the first-prize winner at the Walter W. Naumburg International Violin Competition in 2012.

Winner of the 2007 Concert Artists Guild International Competition, pianist Daria Robatkina, plays Oct. 27. Her program includes Bach/Busoni’s Chaconne from Violin Partita No. 2 in D Minor; Schumann’s Humoreske; and Prokofiev’s Ten Pieces from “Romeo and Juliet.”

The Empire Brass will play the Christmas concert Dec. 6; “Annelies: The Choral Setting of the Diary of Anne Frank” is on Feb. 27; Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute perform with soprano Deborah Selig on March 16; John David Bohr sings art songs and show tunes April 13; and pianist Michael Brown gives a recital April 20.

Call (847) 266-5000 or visit www.ravinia.org.
Climb aboard village trucks

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Kids can let their imaginations run wild as they climb aboard a variety of trucks.

A fire truck, dump truck, squad car and moving truck, plus a dozen other vehicles, will be at the Touch-a-Truck event Sept. 8 in Lincolnwood.

Children can learn about various village vehicles at Touch-a-Truck event Sept. 8 in Lincolnwood.

ANOTHER BUSY TOWN

Families will have a chance to learn from some of Niles’ community helpers about how they serve the village during Richard Scarry’s Busytown Community Helpers. The event is inspired by the Busytown book series and will be 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Pick up tickets at 1:30 p.m. that day.

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

IT HELPS TO HAVE FUN

They know how to party at Misericordia. There will be entertainment, food, auctions, games and more at the Misericordia Family Fest, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9 at 6300 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago. Admission is $8, $5 for children and seniors, with proceeds benefiting the residential facility for children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities.

For details, call (773) 273-2766 or visit www.misericordia.org.

MAKING MEMORIES

Grandparents won’t want to miss a chance to enjoy Magical Moments with their grandchild, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9 at the Park Ridge Park District’s Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave.

You’ll enjoy a magic show, craft project and a snack. Cost is $10.

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

LIBRARIANS ARE HANDY

... and they will use those hands during Let’s See a Puppet Show, 10:30 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St.

The shows, for ages 2-6, are “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” and “The Three Little Pigs.”

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or visit www.skokielibrary.info.
Keb' Mo' busts through blues boundaries

BY ROBERT LOERZEL | Contributor

Keb' Mo' says he feels validation after hearing his fans shout requests for songs, and not just his older songs, but also the ones on his 2011 album "The Reflection."

"All the songs were received very warmly - much more warmly than some of the reviews," says Keb' Mo', a Grammy-winning singer, songwriter and guitarist who plays Sept. 14 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Reflection" includes collaborations with India.Arie, Vince Gill, Marcus Miller and Dave Koz.

"You're writing, you're socializing, you're creating, you're sharing stories," he says. "It's more than just co-writing. You talk about your life. That makes the song more resonant."

Keb' Mo' has added nuances from other genres to his blues. Expect to hear them when he plays North Shore Center for the Performing Arts on Sept. 14.

Nashville resident Keb' Mo' says he noticed a recurring theme in last year's reviews of his record. He says many of the critics wrote things like: "Keb' Mo's finally gone too far."

"The truth is, Keb' Mo' (whose name off-stage is Kevin Moore) has always been interested in music far beyond the traditional boundaries of the blues. He played with many jazz, rock and R&B musicians for two decades before releasing his self-titled 1994 album at the age of 42.

"I embrace the blues thing," he says. "I embrace it, and then I go out and do what I want to do anyway."

Recent years brought a change in his record-label situation. After releasing eight albums on imprints owned by Sony, Keb' Mo' parted ways with the company and started his own label, Yolabelle, working in affiliation with the Warner subsidiary Rykodisc.

"Only a fraction of people get to be on the top of the charts. I'm more interested in the longevity of my work and being discovered over time," he says.

"The Reflection" includes collaborations with India.Arie, Vince Gill, Marcus Miller and Dave Koz.

"You're writing, you're socializing, you're creating, you're sharing stories," he says. "It's more than just co-writing. You talk about your life. That makes the song more resonant."

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2012-2013 SEASON

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FOLLOW US ON

PHOTO: Dee Nickerson
NEW THIS WEEK

RE-ANIMATOR: BLU-RAY DEBUT

★★★½
Rated
No MPAA rating
Stars
Jeffrey Combs, Bruce Abbott, Barbara Crampton

Chicago theater director Stuart Gordon gave the horror genre a colossal jolt in 1985 with this wildly gruesome, darkly comic exercise in galvanic grand guignol, inspired by the stories of H.P. Lovecraft. Brilliant yet unorthodox medical student Herbert West (Combs) goes Dr. Frankenstein by attempting to revive the dead without any redeeming motive whatsoever. Not for the squeamish. Extras include commentary by Gordon and cast, extended and deleted scenes, and the documentary "Re-Animator: Renascentus."

