Members of the local Gujarati community celebrate the Hindu festival of Navratri with a garba, a traditional dance, Oct. 27 at the Feldman Recreation Center in Niles. JEFF KRAGE-for Sun-Times Media

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5 Cover Story
The local Gujarati community recently celebrated the Hindu festival of Navratri.

7 Election Coverage
To ensure complete election coverage, the Nov. 8 edition will be delivered Nov. 9.

9 Profile
Niles woman honored by the Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans.

24 Opinion
Neither candidate seems prepared for the U.S. presidency, writes Randy Blaser.

27 Schools
Former Maine South drum major now leads the Big 10 marching Wildcats.

34 Business
La Tavola Trattoria aims to provide fresh Northern Italian cuisine to patrons.

40 Mommy
Life made easier and more fun: There’s an app for that.

45 Go
Look for your weekly arts & entertainment section, Go, inside this edition.

86 Sports
Notre Dame’s Chris James was raised by his grandmother after his mom’s death.

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Navratri festival brings nine nights of light to Niles

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

The Navratri festival is significant because it celebrates the Mother Goddess, Durga, and the idea of good triumphing over evil. During the nine-night celebration of worship and dance, Hindus throughout Chicagoland celebrate and worship at their temples.

About 300 members of a community group called POSUN came together Oct. 27 at the Golf-Maine Park.
Members of the local Gujarati community celebrate the Hindu festival of Navratri Oct. 27 at the Feldman Recreation Center in Niles. | JEFF KRAJE-for Sun-Times Media

Navratri
Continued from page 5

District's Feldman Recreation Center to celebrate Navratri. The members are from five different villages in the state of Gujarat in India — Pij, Ode, Sunav, Uttarsanda and Nar — which make up the acronym of the group.

The traditional dances of Gujarat are known as garba and raas. During the garba, dancers circle an image of Durga, dancing to traditional drum beats; during the raas, partners tap decorated sticks. Fasting is also a part of the Navratri festival, which leads up to the Gujarati new year.

Young girls, dressed in colorful, traditional blouses and skirts, played together, while the older girls and women of all ages participated in the garba. Other women, also wearing the traditional saris, enjoyed watching the dances.

“I love it,” said 19-year-old Sama Patel, of Niles, who was eager to jump back in the lively circle and join the other women dancing. She said it is fun to get dressed up in the beautiful, colorful saris and dance with her family and friends.

“I would do it all day if I could,” said Sama, who has been participating in the Navratri festival for the past 12 years.

“It means a lot,” said Prithi Patel, who said Navratri is a significant family tradition. “I do it every year.”

Though the footwork and spins in the dances may appear complicated, the women have been doing the traditional dances for years, so they say it's become natural for them.

“As a kid, they came with their moms,” explained Ansuya Patel, of Schaumburg. “It's been a part of them.”

Ansuya Patel said she enjoys seeing people socializing and dancing with everyone and coming together to worship the Divine Goddess.

According to Ansuya, the Mother Goddess represents the love that people have for their own mothers, which she said is the strongest kind of love.

While the women were downstairs in the gym dancing around the Goddess, men of various ages, including young boys, were enjoying authentic Indian cuisine in the banquet room.

POSUN started in 1997 and now has more than 400 families registered as members of the group.

Suryakant Patel, the organizer of Saturday's event, said he was pleased with the good turnout for the spiritual and meaningful holiday.
Delivering complete election results

In fulfillment of our role as stewards of community news, we believe it is our obligation to provide our readers with the most complete results of local, state and federal elections.

To accomplish that, our Nov. 8 publication will arrive a day later than usual. This extra day will allow us to pull together the information necessary to provide a meaningful report.

As we look around the world at the chaos in countries where democracy has no place, it makes you wonder why so many Americans choose not to vote.

Voting is a right as well as a privilege. Each of us who can cast a vote plays a vital part in the future of our hometown, county, state and nation.

We encourage all of our readers to exercise their right to vote, and to have their voices heard. And we look forward to offering our readers a comprehensive look at the results in a thoughtful way in our next edition.

Thank you for reading, and see you at the polls.

All the best,

Chris Krug
Publisher, Pioneer Press
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Hynes receives Italian-American honor

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

IN PROFILE

Hynes receives Italian-American honor

NILES

Impresa Award recipient Mary Ann Hynes of Niles is senior vice president, counsel to the chairman and chief compliance officer of Ingredion Inc. She discussed the award and her heritage in an interview.

Q. What is the Impresa Award?
A. The Impresa Award is given biannually by the Women's Division of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans (JCCIA) to honor women from the Chicago Italian-American community who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments for the betterment of their communities.

Q. What was your reaction?
A. I was very humbled and proud. ... This award really was a tribute to my parents who both worked in factories and, through their dedication and hard work, made all of this possible for me.

Q. Has preserving your Italian heritage always been important?
A. From early childhood, I realized that my Italian heritage was part and parcel of my family life. Both of my parents came to America from small towns in Italy, my father from Rende and my mother from San Fili (my father at age 16 alone with his sister). Their pride and that of their siblings and extended family in being Italian was an integral part of my life.

Q. How has your family's experience impacted you?
A. My parents emigrated from Italy, but they always carried with them the traditions, language and pride in being Italian. They came to America to make a better life for themselves and their family, while still maintaining the traditions (especially the food) of their ancestors. This pride in "where you came from" and in family traditions is why I want to help preserve my Italian heritage for my children, my family and myself.

Q. How long have you lived in Niles?
A. My husband, (village Trustee) Jim, and I moved to Niles in early 1977, bringing with us our infant daughter, Christina. Shortly after we became settled, my parents bought the house next door, and Niles has been our family home ever since. When we were looking for the right place to plant our roots, Niles stood out as a community with superb village services, low tax burden, friendly neighbors, and a great park district. And it still is a great place to raise a family as evidenced by the fact that our two children now live across the street from us raising their children in Niles.

Q. Why did you choose to recently claim your Italian citizenship?
A. I thought that doing so would be an appropriate tribute to my parents and aunts and uncles who all emigrated from Italy. Also, as my husband, Jim, was able to get his Irish citizenship earlier, I couldn't let him one-up me.

Q. What is your hope for your children and grandchildren?
A. Our children both had a great and loving relationship with my parents and what better tribute to them for their grandchildren to become Italian citizens. By them obtaining their citizenship, we hope that they will realize and impress upon their children that we are all products of those who came before us.
Longtime Notre Dame priest dies

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

Rev. William Brinker, who colleagues say dedicated much of his heart and time to make Notre Dame High College Prep in Niles what it is today, died Oct. 21. He was 93 years old.

“He was a saintly, wonderful man,” said Rev. Rich Conyers, C.S.C., the chairman of the finance department and a teacher at Notre Dame College Prep where Brinker was one of the founding priests.

Brinker was born May 8, 1919 in Covington, Ky. He studied Theology at Holy Cross College in Washington, D.C., and on June 24, 1946, he was ordained a priest at Sacred Heart at Notre Dame.

“Everywhere I’d go, everybody asked, ‘How’s Father Brinker?’” Conyers said. “There’s great sadness in his passing.”

Brinker was assigned to Notre Dame College Prep from 1955 to 1964. He was a math teacher as well as the athletic director.

“He loved to tell stories of his time as the athletic director,” said Conyers. “He got us off to a great start.”

In 1964, he returned to Holy Cross Seminary where he previously taught. Brinker tutored students in math while at Holy Cross. He was assigned to be the college and career counselor at Notre Dame High School in 1967 and he retired in 1992.

Following his retirement, he was Counselor Emeritus and served as a tutor in the St. Andre Center where he prayed every day at the school’s chapel until 2007.

Brinker also assisted at parishes in the South Bend area and in other parishes near Notre Dame College Prep, including St. Paul of the Cross in Park Ridge.

“He was the sort of person who never would say no to anybody,” shared Conyers. “He was a wonderful person to live with and work with.”

A Memorial Mass for Brinker was held last week.

“You always felt like you were in the presence of a tremendous priest and person,” said Teresa Connelly, director of communications at Notre Dame.

CORRECTION

The individual in a photograph accompanying a brief about Niles West cross country runner Yandiel Cardenas that ran in the Oct. 25 edition was misidentified. It was Blake Helton, not Cardenas.

Pioneer Press regrets the error. The accompanying photo is Yandiel Cardenas.

Names in the Game

YANDIEL CARDENAS

Noteworthy efforts:
Cardenas will be the only Niles West runner competing with Atwal at the sectional after the Wolves finished ninth as a team at the Loyola Regional. Cardenas, a senior, secured the fifth and final individual berth in the sectional by finishing 39th (16 minutes, 37 seconds) at Harms Woods on Saturday.
Voters in Golf Elementary School District 67 will decide Nov. 6 the fate of two referendums that district officials say are needed to prevent further program cuts and make repairs to the district’s two schools.

In March voters narrowly defeated two similar measures, one that would have increased the maximum tax rate in the education fund and would have provided more than $1 million in new revenue. The second measure would have allowed the district to sell bonds for building repairs and improvements, including construction of a new gym at Hynes Elementary School.

For the Nov. 6 election, the district has reworded the tax hike measure, although it would generate the same amount of money. The district 67 school board also reduced the amount of the bond sale, eliminating less critical projects.

Superintendent Jamie Reilly has said if the tax increase fails again, the district will be forced to increase class sizes and combine grade levels in a single classroom.

In March a measure asking voters to increase the maximum tax rate by 0.342 percent to $2.401 per $100 of owned property was defeated by 112 votes.

Rather than asking for an increase in the maximum tax rate as the district did then, the new proposal asks voters to allow the district to increase the levy by 16.3 percent, or 13.3 percent more than allowed by the Cook County tax cap. The measure would increase district revenue by the same $1.14 million that the tax-rate increase would have, Reilly said.

Reilly said officials were concerned that even if voters approved a new maximum rate, the district might not receive as much money as anticipated because of a declining tax base. The equalized assessed valuation of the district has been dropping in part as the result of declining home values.

The district is also asking voters to approve the sale of bonds just under $8 million to finance building repairs and improvements and construction of a new gym at Hynes. The gym is needed in order for the district to meet state requirements that students have physical education every day.

But the district dropped several projects, including re-configuration of office areas at the schools. In March voters rejected by 20 votes a proposal to sell $9.782 million in bonds.

Reilly said if the tax increase is approved the district can restore some programs officials cut in recent years to reduce spending, such as restoring full-day kindergarten, bringing back reading- and math-support staff at Golf and part-time reading-support staff at Hynes.

Following the March defeat of the tax hike the school board adopted new and higher fees for extracurricular and athletic programs.

The district also froze salaries for administrators and certified employees and eliminated early and late bus runs.

The last time district voters approved a referendum was in 1969.

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

DOMESTIC BATTERY

Rahim Matani, 33, of 7165 Carol Ct., was arrested Oct. 20 and charged with domestic battery. Matani told police that he did not kick the woman. He had an Oct. 25 court date.

Jimmy Gerontzos, 21, of 8019 Merrill, was arrested on Oct. 24 at his home and charged with domestic battery and consumption of alcohol by a minor. He has a Nov. 6 court date.

RETAIL THEFT

Jayeshkumar Patel, 48, of 8044 Lyons St., was arrested on Oct. 24 at Golf Mill Shopping Center and charged with retail theft. Patel was reportedly observed attempting to obtain a store credit for a return of a bed sheet set valued at $59.99 that was never paid for. He has a Dec. 2 court date.

ASSAULT

A 20-year-old woman from Chicago reported Oct. 23 a man in his 20s, about 5'7", wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and jeans approached an employee at a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue and displayed a black pocket knife. The subject allegedly stated that he had a gun but did not display anything. The store manager believes the subject was looking for an employee who got into a verbal argument with Oct. 18.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

A 72-year-old woman from Niles reported that on Oct. 20 an unknown man walked up to the shrubbery outside of her home on the 6800 block of Harts Road and urinated on her property. The victim said the subject finished urinating and then entered a bar on the 6900 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

STOLEN AUTO

A 95-year-old woman from Niles reported that someone stole her Dodge two door that was parked in a parking lot on the 8800 block of Golf Road between Oct. 22 and Oct. 23.

GRAFFITI

A business on the 6500 block of Milwaukee Avenue reported that between Oct. 1 and Oct. 24, someone spray painted the rear of the building. Police said it was non-gang related graffiti.

Chicago man charged with soliciting Morton Grove girls

A 22-year-old Chicago man who works at a coffee shop on the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue reported to authorities that a man wearing a red Halloween costume and a skeleton mask came into the store Oct. 20 and positioned his fingers to resemble a gun and then pointed it at a customer.

The employee said the subject, who was described as a “Jester,” walked past customers and said something that could not be understood under his mask, according to police.

The man allegedly raised his arms out to his sides like an airplane. Police said he walked past the pastry counter where he reportedly pointed his hand with his index finger extended and thumb up, like a gun, at a customer.

The subject then walked over to the counter where he pointed just his finger at customers and stood there and stared at them. The subject then left the store saying something, but the employee couldn’t understand what he was saying under the mask.

The employee told police the man walked around with authority and it seemed like he had a plan. The 22-year-old said she was afraid and she thought the subject was going to open fire.

The complainant said the subject never displayed a gun and she didn’t see a gun on him. Two other employees also witnessed the man.

The complainant told authorities that an employee of a cellular phone store came into the coffee shop and informed them that the same man entered that store pointing at people as well.
Democrat Jan Schakowsky is seeking her eighth term as Illinois' 9th District congresswoman, but she faces an Election Day challenger in accountant Tim Wolfe.

Wolfe, a Republican, is running for elected office for the first time. He was persuaded to run during the Congressional debt crisis over raising the country's debt ceiling. "(President Barack Obama) wasn’t getting his way and it became clear to me the people in Washington are not serious enough to make tough financial decisions to turn this economy around and get this country back on the right track," Wolfe said.

**JOB CREATION**

He feels the country’s financial problems have resulted in not enough jobs being created to employ American workers and, if elected, he plans to use his experiences in finances and accounting to make the tough choices when it comes to the federal budget.

Schakowsky was first elected to represent the 9th District in Congress in 1998 after serving eight years in the Illinois General Assembly. According to her website, Schakowsky believes Congress' number one priority is to create jobs and restore a vibrant middle class.

In 2010, Schakowsky was appointed by President Obama to serve on the 18-member National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform that introduced the Fairness in Taxation Act, which would require Americans with larger incomes to pay a higher tax rate.

The sides differ on health care as Schakowsky supported and voted yes for the 2010 passing of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, while Wolfe believes it should be repealed and replaced.

Both candidates agree that creating jobs and fixing a stagnant economy are high priorities, but each has very different ideas to remedy those problems.

**INTRODUCED JOBS BILL**

In 2011 Schakowsky introduced the Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act which she claims would create more than 2 million jobs by using $220 billion over two years, "all paid for by requiring millionaires, billionaires and rich corporations paying their fair share." The bill has yet to materialize through a divided Congress.

"Millions of hardworking American people are still looking for more than just talk about jobs," Schakowsky said Sept. 21 on the floor of Congress.

Wolfe, meanwhile, believes in cutting the budget, simplifying the tax codes and lowering the business tax rate as ways to create jobs and improve the economy.

"Members of Congress need to be more partisan toward this country rather than their party," Wolfe said. "We need to bring the federal payroll system back in line with the private market, get rid of duplicative programs and look at things we can do today that we all can agree on."
Park District still calculating Youth Campus costs

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE

Plans for an 11-acre park on the site of the former Park Ridge Youth Campus were shared with community residents last week, but the expense associated with the project may not be revealed publicly until at least the end of the year.

That was the word from Park Ridge Recreation and Park District Executive Director Gayle Mountcastle who addressed a room of more than 50 residents attending an Oct. 23 informational meeting on the proposal and the Park District's April 2013 tax-levy referendum plans at the Park Ridge Senior Center.

Mountcastle said the Park Board of Commissioners is expected to review updated plans for the Youth Campus site during a meeting on Nov. 15, but final costs will likely not be calculated until early December. Numbers will be shared with the public by Jan. 1, Mountcastle said.

If voters support a referendum next spring, the Park District expects to pay $6.4 million for the entire 11.35-acre site at 733 N. Prospect Ave., plus additional costs for building renovations and park land development estimated at $6.6 million, according to information distributed by the Park District.

It will also require Demolition and engineering work.

"It's going to be up to you if this property is preserved in the end," Mountcastle told residents, adding that there is a "high likelihood" the property will be marketed to a developer if it is not purchased by the Park District.

Preliminary plans, which may change based on citizen and Park Board input, show an unlit lacrosse/football field on the eastern end of the property with a walking/jogging path around the perimeter; a soccer practice area; an outdoor performing arts theater at the northwest corner; an open meadow in the center of the property along Prospect Avenue; a picnic area in the southwest corner; a splash pad and playground; a platform tennis area; and parking to accommodate 114 spaces on the southeast side. The Park District is looking to demolish six existing buildings on the campus and preserve five, including Solomon Cottage - where the Historical Society has planned to open a heritage center - and Wohlers Hall which would accommodate Park District administrative functions.

Concessions, restrooms and a picnic shelter are also part of the tentative plan.

Originally the Park District looked to purchase just 6.85 acres of the former adolescent group home site, but in September the Park Board agreed to make a purchase offer for the entire 11.35 acres.

Views of the proposal were mixed among residents who attended the Oct. 23 meeting.

"I feel this is grandiose," said Jack Leske, suggesting residential development for the land which he believes is "probably the most expensive residential property in Park Ridge."
Niles considering term limits for elected officials

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Niles trustees could vote in November on whether to ask voters if elected officials should be subject to term limits.