ALSO NEW THIS WEEK

THE FIVE YEAR ENGAGEMENT

An engaged couple (Jason Segel, Emily Blunt) keep running into delays on the way to the altar. Nicholas Stoller ("Forgetting Sarah Marshall") directed the comedy and co-wrote the script with "Sarah Marshall" collaborator Segel. Rated R for sexual content and language.

HIGH SCHOOL

A high school valedictorian (Matt Bush) samples one puff of marijuana, then learns about a mandatory drug test at his school that will destroy his college scholarship. His solution: Find a way to get the entire student body and faculty high the day before the test. John Stalberg ("Mr. Dramatic") directed the comedy. Rated R for persuasive drugs and language, crude and sexual content, some nudity.

KILLER KLOWNS FROM OUTER SPACE


SAFETY

A young girl being hunted by gangsters for a priceless numerical code in her memory is protected by a former cager fighter (Jason Statham) whose life was ruined by the same bad guys. Boaz Yakin ("Prince of Persia") directed the thriller. Rated R for strong violence and language.

RECIENT RELEASES

DARLING COMPANION

★★½
Rated

Blu-ray debut, featured the voices of Phyllis Diller and Boris Karloff and a groovy soundtrack including "Do the Mummy."

PIRANHA 3DD

The prehistoric school of bloodthirsty piranhas are back and this time, no one is safe from the flesh-eating fish as they sink their razor-sharp teeth 3D-deep into visitors of summer's best attraction, The Big Wet Water Park. Packed with ferocious flesh-eaters and scantily-clad young victims. Rated R for sequences of strong bloody horror violence and gore, graphic nudity, sexual content, and some drug use.

THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS

PG-13 for some sexual content including references and language
Stars
Kevin Kline, Diane Keaton, Richard Jenkins, Dianne Wiest

Unlike the lost pogo motivating the plot of this baby-boomer update from Lawrence "Big Chill" Kasdan, "Darling Companion" never entirely loses its way. But the emotional territory it sniffs out is mildly diverting at best. Kline and Keaton are appealing as upper-middle-aged/upper-middle-class marrieds re-evaluating their relationship after self-absorbed hubby loses empty-nest traumatized wife's beloved dog in the Rocky Mountains. A handful of warm, fuzzy love stories, a thin veneer of snappy one-liners and heaps of gorgeous scenery maintain interest — but only superficially.

THINK LIKE A MAN

Rated
P-13 for sexual content, some crude humor and brief drug use
Stars
Chris Brown, Kevin Hart, Gabrielle Union

In one sense it's an extended infomercial for comedian Steve Harvey's best-selling relationship advice book, "Think Like a Man," but it also works reasonably well as a romantic comedy with a variety of women playing head games with the men in their lives after Harvey gives them the down-low on male psychology. But that's mostly due to an appealing cast and the ensemble chops of director Tim Story. Extras include deleted scenes and a blooper reel.
**OPENING FRIDAY**

**LITTLE WHITE LIES**

Rated
No MPAA rating

Stars
Jean Dujardin, Marion Cotillard

When a central figure (Dujardin) in a close group of friends winds up in intensive care, the rest of the group goes for a shortened version of their annual summer getaway — and old interpersonal tensions rise to the surface. Guillaume Canet ("Tell No One") directed the drama.

**THE WORDS**

Rated
PG-13 for brief strong language and smoking

Stars
Bradley Cooper, Zoe Saldana, Jeremy Irons, Olivia Wilde

A writer (Cooper) who steals another man's work has to cope with the fallout when the book becomes a critically hailed best-seller. Brian Klugman and Lee Sternthal make their feature writing/directing debuts with the drama.

**STILL PLAYING**

**FOR A GOOD TIME, CALL...**

**THE POSSESSION**

Rated
Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving violence and disturbing sequences

Stars
Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick, Natasha Calis

Frequently funny, but unfortunately not a comedy. There's lots of demonic mischief when a divorced father (Morgan, a good actor who can't seem to catch a break) buys his little girl Em (Calis) a spooky old box carved with evil-looking, cryptic writing at a yard sale. Bad move, dad. Danish director Ole Bornedal ("Nightwatch") keeps things atmospheric for the most part and builds to an interesting finale involving a Jewish exorcist. But the over-familiar shocks just come across as silly.
GRAND OPENING

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Jeffrey Dean Morgan in "The Possession."

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**THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND**

**A list of regional events for you to go out and enjoy**

**SUMMER CONCERTS**

**Fridays on the Green**

Concert series held at 6 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month on the Village Green in front of Mount Prospect Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St. Sept. 7: Jack Straw. Sept. 21: The Committee Band. Visit www.experiencemount-prospect.org.

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**STAGE**

**"Jesus Christ Superstar"**

13+ 18+


**"Julius Caesar"**

13+ 18+ 65+


**"The Sound of Music"**

18+ 65+

Presented by Chamber Opera Chicago at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15 and 2 p.m. Sept. 16 at The Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, Chicago. $20-$30; $15-$25 seniors and students; $10-$15 children. Call (773) 935-6875 or visit www.athenaeumtheatre.org.