A petition from resident Joe Makula signed by more than 1,000 residents who wanted to see a term limit referendum on the Nov. 6 ballot was rejected in court, but Makula is now aiming to get the question on the April 2013 ballot.

The village board is expected to vote at its November meeting on whether to place it on the April ballot.

During a discussion Oct. 23 most trustees agreed that a limit of three terms — four years for each term — would make sense for a village trustee and some supported two terms for the mayor.

"I think people should have the opportunity to voice their opinion," said Trustee Rosemary Palicki.

Trustee Andrew Przybylo questioned whether term limits would cause "gifted incumbents" to be replaced with "mediocre" people. He also did not think two terms was enough for mayor because he believes the mayor may need more time to finish projects. Mayor Robert Cerrillo shared that sentiment.

Przybylo said he is in favor of term limits, but opposed the petition because it lumped the trustees and mayor together, setting a limit of 16 years for all. The petition also would have been retroactive, so trustees who have served over 16 years, like Przybylo, would not be able to serve again.

During the Oct. 23 board meeting trustees seemed to agree that any change should not be retroactive. Resident Harry Achino said he did not sign the petition because of the retroactive aspect.

"It wasn't about good governance at all," said Achino, who referred to the petition as a "vendetta" against certain trustees on the board.

"We're not trying to get rid of people," Makula responded the following day. "We never presented it as such. We read the petition to everyone that signed it. We're looking to get some better governance here."

Longtime Trustee Louella Preston isn't in favor of term limits.

"I really believe that institutional knowledge is very important," Preston said. She said she has not served as village trustee for the money, but for good government in Niles.

Resident Mary Marusek, who ran for Niles village trustee in the last election, said she circulated petitions for Makula and found residents were passionate about the issue of term limits.

Przybylo asked Marusek if she felt people cared about the subject because of former Mayor Nicholas Blase. Marusek said some residents brought up Blase, who led the village for over four decades, but others just shared a general concern about people serving in a position of power for a long period of time.

"I think people should have the opportunity to voice their opinion," said Trustee Rosemary Palicki.
Park District floats $7.1 million pool plan

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

PARK RIDGE

Park Ridge Recreation and Park District officials hope to make a splash with new pools at Centennial Park, a project they say will not require an increase in property taxes.

Park Board commissioners on Oct. 25 heard plans for an aquatic center at Centennial, 100 S. Western Ave., built in two phases. Citizens are invited to hear the proposal and offer input during a public meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at the South Park Recreation Center, 833 Talcott Road.

Phase one, which has a target completion date of July 2014, is estimated to cost $7.1 million and include the construction of two new pools: a 25-yard, six-lane lap pool with a diving area and one-meter board; and a wading/leisure pool with water slides and play features. The leisure pool, located to the south of the existing wading pool, includes a separate area for lap swimming or games like water volleyball or basketball.

Under the proposal, the existing lap pools, built in 1954, would be removed, but the relatively new wading pool would remain. Parking areas would be expanded considerably and a concessions building and picnic tent are also proposed.

If approved by the Park Board this month, a tentative schedule calls for construction to take place between August 2013 and July 2014, with a July 4, 2014 opening.

Executive Director Gayle Mountcastle said the project can be funded through a $6.3 million bond issue that does not require referendum approval. The Park District will also contribute an $800,000 cash surplus toward the project, she said.

"Your taxes will not go up because of this project," Mountcastle said.

Commissioners, some appearing skeptical of this statement, were told that the Park District plans to keep its annual tax levy at the same rate it has been in past years. This increase has already been in place to pay down other debt service and issuing new bonds will just extend the debt service payments, officials said.

The Park District's current debt is scheduled to be paid off in 2017, according to Superintendent of Business and Finance Christine Berman.

The Park District is planning to go to referendum in April 2013, seeking approval to purchase and develop the former Park Ridge Youth Campus property. Commissioner Stephen Vile commented that it would be "much easier" to go to referendum for the Centennial project instead, but Mountcastle disagreed.

"This is an asset of ours," she said. "We have to take care of our assets. The Youth Campus is something extra."

Passing a successful pool referendum could also prove difficult. Voters rejected past referendums for new aquatics at Oakton Pool, leading to the closure and demolition of the pool last year.

A second phase of the Centennial Pool project calls for a "lazy river," additional water play features, renovation of the bathhouse, and other site development work estimated at $3.4 million. The Park District does not have the funding at this time to support the second phase, Mountcastle said.
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Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems. Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
Dear Fixer: I have a receipt showing I switched service on two phone lines from T-Mobile to Cricket on Sept. 8. Both of the contracts were over, so I was free to go.

Now, T-Mobile says I owe them $90.35 for the billing period of Sept. 10 through Oct. 9 on one of the lines. They claim the number wasn't switched over until Sept. 10, after the new billing cycle started.

Calling them got me nowhere. After waiting on the line for 30 minutes, the person on the phone just kept saying it is their "policy" to do this — that all wireless companies have this mysterious "policy" and that it was too bad for me.

I was a customer for 10 years and always paid my bill on time. I feel like this is just their way of sticking me in the end for switching carriers. Please help me so I don't have to pay for a month's worth of service that I did not use.

It's a matter of principle. Plus, my husband and I have just moved and we don't have the money to go.

Wendy Carranza

This is a good time to remind everyone to keep very close track of your phone contract's end date. And remember: If you add or change your service, you may be unwittingly signing up for a whole new contract period.

CHECKING PRODUCT SAFETY

U.S. consumers can already go to SaferProducts.gov to see whether a product has been recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Now there's an international portal we can use to see whether officials in Europe, Australia or Canada have ordered a baby product or other consumer item removed from store shelves.

The new Global Recalls Portal is at GlobalRecalls.oecd.org. U.S. regulators and their counterparts overseas hope it will also make it easier to coordinate efforts to improve safety.

COSTLY LESSON

Everyone likes to snap up a good deal, but some consumers like to snap up lots of a good deal.

And that's not always such a good deal.

Just ask H.L., who bought a set of 10 car washes at a pricey car "spa." He only used one before he sold his home in Illinois and moved 100 miles away out of state.

Sorry to say but H.L. can't expect to get a refund.

He might feel better knowing he ripped himself off, though.

The Fixer has heard from other consumers over the years who were granted freebies like "lifetime oil changes" from car dealers who later closed their businesses.

Or "lifetime memberships" from health clubs that had remarkably short lifespans.

It always feels worse to have someone else take your money than to lose your money on your own.
What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

O'Hare to extend its people mover to rental-car campus

O'Hare Airport's 2.7-mile people mover system will be upgraded to accommodate more passengers and extended 2,000 feet - to a rental car campus and parking garage with access to an existing Metra station, a top mayoral aide disclosed.

Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie Andolino pegged the cost of the people mover extension at $340 million and the combined cost of the extension and rental car campus at more than $700 million. She said the $8 fee slapped onto the cost of renting a car at O'Hare in 2010 should be enough to cover both projects.

The people mover will be extended to Parking Lot F at the southeast corner of Mannheim and Zemke. That's where the city is building a new five-level economy parking structure to be shared by rental cars and public parking with convenient access to an existing Metra station.

The extension is expected to be completed in 2016. The upgrade includes the purchase of 15 new people-mover cars.

Two years ago, the City Council added $8 to the cost of renting a car at O'Hare to bankroll a $393 million facility that will consolidate airport rental car companies into a central location to make way for new runways. A $3.75 fee was imposed at Midway.

- Chicago Sun-Times

Lt. Gov. seeks to keep college affordable as debt climbs

Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon is advocating ways to keep college affordable as new research shows average student loan debt has topped $26,000.

Simon presented ideas during a visit last week to the University of Illinois Springfield. She supports legislation to require all colleges in the state to publish so-called College Choice Reports disclosing net costs, average debt and completion rates. That would allow prospective students to comparison shop.

Simon wants the Monetary Award Program to provide more targeted assistance and reduce the achievement gap between low-income and higher-income students.

She also advocates making the federal American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent.

According to a Pew Research Center report released this month, students took on an average of about $26,700 in loans.

Sheila Simon

- The Associated Press

Consumer finance watchdog to oversee debt collectors

Expanding its reach, the government's consumer finance watchdog agency will monitor the day-to-day operations of big debt-collection companies, the agency said.

It is the first time that debt collectors have been subject to federal scrutiny of their routine business practices.

The move lengthens the list of industries that face oversight by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The agency was set up after the financial crisis to protect consumers from misleading marketing, unfair fees and other harmful practices.

Debt collectors have long been criticized for hard-knuckled tactics like calling the employers of people who fail to repay debts or filing lawsuits against people who owe relatively little money.

Some of the practices may violate federal disclosure rules and protections against harassment and intimidation.