**"Woody Sez — The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie"**

18+ 65+

Sept. 14-Oct. 21 at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Curtain times are Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (except Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 and 16); Wednesdays at 1 p.m. (except Sept. 26) and 7:30 p.m. (except Oct. 10); Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m. (except opening on Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m.); Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. (except Sept. 15) and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (except Sept. 23, Oct. 7 and 21). $25-$72; $25-$54 for previews, Sept. 14-20. Student tickets are $15, any performance, subject to availability. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org. Backstage with BJ, a discussion with artistic director BJ Jones, offering behind-the-scenes insight, is at noon Sept. 14. Reservations are required; call (847) 679-9501, ext. 3555. Hootennannies, informal post-show "jam sessions" with the artists from the production, will be held following the performances Sept. 30 (after 7 p.m.), Oct. 7 (after 2:30 p.m.) and Oct. 14 (after 7 p.m.). Audience members are invited to bring their own instruments and join the artists.
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What to do

Continued from page 59

University campus, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston. $25-$75; $10 for students. Call (847) 866-6888 or visit www.chicagophilharmonic.org.

Music Institute of Chicago

Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. (847) 905-1500. www.musicinst.org. Sept. 23, 3 p.m.: The Lincoln Trio performs works by Brahms, Turina and others. $30; $20 seniors; $10 students.

Club Layalena

8801 N. Milwaukee (at Dempster), Niles. Sept. 8, 8 p.m.: Johnny K performing in support of Special Olympics. $10 at door.

Ethical Humanist Society Second Saturday Coffeehouse

7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, features Judy Handler and Mark Levesque at 8 p.m. Sept. 8, blending Brazilian, Latin American, swing, gypsy, classical and folk music influences. $8. Visit www.ethicalhuman.org/coffeehouse or call (847) 677-3334.

Allstate Arena

6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.allstatearena.com.

Parking is $20, cash only. Oct. 11, 7 p.m.: "Twins Of Evil Tour," featuring Rob Zombie and Marilyn Manson, with special guest J Devil, the DJ alter ego of KoRn's frontman Jonathan Davis. $39.50, $49.50, $59.50, $69.50. Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.: The Smashing Pumpkins. $50. Nov. 29-30, 7:30 p.m.: The Who: Quadrophenia and More. $39.50, $59.50, $80.50, $129.50.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre


Emily Hurd opens. $12.

InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel

Montrose Room, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont. (847) 544-5300. www.montroseoom.com. Sept. 22, 8:30 p.m.: Cathy Richardson Band. $18-$28 in advance; $23-$33 at the door. General admission $12 in advance; $17 at the door.

Lincolnwood Public Library

4000 W. Pratt Ave. (847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org. Sept. 16, 2 p.m.: Live@Lincolnwood presents Into the Real playing folk, rock, and jazz.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts


S.P.A.C.E.

1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. www.evanstonspace.com. (847) 492-8860. Shows at 8 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Sept. 7, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.: Tony Lucca (pop). $18-$34. Sept. 9, 5 p.m.: Griffin House live recording.

La Tavola
8808 N. Milwaukee, Niles. (847) 376-8294. Every Friday and Saturday, starting at 7:30 p.m.: The C. U. Soon duo performs soft jazz and pop music during dinner. No cover charge.

ART GALLERIES
Art Museo
18+

DoubleTree Hotel
18+

Oakton Community College
18+ 65+

OnView Gallery
18+
139 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. (224) 585-0503. Sept. 15-Oct. 20: "In the Shade of the House," works by Park Ridge resident Andrew Liddus. Opening reception will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 15.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES
Park Ridge Chorale
18+ 65+
Holding auditions for its holiday concert from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sept. 10, 17 and 24 at the Park Ridge Non-Profit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge. The concert will be performed at 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge. Call (847) 647-7116 or visit www.parkridgechorale.com.

Six Piano Ensemble
18+
The group, which performs classical, jazz, and contemporary music arranged for six pianos, will hold auditions from 7-9 p.m. Sept. 10 and 12 in Room 1360 at Oakton Community College's Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. To schedule an audition, contact Daniel Golden at dgolden@oakton.edu.

Martin Luther Church
18+
6850 W. Addison, Chicago, seeks crafters

Joffrey Star Ensemble
Seeking violin, viola, cello, and double bass players with prior experience for the 2012-13 season. Rehearsals are held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays at Oakton Community College's Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. To schedule an audition, contact Glenna Sprague at (847) 635-1905 or gsprague@oakton.edu.

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
OCTOBER 17-28, 2012
SCAPES
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Kylian Pretty BALLET
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THE GREEN TABLE
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OCTOBER 17-28, 2012

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JOFFREY.ORG/LANDSCAPES
Photo by Sean Williams
What to do
Continued from page 61
for its annual Holiday Fair, to be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 20. Table rental fee and sample for raffle. Call (773) 777-8821 for information.

Norwood Park
Norwood Park Historical Society
Accepting applications from crafters, artists, and high-quality chefs/bakers to fill positions at the 25th annual Victoria's Holiday Boutique, 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. Call (773) 631-4633 or e-mail info@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org.