About 30 million Americans have, on average, $1,500 of debt that is subject to the debt-collection industry, the agency said. That information often is reported to credit bureaus, so debt collectors can affect a person's ability to finance a car or the rate one pays on a mortgage.

The bureau also supervises mortgage companies, private student lenders and payday lenders.

- The Associated Press
Amendment on ballot not true pension reform

If an Illinois school district wants to give its teachers 4 percent annual raises, that's their choice.

As long as the district pays for the raises and, as importantly, the heavy pension costs that go along with them.

But under a proposed state constitutional amendment on the ballot Nov. 6 that affects pension benefits across Illinois, the state Legislature wants a hand in those salary decisions.

The amendment raises the threshold for voting to increase pension benefits, moving from a simple majority to a three-fifths vote. This covers the state Legislature, pension boards and any local unit of government, including school districts.

That's a usurpation of local control and a violation of basic democratic principles, just one of many reasons why voters should say "No" to the proposed amendment.

Can either candidate get us out of this mess?

As we gear up for Election Day, it seems we are on the brink of a great crisis, say, something such as the Civil War and the election is between Millard Fillmore and Franklin Pierce.

Both are ineffective, offering no way forward to avoid the coming catastrophe.

Over the past four years, President Barack Obama has shown he is in way over his head. Unprepared for the presidency and unwilling to admit it was the message of his first debate performance in Denver.

Obama's approach to the presidency has been as the smart kid who is too cool to do his homework or, maybe, as the talented athlete who doesn't need to practice. Between the flashes of brilliance, we get mostly disappointment.

Mitt Romney, the challenger, is the confident CEO who has attended one too many self-affirming, think-positive seminars. Be positive, be confident, work the plan and the results you desire will come to you.

But does his desire to be president match the desires of the nation he seeks to lead?

We want peace and prosperity. But is that possible in the second decade of the 21st century?

The outbreak of violence in the Middle East aimed at our embassies hardly indicates that peace is at hand. And I would like us out of Afghanistan yesterday.

Prosperity, a promise still unfulfilled for the poorest of Americans, is quietly becoming just a memory for more and more Americans.

Four more years of the same will make the post-World War II boom seem like a historical footnote, a time unparalleled in human history never to be seen again.

More Americans enjoying the greatest standard of living ever seems destined to be replaced by more Americans in debt, more Americans unable to afford college without going into debt, and more Americans unable to land those good-paying jobs necessary to get out of debt.

More Americans obtaining the American dream of owning a home is being replaced by more Americans losing their homes to foreclosure. And everyone has lost the equity they hoped would grant an easier retirement.

And how are we going to pay for the mountain of debt that is government spending on a local, state and national level, most of which is payments to individuals, either as welfare, food stamps, social security, or other government funded retirement programs?

Election Day will come. And so, I fear, will the crisis. Neither candidate seems capable of handling it. Maybe next time.
No room for leading cheers in TV news

There is much that is annoying about local TV news:

- Timidity disguised as balance that reduces political coverage to mere he said/she said;
- Huge chunks of time wasted on the weather;
- Inane banter and the seeming necessity for anchors to comment on every story they read;
- The inability to pronounce English, so that the word "tour" becomes "tore" and "field" becomes "filled," for instance.

I could go on. But I'll just mention one thing more: Local TV news also assumes all viewers live in Chicago. I, as a suburbanite, find this annoying.

For months, a major item on newscasts is that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has persuaded another business to relocate in Chicago. Often, these businesses are moving from a suburb to the city.

Just the other day I heard on the news that Nokia was relocating to Chicago from Itasca and bringing 150 employees. And there have been several other such instances — Motorola moving to Chicago from Libertyville with 3,000 employees is a major example.

Of course, TV news should report these happenings. They are news and important. But I also don't know why I should celebrate a job transference that doesn't result in any new jobs.

If a business with 1,000 employees moves from one location to another, that doesn't give a job to a single unemployed person. I don't see this mentioned on TV news. Maybe I just missed it.

Job creation is a lot more important than job transference. During this latest election campaign, businesses and business support groups have taken to calling themselves job creators. If job creator is now a synonym for a business, then we all should be looking hard at whether jobs are being created and who is creating them. TV news confuses the issue by giving the impression, if nothing else, that job transfers are additional jobs.

So, TV newsies, just report. Stop throwing on-air parties when suburbs take it in the neck.
Question of the Week

Q: "Which presidential candidate do you plan to vote for?"

James Graney (Niles)
"Obama. I'm totally Democratic. The Republicans and George Bush cost me hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Joanne Klee (Chicago)
"Barack Obama. Even though poverty and hunger aren't discussed in the debates, in his heart he knows those are real issues."

Chris Duggan (Niles)
"Romney. I think as a businessman he's had success. I think Obama has failed. I'm going four years on unemployment."

Maureen Swiatek (Niles)
"Obama. I just don't like who he's running against."

People Poll

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION
"What's the scariest movie you've seen?"
RESPONSES
1) Nightmare on Elm Street: 2%
2) Halloween: 15%
3) The Exorcist: 52%
3) Other: 31%

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
"What is the most effective way for candidates to communicate?"
RESPONSES
1) Robo calls:
2) Media ads:
3) In person:
3) Other:

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

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PARK RIDGE

Before he became a drum major for one of the country’s most recognized university marching bands, Michael San Gabino was at the top of his game at Maine South High School in Park Ridge.

San Gabino, one of two drum majors leading Northwestern University’s Wildcat Marching Band this football season, got his start as a drum major with the Maine South High School Marching Band and as a performer across the school’s Fine Arts program, including orchestra, symphony band and choir.

The experience, he believes, prepared him for what to expect in the Big Ten.

“It gave me a sense of confidence that I could do it,” the Park Ridge native and 2009 Maine South graduate explained.

Now a senior at Northwestern, San Gabino, a saxophone performance major, is in his third year of leading the Wildcat Marching Band, a role he refers to as “an awesome experience.”

“It’s really been unreal. I’ve gotten to do so many different things with the marching band,” he said. “The biggest thing is going to all these bowl games.”

One of the unique aspects of the Northwestern Marching Band is the diverse halftime shows performed. Themes this season have featured Broadway numbers, alternative rockers the Foo Fighters, popular cartoons and James Bond.

“We formed a martini glass on the field and made a bow tie, so that was very fun,” San Gabino said of the James Bond show.

As drum major San Gabino is also a performance artist, his on-field back bend routine a Big 10 tradition.

“It’s a cool thing to show your showmanship and get creative,” he remarked.

San Gabino cites Joel Matter, director of bands at Maine South, as one of his musical mentors.

“I think he really tried to expose us to different types of music, not just in the marching band, but in a concert setting,” he said.

The opportunities given to the Maine South Marching Band were “unmatched,” San Gabino believes.

“I think the greatest thing, both freshman and senior year, was getting to go to U of I and performing for the state championship games for football,” he said. “It was an amazing opportunity.”

Matter says it did not come as a surprise that San Gabino would rise through the ranks to take his place as drum major at Northwestern.

“As a music student he was top-notch,” Matter recounted. “He was someone who was always prepared and did the right thing.”

Matter said he could easily turn the band over to San Gabino’s direction because of the leadership skills he always demonstrated.

“He was the type of kid everyone loved,” Matter said.

As for life after graduation, San Gabino is planning to attend law school with a goal of practicing entertainment law and working for a performing arts organization. He would also like to give saxophone lessons while continuing to perform himself.

“Music will always be a part of me,” he said.
Top college percussion educator led clinic at West

Professor Johnny Lee Lane, one of the nation's foremost college percussion educators, recently presented a two-hour percussion clinic to students from Niles North and Niles West at Niles West High School. Lane is Director of Education for Remo, Inc. and was previously the professor of music and director of percussion studies at Eastern Illinois University, where he taught for 28 years.

Professor Lane's students are now college teachers, performers and educators throughout the world. He is the founder of the United States Percussion Camp, a percussion camp which ran for 13 years with over 300 students and 37 faculty members. At Eastern, Lane taught undergraduate and graduate percussion majors, conducted the percussion ensemble, marimba orchestras, marimba rag bands, and the World percussion program. He also led the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade. Lane received the Percussive Arts Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

Niles North Choir / Orchestra Concert featured Mozart

Niles North held its Choir / Orchestra Concert on Oct. 24 at the school.

The choirs and Symphonic strings combined to perform Mozart’s “Ave Verum Corpus.” The Symphonic strings also played Holst’s “Brook Green Suite,” Strauss’ “Pizzicato Polka” and the theme “Schindler’s List” featuring soloists Aidan Perreault on violin and Zoe Hertz on cello. The Philharmonic strings will play “Autumn” by Vivaldi and “An American Hymn,” based on “Chester” and Slovakian dances. The orchestra is directed by Pamela Hendrix and Daniel Gregerman directs the choirs.