Christmas in Park Ridge Boutique
Seeks crafters for the event, to be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 7-8 at Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, Crescent and Delphia. Space rental $20-$80, plus 10% of sales. Call (847) 823-0920. Application deadline is Dec. 1.

Library

Niles Public Library
6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. Local history author events include - Sept. 12, 7 p.m.: Thomas E. Ferraro presents an illustrated lecture based on his new book, Niles: The Early Years. Sept. 16, 2 p.m.: Historian Ann Durkin Keating presents an illustrated lecture based on her latest book, Rising Up From Indian Country.

CHILD'S PLAY
Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

KEB' MO'
Fri, Sep 14 at 8pm
Three-time Grammy winning blues artist, Keb' Mo' and his band masterfully blend the blues with jazz, R&B and soul!

847.673.6300
NorthShoreCenter.org

FILM
Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre
7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie. (773) 598-4549.

Sept. 9, 4 p.m.: “Refuge: Stories of the Self-help Home,” a one-hour documentary about a Chicago community that brought together more than 1,000 Central European Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors. Director Ethan Bensinger will attend the screening. $10.

Lincolnwood Public Library
4000 W. Pratt Ave.  

Sept. 7, 1 p.m.: Jeff, Who Lives at Home.” 
Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m.: “The Hunter.” Sept. 13, 1 p.m.: “Imitation of Life.” 

Sept. 14, 1 p.m.: “The Hunger Games.”

Niles Public Library
6960 Oakton St., Niles.  

Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m.: Steven Frenzel, movie and television historian of Marquee Movie Presentations, presents a program on Lucille Ball.

Starlite Stitchery Guild
The local chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild will meet at 7 p.m. Sept. 19 at The Homestead at Morton Grove, 6400 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove. Annual dues: $25. Call (847) 633-0816.

Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park
Located along the east side of McCormick Boulevard, between Dempster on the north to Touhy on the south. Free, docent-led tours featuring a different section of the two-mile long park are offered each month. 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. Visit www.sculpturepark.org or call (847) 679-4265. Sept. 23: Section II, park in the canoe launch on Oakton, just east of McCormick, and walk over the channel bridge to McCormick to begin the tour. Oct. 28: Section IV, park in the lot in the park, between Howard and Touhy.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

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Use Cleverness with Caution in the Interview
By Tom Musbach, Yahoo! HotJobs

Well-meaning job seekers sometimes get too creative when making their cases to potential employers, such as the candidate who said he was “allergic to unemployment.”

The contrived allergy and other wacky pitches were revealed by hiring executives in a survey by Accountemps, a large staffing service for financial professionals. Creativity Can Backfire

The group of 150 senior executives offered several other examples of candidates going too far in their attempts to stand out:

* “One candidate said that we should hire him because he would be a great addition to our softball team.”
* “A candidate sang all her responses to interview questions.”
* “One individual said we had nice benefits, which was good because he was going to need to take a lot of leave in the next year.”
* “An applicant once told me she wanted the position because she wanted to get away from dealing with people.”

The statements above reflect poor approaches to a common interview question: “Why should I hire you?” Career experts offer several alternatives that can help job candidates respond more successfully.

Break It Down
Richard Phillips, founder of Advantage Career Solutions in Palo Alto, California, suggests a three-step approach that flows from the job description:

1. Begin your answer by listing the top three to five requirements of the job as you understand them, based on your research and what you’ve learned in the interview.
2. Summarize how your skills and experience will enable you to make a significant impact in those areas.
3. Finish by stating your interest in the organization. Keep it short and sweet.

Tailor Your Story
Joe Turner, author of Job Secrets Unlocked, suggests you prepare your best “story” to answer the question by showing how you will go the extra mile.

* “Here is where you tell that story of exactly how you worked 60-hour weeks, acquired new skills, or whatever it took to distinguish yourself and meet the challenge head-on to successfully make the sale, save the project, rescue a client or whatever it was,” he says. “If you can monetize the end result, your story will only be that much more dramatic. Since no other candidate can duplicate your own personal story here, you’ll make a memorable impression.”

Run With Your Ideas
During the process of researching the employer and preparing for the interview, think of what you might do if you had the position, advises Carla-Krystin Andrade, author of Kick Start Your Job Search.

* “Perhaps you have an idea for a new feature for their product or a new process that is relevant to the position,” she says. “This is the perfect time to tell them about this idea and show them how you would bring value to the position if they hired.”
Nurse Practitioner

Local companies are seeking people with all levels of experience for Nurse Practitioners. These employers will never know who you are, what skills you have, and your desire to work for one of these companies, and you tell them who you are.

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HealthCare

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of a common interest community, makes no representation as to whether the certificate of sale that will be issued is a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the property. The purchaser of the property will be entitled to a deed to the property only if the sale is confirmed by the court. The sale will be confirmed by the court if the amount bid, plus the amount paid by the purchaser to the mortgagee, is at least $1,000,000.