Pope elected to NACAC board

Niles Township High School District 219 National College Adviser Jerry Pope was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association for College Admission Counseling at the group's 68th National Conference held recently in Denver. Pope has been a member of NACAC since 1993 and is a member of the Illinois Association of College Admission Counseling.

Pope has held a number of leadership positions in NACAC, previously serving as vice president for admission practices on NACAC's 1998-2000 executive board and as a member of its Fund Advisory Board, Early Decision Task Force and Admission Practices and Human Relations committees. In Illinois, he is a member of the Human Relations Committee and served as chair of the Conference and Admission Practices committees, as well as an Assembly delegate.

He is a member of the American School Counseling Association, the Chicago Area College Counselors Association, the Chicago Area Naviance Network, and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, among other college access and counseling organizations.

District organized successful German immersion weekend

At the second German Immersion Weekend (Wochenende Genessee) run by Niles Township High School District 219 and Concordia Language Villages, more than 90 participants from 17 schools in Illinois and Wisconsin participated in interactive language learning activities, games, arts, sports, dance, music and traditions. Teachers and students of German spent Oct. 5 and 6 at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wis., speaking German and developing a deeper understanding of and enthusiasm for the German culture.

The German Immersion Weekend was organized by District 219 German teacher Josef Neumayer, and D219 language teachers Natalie Barti, Lydia Ronning and Steve Beaver also participated. Programming included playing sports, singing around a campfire, learning about traveling in Germany, and indulging in authentic German snacks such as pausebrote, open-faced cheese and salami sandwiches, and attending a formal dinner where participants were treated to a German meal of rouladen.

According to Neumayer, this year’s enrollment increased 30 percent over last year and the number of school teachers participating grew 100 percent.

NW Debate competes at New Trier Season Opener

Niles West Debate continued its successful season while competing at the New Trier Season Opener from Oct. 5 through 7 at New Trier High School. Seventy-seven teams from across the country competed in the Varsity division.

Of Niles West's 10 teams, Gershon Chan and Kris Trivedi went 4-2 in the preliminary rounds and were the 28th seed entering elimination rounds. They made it to the Double Octafinals.

Brena Brill and Vinay Patel also received recognition as one of the tournament’s top four 3-3 teams. Jonass Placitis was 13th speaker out of 154 speakers. Also competing from Niles West: Samantha Seo, Lia Isono, Sana Khan, James McLeian, Julia Sarata, Walter Lindwall, Janat Ahmed, Michelle Sprotat, Drake Nickell, Nicholas Charles, Sam Seo, Emma Lazar, Miranda Kang, Joe Bakes and Justina Jude.

Niles West Debate’s Head Coach is Eric Oddo. He is assisted by Matt Fahrenbacher, Melanie Johnson, Kevin Bancroft and Val McIntosh.
Help Keep Oakton’s forest green and growing

Oakton Community College’s Des Plaines campus is situated on 174 acres along the Des Plaines River, next to a Cook County Forest Preserve. The forestland shelters deer, coyotes, owls, and a wide range of wildlife. The Ecology Club at Oakton invites volunteers to help with its ongoing forest preservation efforts, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 3. at the Des Plaines campus, 1600 E. Golf Road. Volunteers will meet at the north end of Parking Lot A, rain or shine. Continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. Youth workers (age 16 and younger) must be accompanied by an adult.

Expect to do some physical activity, including cutting and burning European buckthorn and other invasive plants. Participants also may observe a “controlled burn” if conditions allow. Volunteers should wear warm, comfortable work clothes and boots. Gloves, eye protection, and tools will be provided.

Registration is required. To participate in the forest restoration effort, email ecoakton@gmail.com.

Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education is one of the fastest growing career fields, and is expected to increase by 20 percent from 2012 to 2020, more rapidly than the average for all jobs, according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Three free information sessions will be held during November at Oakton Community College’s campuses, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, and 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines.
Puzzles

SUPER CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Sailors' mops
6. Block sheep sound, in song
12. Tic — (tiny mind)
15. Huge-screen film format
20. Physicist Einstein
21. "Def Comedy Jam" ailer
22. Horror film staple
23. German king called "the Great"
24. Irregular god
25. Suffix with north or south
26. Giant in elevators
27. Start of a riddle
31. Lasos
32. Press agent?
33. Tolken, moniker
34. Riddle, part 2
42. Viper type
45. Maps
46. "Ye olde" settlement
47. Have — tolerance for
48. Brooch part
51. Arabian royal
53. "Woe —"
54. "— Ben
56. Suffix with royal
58. Muffler
59. "— novel, play, and film"
60. Bureaucratic form-filling
61. Oath reply
62. Desirous
63. In — (aware)
66. Riddle, part 3
69. Genetic stuff
70. Giant fight
71. The "— Dabra"
72. Play, as a part
73. Eta-iota link
74. Rimes with "—"
75. "— Dobra"
76. Microscopic creature
77. Mohammad Park inventor
78. "— No, you —"
79. D-1 filler
80. Riddle, part 5
88. Q.E.D. part
89. Just managing, "out"
90. Reader (ecclesiastical magazine)
92. "— breed"
96. "— Have —"
99. Bible bk.
100. End of the riddle
102. Tethered
103. Made
104. Tied
105. Have lunch
106. Prefix with 4-
107. Metalic playing
108. Prefix with 4-
109. "— Believer"
111. Flock mother
112. "— Bob"
113. Pigeon or... part 3
114. "— Bob"
115. This, in (oneself)
116. Smack
117. Cutting tool
118. "—Believer"
119. Menlo Park
120. "— Fillers"
121. "No, you —"
122. "My — Sal"
123. "— No"
124. "— Dylan"
125. "My — Sal"
126. "— Dylan"
127. "— Bob"
128. "— Bob"

DOWN
1. Angry look
2. "— SWAK part"
3. Sacrifice site
4. "— Of living things"
5. "— for the doctor"
6. Get paid to watch Junior
7. Injury reminder
8. "— Irl",
9. "— Out"
10. "— Irl",
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SUDOKU

BY LINDA THISTLE

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★
(★: Moderate; ★★★: Challenging; ★★★★: Insane)

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NEED A HINT? FIND THE PUZZLE SOLUTIONS ON PAGE 32

HOROSCOPES

For the week of Nov. 7 to Nov. 13

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Your work requires increased effort during the next few days. But it all will pay off down the line. Things ease up in time for weekend fun with family and/or friends.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Your genuine concern for others could prompt you to promise more than you can deliver. It's best to modify your plans now, before you wind up overcommitted later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
A situation that seems simple at first glance needs a more thorough assessment before you give it your OK. Dig deeper for information that might be hidden from view.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Careful! Right now, things might not be quite what they appear. Even the intuitive Crab could misread the signs. Get some solid facts before you act on your suspicions.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Your energy levels are high, allowing you to complete those unfinished tasks before you take on a new project. A social invitation could come from an unlikely source.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
You might think you're helping, but unless you're asked for a critique, don't give it. If you are asked, watch what you say. Your words should be helpful, not hurtful.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Your attempt at mediating disputes might meet some opposition at first. But once you're shown to be fair and impartial, resistance soon gives way to cooperation.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Go ahead. Reward yourself for helping settle a disturbing workplace situation. On another note: A personal relationship might be moving to a higher level.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
A sudden change of heart by a colleague might create some momentary uncertainty.

But stay with your original decision and, if necessary, defend it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Rely on a combination of your sharp instincts along with some really intense information-gathering to help you make a possibly life-changing decision.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Instead of worrying if that new person in your life will stay or leave, spend all that energy on strengthening your relationship so it becomes walk-out resistant.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
A sudden financial dry spell could reduce your cash flow almost to a trickle. But by conserving more and spending less, you'll get through the crunch in good shape.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your ability to keep secrets makes you the perfect confidante for friends, family and co-workers.
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:

- Mondays, Nov. 5 through 26 - Employment counseling, by appointment.
- Tuesdays, Nov. 6 and 20 - Medicare counseling, by appointment (sponsored by the federally-funded Senior Health Insurance Program).
- Wednesdays, Nov. 7 and 21 - Grief and loss support group (call first).
- Thursdays, Nov. 29 - Annual Holiday Party, 6:45-8:30 p.m., South Park Field House, Talcott Road and Cumberland Avenue.
- Saturdays, Nov. 3 and 17 - Legal counseling, by appointment.

**CLASSES**

**Childbirth class in Spanish**

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge, features an accelerated class teaching couples about the third trimester, labor and birth, postpartum care, breast and bottle feeding and baby care in Spanish from 1:45-4:45 p.m. Nov. 11, 18 and 25. Class includes tour of maternity department. To register, call (800) 323-8622, mention Class Code 8B32.

**Adoptive Baby Care**

Singles and couples awaiting the arrival of their adopted infant will find answers to common parenting concerns from 6:30-9 p.m. Nov. 1 and 8 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 Dempster St., Park Ridge. Topics include: physical care, safety, sleep, bottle feeding and infant development from birth to 12 months. To register call (800) 323-8622 and mention Class Code 8B07.