The mortgaged real estate is located at 4231, Buffalo Grove, IL. The mortgagee reserves the right to pay the interest of the mortgagee on the principal debt of $1,000,000, plus interest at the rate of $10 per day for each day that the mortgagee is entitled to the interest of the mortgagee, and the interest paid by the mortgagee is due, within thirty (30) days, to the mortgagee. Any other lien for the mortgagee that is not paid by the purchaser of the real estate will be paid by the mortgagee. The mortgagee reserves the right to pay the interest of the mortgagee on the principal debt of $1,000,000, plus interest at the rate of $10 per day for each day that the mortgagee is entitled to the interest of the mortgagee, and the interest paid by the mortgagee is due, within thirty (30) days, to the mortgagee. Any other lien for the mortgagee that is not paid by the purchaser of the real estate will be paid by the mortgagee.

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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NO. 1318 W. Washington Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60612, Plaintiff, v.を使った

The above entitled cause on the 8th day of May, 2012, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 1st Judicial District, is a suit for a 7 day status report of the pending sales of residential real estate. The case is pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 1st Judicial District, and is set for hearing on the 8th day of May, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the Courtroom of Judge George L. George, located at 510 W. Washington Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60612.

The case is currently pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 1st Judicial District, and is set for hearing on the 8th day of May, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. in the Courtroom of Judge George L. George, located at 510 W. Washington Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60612.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Skokie Plan Commission, Thursday, October 4, 2012, Village of Skokie, School, Skokie, Illinois. 80007, at 7:00 P.M., to consider the following:

NEW ACTION TAKEN 2011-06 & Special Use Permit 5125 Dempster Street, Skokie, Dynetics LLC VII, on behalf of Mark Feyman, Barry Gratman, requests a special use permit in a B1 Special Use District. A special use permit is not required in a B1 Special Use District. A special use permit is not required in a B1 Special Use District. A special use permit is not required in a B1 Special Use District.

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals

109 North Central Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

TOWN 35, TOWNSHIP 41, RANGE 32 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPLE MERIDIAN, COUNTY OF COOK, ILLINOIS

The property is currently known as the "North Western" building.

All persons interested in the above described matter are invited to attend.

The case file for this matter is available for review in the Department of Zoning at City Hall.

5155 North Central Avenue
Skokie, Illinois

Storage - Legal

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

In accordance with Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that personal property for the individuals listed below: S. Santos, 1201 W. Fullerton Ave. 60614, A. Pineda, 1545 W. Fullerton Ave. 60614, J. Perez, 1455 W. Fullerton Ave. 60614, have been stored, and which are stored at Public Storage, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of purchase. Sale is subject to prior settlement of the premises where said property is stored, and which are located at Public Storage, Inc., 6001 W. Fullerton Ave. 60614.

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Ottawa Marquette at North Shore Country Day
Loyola Academy at Lake Forest Academy
Glenbrook North at Glenbrook South
Normal Community at Notre Dame
Highland Park at New Trier
Maine East at Evanston
Deerfield at Maine South
Maine West at Niles West
Niles North at Waukegan

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Names and Faces

RAMI DAJANI
Noteworthy efforts: A senior on the boys soccer team, Dajani helped the Blue Demons rally from a 3-0 deficit against Notre Dame on Aug. 28 by scoring two second-half goals. Dajani had a shot with just two seconds to play stopped by Dons’ goalie Robbte Hill.

CHRISTINE LAM
Noteworthy efforts: The senior girls swimmer started the season off on the right note, winning the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 2 minutes, 22.59 seconds, as the Blue Demons defeated Regina 103-70 on Friday.

Quick Hits

Big Numbers
21:53 | Time run by girls cross country runner Leslie Christiansen at the District 207 Meet hosted by Maine West on Aug. 28. Christiansen was the first Blue Demons runner across the finish line and she finished 12th overall.

Sound Bites
"The beginning part of the season has been kind of chaotic. Our pool was shut down (broken pump motor) so we've been swimming at the Park Ridge Country Club and Maine South."
— Maine East girls swimming coach Peter Przekota

Lopez recovers from fumble

BY DINO MACRO | Contributor

In the midst of an explosive first half, Maine East halfback Christian Lopez fumbled the ball while attempting to convert a short pass into a long touchdown. But the difficult moment was a mere blip on his breakout night.

PARK RIDGE

After galloping 32 yards down the left sideline on a screen pass, his teammates tried to lift Lopez's spirits.

"I was putting my head down," said Lopez, a 5-foot-7, 145-pound junior. "They (teammates) were telling me to forget about it. They said just get the next one."

Lopez listened to the advice. On the Blue Demons’ next play from scrimmage, Lopez executed a fake reverse and dashed 21 yards into the end zone to bump the lead to 44-0 with 1:04 left in the second quarter.

Since the Blue Demons are known for frequent reverses, it was easy to sell the fake. The Blue Demon sideline helped the cause by yelling "reverse" early in the play.

Lopez, who already had one touchdown in Friday's 50-0 win over visiting Amundsen, coughed up the football...
"We tell them (the players on the bench) to yell that," said Lopez of the fake call. "We hope the other team falls for it."

After Amundsen fumbled the ensuing kickoff, Lopez received another chance on second down. He quickly darted around left end and roared into the end zone untouched.