**COMMUNITY**

**Program for vets**

Veterans and guests are invited to a special Veterans Day Commemorative Program at 10 a.m. Nov. 9 at Norwood Crossing, 6016-20 N. Nina Ave., Chicago. The program will include posting of the colors by Taft High School Navy Junior ROTC; pledge of allegiance led by Norwood Crossing resident Mary Cormack, former first vice president of VFW Post 1284 Ladies Auxiliary; invocation by Chaplain Lt. Col. Paul Pfeffer (Senior Army Reserve Ret.); individual recognition of veterans present; and a special veterans benefits presentation by Raymond Toczek, current Commander of American Legion Portage Park Post 183 and a retired benefits counselor from the Veterans Administration. Toczek will discuss various VA benefits pertaining to older adults. All active and non-active military personnel who are planning to attend the event are asked to complete a form upon arrival that lists their name, rank, military unit, service branch, armed conflict (if any), where served, and dates of service in order to be properly recognized for their service. Refreshments will be available. Veterans planning to attend should call Stan Banash, director of public relations, at (773) 577-5324.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Holiday Craft Fair**

St. John Brebeuf Catholic Women's Club will host its annual Holiday Craft Fair from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 11 in the May Parish Ministry Center, 8305 N. Harlem Ave., Niles. In addition to crafters, there will be a bake sale with cakes, cookies, jams and jellies. Shoppers can enjoy a snack or lunch. Admission is $5.

**Ransom's Holiday Sale**

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Women's Club Queen of Peace Guild will hold its annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale Nov. 10 and 11 in Paluch Hall, 8300 Greenwood Ave., Niles. Hours are from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. There will be a variety of all handmade crafts, ornaments, wreaths, flower arrangements, gift baskets, needlepoint, afghans, baby knit quilts, dolls, home decorations, jewelry and more plus a grand raffle, bake sale, turkey booth and Christmas stocking tree for added chances at gifts and items. There will also be a variety of fresh, home-baked goods for sale. A lunch menu will be available. Free admission. Proceeds benefit the parish. Call the Ministry Center, (847) 823-2550.

**Kovler for Kids**

The University of Chicago Diabetes Center will host a free event for families and children living with diabetes from 9-11:30 a.m. Nov. 4 at Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview. To register, visit http://kovlerdiabetescenter.org/kohl/ or call (773) 775-6616, Ext. 129 or visit www.reshs.org.
Library
Niles Public Library: 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

Programs for Kids
9-12 13+
Knights of Niles Chess Club – Fridays to Nov. 9, 3:45 p.m.; Mr. Chris is available to work with novices and experienced players alike. For kids in grades K-8.

Parenting
Special Needs Issues
FAM
The 11th annual BEST Resource Fair, “Transitions for the Future,” will be held from 6:30-9 p.m. Nov. 7 at Niles North High School, 9800 N. Lawler St., Skokie. The event is designed to assist students with special needs in making post-high school transition plans. All students with special needs, their parents/guardians, and professionals are invited. “Planning for Your Student’s Future,” will be presented from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; following, from 7:30-9 p.m., representatives from apprenticeship programs, employment services, government programs, health services, legal resources, recreational opportunities, referral sources, residential programs, transportation, vocational programs and trade schools will be available to distribute information and answer questions. This program is held in conjunction with Maine Township High School District 207. Contact Nancy Otter at (847) 626-876 or email nanott@d219.org.

Puzzle Answers
See page 30 for this week’s Super Crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

Library
Niles Public Library: 6960 W. Oakton St., (847) 663-1234 or online at www.nileslibrary.org. Registration is required for most programs unless indicated otherwise.

Hocus Focus
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Parks
Niles Park District, 6676 W. Howard St., (847) 967-6633.

Maine-Niles Special Rec
FAM 13+ 65 18+
Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation: Offers people with physical and mental challenges, behavior and learning disorders, hearing and visual impairments and emotional disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a variety of recreation activities. MNASR serves Des Plaines, Golf-Maine, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Park Ridge and Skokie. To receive a seasonal brochure, or to offer support for people with special needs by volunteering, call (847) 966-5522.

Global Hunger Shabbat
A Food Justice Panel, a Global Hunger Shabbat Initiative will be presented at 7 p.m. Nov. 1 at Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie. Participants will include speakers from the American Jewish World Service, the Gan Project, and Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Open to the community. Call (847) 676-1566. Global Hunger Shabbat will be held Nov. 2. A Just Harvest Shabbat Dinner Experience takes place at 5:45 p.m. followed by a Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Judea Mizpah. Featured speaker will be the Rev. Marilyn Pagan-Banks. No charge for dinner. Reservations requested by Oct. 31. Call (847) 676-1566 or email TempleJM@aol.com.

Kampus Kids/Child Care
Before and after school available for children in grades K-6 at Steven-son, Apollo and Mark Twain schools.

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Popular martial arts classes for children (ages 7-15) and adults offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays all year round.
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Business Spotlight

Italian restaurant a family affair

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

When customers stroll in to La Tavola Trattoria, they are greeted with a cozy, Tuscan-style atmosphere and fresh Northern Italian cuisine.

The restaurant that recently opened its doors at 8808 N. Milwaukee Ave. is owned by brothers Carlos, Mario, and Eddy Montiel.

Mario is the restaurant manager and Eddy is the executive chef at the restaurant that replaced Rossini’s.

At La Tavola Trattoria, customers are able to see their fresh pasta being cooked in front of them at a pasta station. Each day, the restaurant also offers a fresh catch of the day.

The Montiel brothers may be new to Niles, but not to the restaurant scene.

The brothers opened Carlos & Carlos in 1985 in Chicago and later opened another Carlos & Carlos in Arlington Heights.

Prior to opening La Tavola Trattoria, the brothers ran Capriccios in Northfield for 23 years. Capriccios closed before they opened the new Niles location.

“We were the first ones to introduce the fresh pastas being made in front of people,” said Mario Montiel, reflecting back to the ‘80s when they opened Carlos & Carlos in Chicago.

Montiel said that the atmosphere of La Tavola Trattoria is family-friendly, while providing a very nice ambiance. On Fridays and Saturdays, customers can listen to live music.

Eddy Montiel went to cooking school in Los Angeles and worked as a chef in Italy and Spain. He said that Northern Italian food has a French influence.

The restaurant features a private dining room that seats about 50 people and a smaller private room called the “Carlos Dining Room,” which seats about 10 people. Mario said that guests can create their own menu or order special dishes off the menu.

According to Mario Montiel, the smaller room is perfect for business parties, birthday parties, anniversaries and other celebrations.

“The location is very nice,” he said. “We are very happy to be here. It’s a very nice community.”

“We have a lot of friends in Niles,” Eddy Montiel said.

The restaurant is open for dinner seven nights a week and starting Nov. 1 they will serve lunches on Tuesday through Friday.
Athans offers luxury cars for less money

**MORTON GROVE**

Athans Motors' motto, "Driven by Passion," reflects owner Pete Athans' love of cars and sports.

The Morton Grove business, 9040 Waukegan Road, sells upscale used cars like a Jaguar that tempts passing motorists.

The business has rooms dedicated to Chicago teams with jerseys mounted and framed from past and present players like the Bulls' Michael Jordan, the Bears' Dick Butkus and the Blackhawks' Patrick Kane.

Behind an expansive desk in Athans' office is a wall covered with a pyramid of display cases, each holding an autographed football helmet. Two of them, carrying the signatures of Super Bowl MVPs, have been dipped in pewter.

Athans' website has photos of him with Erin Thorn, formerly of the Bears, and present players like the Bulls' Andreieva.

Athans offers luxury service department, cars sales are a big part of the business. In addition to selling what he has in stock, Athans will find a specific car for a customer looking for something not on the lot. He also sells nationwide and is able to handle his own financing.

"I'm trying to give the customer the experience of a franchise store at an affordable price," Athans said. "Everything a franchise store does for a customer we can do also, but for about 20 percent less."

That includes having certified mechanics for each brand of vehicle he sells. Athans said his sales and service employees don't work on commission, and he fills a need for customers who want a luxury car but can't afford a new one.

"As long as they're willing to let me search for the car they want, I can save them money," Athans said. "I have relationships with a lot of dealers throughout the country."

He takes pride in the condition of the vehicles he sells. He said they undergo a tough inspection, and unreliable parts are replaced before the vehicles are sold.

"Nobody preconditions the cars like we do," he said.

Athans offers free loaners when cars are brought in for service. He said the entire shop is geared toward customers' comfort. The lounge has large theater chairs, four large-screen televisions and a pair of "Fast and Furious Super Cars" arcade machines that give customers a chance to pretend they are racing a sports car.

The store's glossy look extends to the service area — a huge, airy space with a polished floor.