"It was wide open," said Lopez of the sweep. "I only had two guys to beat."

The 28-yard touchdown put the finishing touches on a 50-0 half. Lopez, who did not play in the second half, collected 143 yards on six carries with three touchdowns.

His opening statement was the most dramatic of the three. Quarterback Alex Corey made a series of quick fakes and then handed the ball to Lopez. With the Vikings defense collapsing to the middle, Lopez faced four on one.

"Alex knows exactly what to do and where to put the ball," Lopez said. "He's not scared of anything."

Lopez knows a good thing when he sees it. "When Corey slips the ball into Lopez's hands, the speedster has one thing on his mind. "Once I see daylight, I do whatever I can to get the rest of the yards," Lopez said.

Maine East (2-0) will try to make it three in a row at Evanston at 7:30 p.m. Friday.
Notre Dame

Early deficit, line play hurt Dons

CHICAGO

Through Notre Dame's first two games of the season, running back Chris James has established himself as the team's most dangerous offensive weapon.

James ran for 146 yards and two touchdowns in the Dons' season-opening victory against Wilmot (Wis.). He put up bigger numbers in a 40-21 loss to St. Patrick.

Even though James had 224 yards from scrimmage and scored two touchdowns on Saturday, St. Patrick was able to win the other facets of the game to help diminish the pressure James' shifty, explosive running style put on the Shamrocks' defense.

St. Patrick primarily did this in two ways. The Shamrocks' offensive line continually won the line of scrimmage to open holes that allowed St. Patrick's backs to run for 354 yards and the Shamrocks took a 13-0 lead at the beginning of the second quarter.

Throughout the game, we didn't control the line of scrimmage," Notre Dame coach Mike Hennessey said. "They did a nice job on us. They controlled the momentum of the game. We got back into it (at 20-14 in the third quarter) and then we gave up the score again.

"Chris did a nice job. He had some nice runs. Offensively, we sputtered in and out. You've got to hand it to (St. Patrick); they won the line of scrimmage."

On the opposite sideline, St. Patrick coach and defensive coordinator Dan Galante was ecstatic to see his team jump out to a 13-0 lead at 13-7, yet Galante's team didn't panic.

St. Patrick continued to run the ball effectively, which gave the Shamrocks' defense time to rest and Galante the opportunity to make necessary adjustments.

Don't Miss

Saturday

Boys soccer: Notre Dame at Carmel, 12 p.m.

The Dons open East Suburban Catholic Conference play by taking on a very talented Carmel team. The Dons have never beaten the Corsairs, according to Notre Dame head coach Reggie Lara, but Lara likes his team's chances after its 3-1-1 start to the season.

Wednesday

Boys Cross Country; ESCC First Conference Meet hosted by Marist, 4:30 p.m.

The East Suburban Catholic Conference champion is determined by two conference races. This first one counts for 40 percent and the second counts for 60 percent.
Dons
Continued from page 84

"I'm the defensive coordinator, so it takes a lot of pressure off of your calls when you're up two scores," Galante said. "When you're in a battle with one score, or you're tied, it makes every play magnified. And James is very good. If you don't put hats on him, he can make you miss... Eventually we were just able to slow him down, but he was a handful."

Saturday's battle with St. Patrick is the Dons' biggest rivalry game of the season, but Friday night's contest against Normal Community (1-1) figures to be one of their toughest games of the season. The Ironmen fell, 20-18, to rival Bloomington in Week 2.

Hennessey knows winning the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball will be critical for the Dons to stay close and allow their star running back to help swing the game's momentum.

"We've got a long season, but we can't play games like this," Hennessey said after losing to St. Patrick. "We were far more physical (against Wilmot) last week than we were this week. ... We've got to figure things out quick and come out and play some good football. It's tough when you lose your rivalry game, but those things happen. We've got to be able to bounce back."

Bartes keeps on kicking for Notre Dame

BY JON KERR | Contributor

NILES
Every Thursday, Notre Dame's Brett Bartes dons three uniforms.

At school, he wears his required polo shirt and khakis. At around 3 p.m., he changes into football pants. For 20 minutes, he practices field goals and kickoffs with the Dons. When that's over, he wanders to the other half of the team's stadium, changes into soccer shorts, and practices for two hours with the Dons soccer team.

He's getting the most out of his feet.

"It started because some of the players always wanted me to kick," said Bartes, a 6-foot, 170-pound senior. "Finally some of the coaches asked me and I decided to do it. I don't regret it."

With seven extra points and two touchbacks, Bartes has been a valuable member of Notre Dame's football team. He's even more valuable as a speedy, physical forward on the soccer team. With four goals and three assists this season, he has colleges such as DePaul University scouting him in person.

"I think he could play at the D-I level," Notre Dame soccer coach Reggie Lara said. "He has a combination of athletic ability and ball skills that are rare among the top players in the area."

Equally adept at using both his right and left foot, Bartes is also a threat during long throw-ins. Three times this season, he has set up 6-foot-4 defender Dion Ursino for header goals.