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A 23-acre beachfront island oasis steeped in history and promising the calm and beauty Sanibel Island has become famous for. casaybelresort.com

Congress Jewelers on Sanibel Island is the perfect place to find a vacation keepsake. The store specializes in elegant, island-inspired jewelry and is the home of the famous “Sanibel Sandal.” congressjewelers.com

Royal Shell Real Estate and Vacations provides the expertise to acquire everything from a vacation rental to a lifelong home in southwest Florida. Many brides choose Royal Shell’s “Celebration Homes” on Captiva Island for their weeklong destination wedding plans.

royalshellrealestate.com royalshell.com

Whether it’s a quiet sunset ceremony on the beach or a grand celebration, you and your loved ones will never forget your time on Sanibel & Captiva. A premier wedding location, the islands have the excitement of a vacation with the peaceful seclusion of a romantic getaway. With plenty of island hotels, resorts and businesses catering to your needs, planning your wedding has never been easier.

Families also choose Sanibel & Captiva for their destination family reunion. Get your extended family together without the hassle of hosting yourself. From water sports to beach-lounging to nature tours, there’s sure to be an activity for everyone.
A holiday destination

The winter holidays on Sanibel & Captiva have a relaxed and distinct flavor all their own.

The early days of December can be the best time to get away from holiday stress. The islands of Sanibel & Captiva have plenty of festivities during this wonderful time of year: boat cruises, live music, fire dancing, Caribbean parades and other events that range from the delightfully eccentric to the large-scale spectacular. Early winter brings Captiva Holiday Village and the Sanibel Luminary, which make the islands come alive with holiday cheer. And with the year's most affordable and flexible vacation packages, traveling to the islands is easier than ever. So come celebrate the holidays in shorts and sandals! Visit captivaholidayvillage.com for more deals.

Tween Waters Inn is a 13-acre beach front paradise with all of the amenities of a luxury island resort. The resort joins the festivities with a tree-lighting event, opera arias at sunset and select specials Nov. 30 to Dec. 9 including 15% off Friday and Saturday and 50% off Sunday through Thursday. tween-waters.com

Captiva is the perfect Island Holiday Destination. Special Packages are available at the following Captiva Island establishments:

- American Realty of Captiva
- Captiva Island Inn
- Jensens’ Historic Cottages
- Royal Shell Vacations
- South Seas Island Resort
- ‘Tween Waters Inn

For specific accommodation rates, go to captivaholidayvillage.com
PROPERTY TRANSFERS

NILES
8340 N Oconto Ave: Irene Barry to Andrew J Parra for $210,500 on Sept. 11
9045 Heathwood Circle: Jounghyun Song to Danny R Silaghi for $145,000 on Sept. 10

MORTON GROVE
6411 Lincoln Ave Unit 311: Ruth Cogan to Miriam Silvergleid Trust for $150,000 on Sept. 12
5935 Lincoln Ave Unit 502: Sherali Jurek to Daniel Collins for $564,500 on Sept. 11
9045 Heathwood Circle: Jounghyun Minogue to Ester Aprim Gleitsheim for $210,500 on Sept. 11

NILES
38 I

PARK RIDGE
423 S Prospect Ave: Richard Todd Jurek to Daniel Collins for $564,500 on Sept. 11
433 S Prospect Ave: Patrick F Minogue to Michael J Indiád for $330,000 on Sept. 11
150 Yost St: Maria L Yaniz Trust to James P Dockery for $435,000 on Sept. 11

1624 S Washington Ave: Standard Bank Trust 0000000018932 to Daniel P McKenna for $745,000 on Sept. 11
1430 S Prospect Ave: Fleurette Kolkemeister Trust to Charles James Marrucilli for $687,000 on Sept. 14

1914 Canfield Road: Delores M Elkin to Yellow Star Properties LLC for $145,000 on Sept. 11
1417 Crain St: Francis J Spula to Antonio Mihalejvic for $397,000 on Sept. 10
623 N Broadway Ave: Cathy M Dhamer to Robert E Wright for $278,000 on Sept. 11

110 S Home Ave: Scott Thomas Patterson to Jeff M Franzblau for $340,000 on Sept. 11
1443 Carol St: Pravin R Pthadia to Bradley Thomas Tinkle for $325,000 on Sept. 11
2009 S Ashland Ave: Adm Donald K Anderson to Renato Presta for $146,500 on Sept. 10

44 Park Lane Unit 235: Chicago Title Land Trust 0000000013343 to Carol Lohens for $122,500 on Sept. 11

SOKIE
5338 Fairview Lane: Real Equities Inc to Nadia Sarvinehbaghi for $255,000 on Sept. 11
8203 Niles Center Road Unit 2D: Judith Zuchman to Ester Aprim Gleitsheim for $655,000 on Sept. 10
4838 Howard St Unit 205: Dimitry Gindush to Claycene Lewis for $84,500 on Sept. 10

8548 Karlov Ave: Sharib Jamal to Nadia Usman for $234,500 on Sept. 11
8449 Central Park Ave: Frada Kogan to Chicago Title Land Trust 00000-02359745 for $248,000 on Sept. 11

LINCOLNWOOD
4545 Touhy Ave Unit 308: Mitchell B Burack Trust to Shari C Vass for $287,500 on Sept. 10

GLENVIEW
2228 Robincrest Lane: Richard P Fernandez to Michael R Baffes for $326,500 on Sept. 11
525 Hazelwood Lane: Marilyn Mimi Woods to Adam W Minar for $167,500 on Sept. 10
914 Huber Lane: William A Carter Jr to Michael J Beumer for $655,000 on Sept. 10
What's In My Price Range?

Wilmette
415 Wilshire Drive, $450,000
House size: 1,800 square feet
Lot size: 8,500 square feet
Year built: 1957
Bedrooms: 3 Bath: 2.5
Garage: 2.5-car detached
Most recent available tax: $7,703 (2011)
Agent: Marlene Leon, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 847-512-2728

Niles
7011 Jarvis Ave., $495,000
House size: 2,782 square feet
Lot size: 5,693 square feet
Year built: 1998
Bedrooms: 4 Bath: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $8,970.24 (2011)
Agent: Linda Sanks, Century 21 McMullen, 224-392-3660

Barrington
992 Commonwealth Court, $469,000
House size: 3,155 square feet
Lot size: 14,675.09 square feet
Year built: 1975
Bedrooms: 4 Bath: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $9,866.81 (2011)
Agent: Rebecca Pajich, Keller Williams Success Realty, 847-609-6875

Oak Park
826 Oak Park Ave., $495,000
House size: 2,657 square feet
Lot size: 6,300 square feet
Year built: 1923
Bedrooms: 3 Bath: 2.5
Garage: Two-car detached
Most recent available tax: $16,666.47 (2011)
Agent: Molly Olsen, Better Homes and Gardens Gloor Realty, 312-259-3246

Lake Forest
580 E. Old Elm Road, $485,000
House size: 2,155 square feet
Lot size: 20,642 square feet
Year built: 1962
Bedrooms: 4 Bath: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $8,543 (2010)
Agent: Lauren Turelli, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 847-460-5422

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580 E. Old Elm Road, $485,000
House size: 2,155 square feet
Lot size: 20,642 square feet
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Agent: Lauren Turelli, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 847-460-5422

What can I get for $450K-$500K?

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

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

Hinsdale
916 Quincy St., $499,999
House size: 1,620 square feet
Lot size: 7,500 square feet
Year built: 1957
Bedrooms: 4 Bath: 3
Garage: One-car attached
Most recent available tax: $6,573 (2011)
Agent: Jeannie LaPlaca, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 630-780-1209

HOUSE FOR SALE? For details to get a home listed on the Price Range page, contact Jes Spivak at jspivak@suntimes.com or 312-300-7987. Information for listings that aren't submitted is received from the local county assessor's offices.
Life made easier and more fun: There’s an app for that

Stress less and have more fun with these “mom-approved” apps designed to make your life easier, simpler and hassle-free.

**ARTKIVE**

www.artkiveapp.com

The perfect antidote for parents who can’t seem to throw anything away, Artkive is designed to digitally store all your kids’ artwork in one location. Simply download the app, fill in some information and start snapping pictures of your kids’ art. The app automatically stores and dates each piece of art and includes an area for comments or titles. It can also turn your favorite pieces into a book, mug or memorable keepsake making it a “must-have” app for the holiday season.

**MAILSTOP**

www.catalogchoice.org/mailstop/mobile

Unclutter your mailbox with MailStop, the easy to use app that gets rid of most junk mail. First, gather catalogs, coupons, credit card offers and other pieces of unwanted junk mail. Then, take a picture of each mailing label (which will include your customer name, number and source code) and MailStop will take care of the rest. In other words, you supply MailStop with the information they need to get you removed from ubiquitous mailing lists. MailStop also has an online component where you can opt out of brand-specific catalogs, coupons and phone books. Your mailbox will thank you.