"I want to be film editor because I always like editing and creating my own movies."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW?
"My favorite TV show is 'Adventure Time.' It is absolutely random and funny. It makes me laugh and smile every single time. It also makes no sense. The characters are very strange overall."

IF YOU'RE AT THE MALL, WHAT STORES DO YOU HAVE TO CHECK OUT? "Hot Topic, Pac Sun, Express, H&M, Topshop, Zumiez and Levi's."

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? "I want to be film editor because I always like editing and creating my own movies."

This Week
Notre Dame

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One play tells it all

CHRI S PELLIZZARI | Contributor

SKOKIE

The Skokie Skirmish between Niles West and Niles North is more than just a game. That’s why when Niles North was confronted with a 23-point deficit early in the second quarter Saturday, laying down seemed out of the question.

In one play, Vikings quarterback Billy Voitik showed what the Skokie Skirmish is all about.

With six minutes remaining in the first half of a game Niles North would go on to lose 30-21, Voitik and his beleaguered offense faced a fourth-and-goal from the 4-yard line.

The opening quarter and a half belonged to the Wolves. They had built a 23-0 lead in front of their home fans.

A turnover on downs would squash what little momentum Niles North had created by the successful drive into Niles West territory.

Voitik (16-for-27, 189 yards, 2 touchdowns) lined up in the shotgun and shouted “hike.” As had been the case for most of the game, the snap was high and the 6-foot-5 senior had to jump in the air to get it.

When he landed back on the ground, there were already three Wolves in the backfield chasing him down. Voitik first rolled to his left to elude the first tackler.

He saw no open so he stopped and rolled to his right. Before he could survey the right side of the field for open receivers, he had to get past the other two Niles West defenders. The first defender got a piece of Voitik, but the shifty quarterback managed to break free from his grasp. He then shifted to his right and made the second defender dive and miss before he was able to roll right into
This Week
Niles North

FOOTBALL
Saturday
At Waukegan, 1:30 p.m.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday
At Peoria Woodruff Invite, 9 a.m.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday
At Lake Park Invite, 8 a.m.

BOYS GOLF
Today
Hosts Maine East, 4 p.m.
Tuesday
Hosts Glenbrook North, 4 p.m.
Wednesday
At Notre Dame, 4 p.m.
Thursday (9/13)
Hosts Northridge Prep, 4 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER
Today
At New Trier, 7 p.m.
Friday
Hosts Schurz, 7 p.m.
Tuesday
At Deerfield, 7 p.m.
Thursday (9/13)
At Glenbrook North, 7 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING/DIVING
Saturday
At Niles West Early Bird Invite, Dive 9 a.m.; Swim 1 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS
Monday
At Maine South, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday
Hosts Maine East, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Hosts Waukegan, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday (9/13)
At Highland Park, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Friday
At Regina, 6 p.m.
Monday
At Deerfield, 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Hosts “Little 9”, 4:15 p.m.
Wednesday
Hosts Maine West, 6 p.m.

Niles North’s Billy Voitik (10) gets tripped up by Niles West’s Anthony Underwood (34) and Tarik Ceric (20) in the Skokie Skirmish on Saturday. | JON DURR—For Sun-Times Media

open space.
There was no one open as Voitik had hoped.
He saw junior receiver JJ Myles in the middle of the end zone guarded by one defender. Voitik quickly threw a jump ball to his trusted receiver before the Wolves could get back to their feet and sack him from behind.
Myles was patient whereas the Wolves defender jumped a second too early. When the cornerback landed on his feet, he saw Myles grab the ball out of the air for the touchdown. Voitik pumped his fist in celebration.

"They came out with an all out blitz. They were blitzing a lot the entire game," Voitik said. "I was just trying to run backwards to create some time and I found him (Myles) in the end zone. I was confident he could catch it."
The touchdown gave the Vikings new life. A blocked punt for a score and another touchdown pass to Myles cut the Niles West lead to 23-21 heading into halftime. Voitik said that the disappointment of past seasons inspired him to fight on.

"It was great to see us get back in the game," Voitik said. "Past teams would have just quit but we stayed and fought. This shows that our team has the heart to come back."

P.87
Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012
An opening loss to Loyola at New Trier's Summer's End Tournament served as motivation for Niles North the rest of the way.

The Vikings won their final four matches to finish fifth in the 16-team field. They overcame a five-point deficit in the third game Saturday to beat Oak Park-River Forest 26-24, 12-25, 25-22 in the final match.

"That shows the girls are paying attention and learning and getting better," Niles North coach Mike Cott said of his team's comeback effort and overall rebound from the 27-25, 25-16 loss to Loyola on Friday.

"Having the right mindset is a big thing for us. We can be a pretty good team, if we focus on the point in front of us. We didn't do that against Loyola, but we addressed it and moved on."

Senior outside hitter Andrea Lopez, the team's best all-around player who plays every rotation, finished with 25 kills and 28 digs. Junior outside hitter Taylor Louis led the Vikings with 28 kills and added 18 digs. Senior setter Sam Acance had 55 assists.

"We are definitely happy with our result," said Cott, whose team came into this week 6-1. "lt's still early in the year, and we still are assessing our players and learning a lot about them. "We can be pretty good, and we hope we are on the right track moving forward."

Niles North was scheduled to play district rival Niles West on Wednesday and to face Regina on Friday. The Vikings are set to start CSL North play Monday against Deerfield.
Tough competition trips up Wolves

BY MATT HARNESS | m harness@pioneer local.com

WINNETKA
Stacy Metoyer sang a common refrain after Niles West’s first tournament of the season.

“It was a really good weekend,” the coach said. “Of course, it could have been better.”

Metoyer’s Wolves went 3-2 at New Trier’s Summer’s End Tournament and finished seventh in the 16-team field. Niles West beat Glenbrook South 25-23, 23-25, 25-14 in the final game of bracket play Saturday.

“For the most part, we played teams better than us,” Metoyer said. “Our game against Glenbrook North on Friday was the first team (that) had challenged (us) this season, and we were caught off guard. We didn’t play our best volleyball, and we had some mental mistakes.

“Still, it was a pretty good weekend.”

Olivia Rusek was no surprise over the weekend. The junior and three-year varsity veteran led the team with 59 kills, including 17 against Glenbrook South. The 5-foot-11 outside hitter also added 46 digs.

“Her biggest improvement is how hard she hits the ball,” Metoyer said of Rusek, who’s verbally committed to play at Miami (Ohio). “She’s also gotten better at adjusting to sets that aren’t perfect, and she’s now able to get kills out of the back row more consistently.”

Senior libero Molly Kleppin directed the defense, while senior setter Felicia Phan had 54 assists. Krista Grunst, a first-year starter at outside hitter, added 29 kills.

“(Krista) is one of our most improved players in a long time,” Metoyer said. “She’s our second hitter next to Olivia.”

Niles West, which entered the week 6-2, was scheduled to play district rival Niles North on Wednesday before breaking until CSL South plays start next week.
Big Numbers
9 The number of Niles West boys soccer players sidelined with injuries. That includes five starters. The injury-depleted lineup posted a record of 2-3 in its first five games.

Sound Bites
"I think as a doubles team they're really starting to gain a certain sense of chemistry between them."
— Niles West girls tennis coach George Bravos on Alexa Bits and Kristine Park

Don't Miss
Saturday
Girls swimming: Niles West Invite, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Sandburg, Mundelein, Schaumburg, Buffalo Grove and Niles North will join Niles West in the six-team field.
"Sandburg has run away with the meet the past couple of years," Wolves coach Jason Macejak said in an email.

Saturday
Boys soccer: Niles West vs. St. Charles North in Pepsi Showdown, Lyons High School, 10:15 a.m.
The Wolves are playing in the Pepsi Showdown, which is billed as the largest high school varsity soccer tournament in the country. St. Charles North received the No. 10 seed. The top 16 teams were seeded in the 32-team field.

Niles West's James Williams (27) kisses the traveling trophy after the Wolves beat Niles North in the Skokie Skirmish on Saturday. JON DURR-For Sun-Times Media

Wolves regroup for victory

BY CHRIS PELLIZZARI | Contributor

SKOKIE
It takes a lot of mental toughness and hard work to win a football game, especially when facing off against a rival.

But Niles West players had to display an extra level of toughness against Niles North in the annual Skokie Skirmish on Saturday because they saw most of their early 23-point lead disappear in the second quarter. The Vikings made a ferocious comeback before the Wolves added a late score to hold on in a 30-21 victory.

The embodiment of that mental toughness and hard work is 5-foot-9 junior receiver Andrew Milhulet, who caught eight passes for 87 yards and a...
It was Milhulet who sparked the Wolves (2-0) offense on the opening scoring drive with catches of four, six, and 29 yards. It was also Milhulet who stepped up during the most crucial drive of the game, which took place early in the fourth quarter.

The Wolves were clinging to a 23-21 lead after the Vikings (1-1) scored three unanswered touchdowns. But Milhulet gave Niles West, which hadn't scored since the first quarter, a boost with a 17-yard catch. Tommy Williams followed that with a 34-yard grab, and the drive was capped off with a nine-yard touchdown completion from quarterback Mike McGivern to Milhulet with 9:28 left to play.

Hard as it was to watch their opponent score three touchdowns and cut a 23-0 lead to just two points, Milhulet said his team was mentally prepared for such a challenge.

"We never stopped believing," Milhulet said. "In the locker room they told us all the hard work we put into practice would pay off, and it did."

When the final seconds ticked off the clock and Niles West was presented with the Skokie Skirmish trophy, Milhulet was beaming with pride.

"It's like a movie, seeing how hard work pays off like this," he said. "This means so much to us."

Milhulet was quick to give praise to the coaching staff, saying they devised a perfect game plan. But he saved a little praise for himself.

"I got open when I needed to get open and I made the catches I needed to make. I'll give myself some credit for that."
Offensive spark

Milhulet's clutch receptions help Niles West slip past Niles North