**COZI FAMILY ORGANIZER**

www.cozi.com

Designed with the busy family in mind, this app centralizes your calendar, shopping list, schedule and more, while also allowing family members to access it online. It’s the perfect tool for divorced parents who can now share a mutual calendar for their kids’ activities, homework assignments and social events. It’s also helpful for families with aging parents because it allows siblings to keep track of their parents’ medical needs, appointments and activities. The online grocery list is a real timesaver for busy parents who can access it every time they find themselves near a grocery store. That’s right, with Cozi, “bring home some milk” phone calls may become obsolete. In addition to the Cozi Family Organizer, the company has recently rolled out a number of new family friendly apps that include helping parents find babysitters, recover stored passwords and locate their children via GPS.

www.goby.com

Next time you’re looking for something to do, check out Goby. This app is a search engine that aggregates fun things to do and interesting places to see around the country. It covers everything from live music and family fun activities to outdoor adventures and off the beaten track attractions. It’s great for planning last minute activities as well as special outings with friends. It’s also a must-have app when planning road trips and visits to new cities.

**MORE APPS TO LOVE**

We asked Facebook friends to share with us their must-have apps for busy families. Here’s a list of some of their top picks:

- **Flashlight**
  appsfromouterspace.com/flashlight/

- **Checkbook HD**
  ibearsoft.com/checkbook-hd/

- **Coupon Sherpa**
  www.couponsherpa.com

- **Slice**
  www.slice.com

- **Shazam**
  www.shazam.com

- **Honk Find Your Car**
  www.istormapps.com/honk/

Join the conversation — “like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PioneerPressGo.
Pulling for pork:
More meat-lovers want choicest cuts

BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

The other white meat, pork, is as popular as ever. And more and more people are coordinating with local pig farmers and roasters to get the freshest, best-tasting pork possible.

Some are even trying their hand at roasting a swine themselves. Brooke Buccola says roasting your own pig is easier than most people think.

Buccola owns Heybeck's Meat Market in Palatine and Meeske's Prime Meats in Barrington with her husband, Chef Brett Buccola. They cater full pig roasts or roast pigs partially, providing customers with instructions for finishing the roasting and carving process.

People are most surprised that carving is easier than cooking the pig, which requires some concentration. Brooke Buccola recommends using a meat thermometer to test meat, starting with the hind legs, where meat is thickest. Start carving in the hind area when it reaches 185-190 degrees. The shoulders should be 180 degrees. “If they reach 190 degrees, the pig starts drying out,” Brooke says. Cooking times vary, depending on the style of roaster. Brett designed their grills for pigs to rest freely, without hooks or poles poking through the pig, creating holes through which juice is lost.

Pigs are roasted in a rotisserie smoker with a mix of hickory and fruit wood at Uncle Bub's BBQ and Catering in Westmont for a full day. “The meat comes out white, tender and very flavorful with hints of smokiness because of the long process,” says Pit Master Jay Rushford.

For those who want the pig roast without the work, PL8 Simply Asian in Barrington is hosting a farm-to-table pork dinner Nov. 8. The menu will feature items made from a Berkshire pig raised by Cliff McConville and Konda Dees at Barrington Natural Farms. Their pig farm is new this year. “I had 48 acres and though 'Hey, there's no reason I can't raise a few pigs in my woods,'” McConville says. They will expand next year, adding more pigs and more room for them to roll in mud piles.

PL8 Chef Sean Grady visited the farm to help select the Berkshire pig he'll use to make his pork dinner. He'll make Star Anise-Braised Pork & Buns, Crispy Spiced Pork Belly and ice cream topped with cured salted bacon crumble.

For more on the PL8 pork dinner, visit www.pl8simplyasian.com/events.html.

Star Anise-Braised Pork

(From Sean Grady)
5 pounds pork butt
3 tablespoons soybean oil
1/2 cup soy sauce
1/4 gallon water
1/4 cup mushroom soy
21/2 ounces rock sugar
1 cinnamon stick
3 pieces star anise
6 tablespoons fresh ginger
2 tablespoons scallions
2 pieces dry chili pods
1, 2-3-inch piece of orange peel
4 garlic cloves
Cut pork into 2-inch cubes. Add three tablespoons soybean oil to large saucepan and brown pork cubes well; then remove from pan. Add cinnamon, star anise, dry chili pods, orange peel and garlic cloves into pan and cook for two minutes. Add water, soy and mushroom soy to deglaze pan, scraping bottom with wooden spatula. Add pork back into pan with ginger, scallions and rock sugar. Bring to boil, skim off impurities, and then reduce heat to a simmer. Cook for 2-3 hours or until pork is tender. Remove from heat and let rest at room temperature. When cool, pull pork meat with your fingers into small strands, or matchstick-size portions. Top with shredded scallions and drizzle with hoisin sauce. Serve on steamed buns.
Edison Park Lutheran Church
6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
(Across park from Edison Park Metra)
773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com
Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship/Music

St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Carmen, 60631.
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
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Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible 9:30AM
Saturday Worship 6PM
Lutheran Unity School - West
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TOUCHING LIVES EVERYWHERE

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(ELCA)
7429 N. Milwaukee Ave.
847-647-9867
www.st-john-niles.org
Preaching Christ crucified
for your forgiveness
Welcoming traditional worship:
Sanctuary Handicap accessible
Sunday Worship at 9:30
Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45
Pastor: Matthew Joseph Gunia
“For whenever our heart condemns us,
God is greater than our heart...”
1 John 3:20

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

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or
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A new weekly section covering everything Chicago is talking about.

GET THE "SPLASH BY CHICAGO SUN-TIMES" IPAD APP FOR FREE!
The weekend go and do planner

Cover Story

“Odd Couple” starring George Wendt and Tim Kazurinsky to open at Northlight Theatre.

Our picks for the week’s best entertainment.

“A Christmas Carol: The Musical” on stage.

What to Do

Your calendar for this week and beyond.

What’s opening in theaters and what’s still playing.

Old World Theatre Company turns to Chekov for laughs and one-act comedies.

Like us on Facebook at fb.com/PioneerPressGo or follow us on Twitter @PioneerPressGo.
They're a couple of old pals, playing, well, a couple of old pals.

Second City alums George Wendt and Tim Kazurinsky have “come home” to star in Neil Simon’s classic comedy, “The Odd Couple,” which begins previews Nov. 2 at Northlight Theatre. The duo recently chatted about comedy, friendship and politics.

Question: What attracted you to this project?

Tim Kazurinsky: It’s a great show and a great opportunity to work with George.

George Wendt: Same for me. It’s a hilarious piece by Neil Simon. And the chance to work with Tim, and [Director] BJ [Jones] and all the folks was too good to pass up.

Q. Since you two first worked together at Second City in the late 1970s, how much has the other changed?

GW: He hasn’t changed much. He’s funny, and just as crazy and still super nice. He’s a real thoughtful, considerate team player. His comedy is effortless and he’s particularly well-cast in this role.

TK: It’s always the same. Back in 1978 at Second City, the thing I loved about George was his minimalism. He could deadpan like nobody’s business and with such a straight face. He could do more with nothing, with just a look. I loved his droll sense of humor. And coming back (to the stage) after 34 years, my Lord! George at least has been really active in theater, doing “Hairspray,” “12 Angry Men.” I’ve been a screenwriter for 25 years. I’m the rusty bucket and George couldn’t be nicer with helping me get back on the boards.

Q. How is each of you like or not like your characters of Oscar and Felix?

GW: Well, unlike Oscar, I’m not divorced. [Laughs] Yet. I’m always one good screw-up from being thrown out on my ear. I’m a sports fan, so I would have coveted Oscar’s career [as a sportswriter]. I like journalists. I like New York. I’m not really super sloppy, but sometimes, as I’m getting older and spending a lot of time on the road with theater jobs, I’ll look around my apartment and see grocery bags, take-out containers, and notice the odors from the garbage and realize I’ve turned into [the late Second City patriarch] Del Close! [Laughs] I think his apartment was kinda like Oscar’s only with more books.

TK: I have to come clean — I’m shamefully very much like Felix. I am an organizational freak, literally. If I were blinded by wolverines, the very next day I could go in my kitchen and make a sardine sandwich with mayonnaise because I’d know exactly where everything is. And I’m always the “be prepared” kind of guy. I was in ROTC back in Australia where I grew up. I couldn’t afford a scout uniform. The army had free uniforms and free machines guns so I went with ROTC.

Q. Do you guys bond with your guy pals like the card-playing bunch of “The Odd Couple”?

GW: I don’t play cards much with my friends. We get together more around football games on TV. Not so much baring of souls goes on.

TK: Men have not moved all that far from these guys. It’s still difficult for men to bare their emotions. The nice thing in Second City is that we were this dysfunctional family. We still are all close. You know they’re there for you.
Four Seasons
‘dream homes’ a reality for seniors

The new ‘Mayberry’: Four Seasons Dream Homes in Belvidere offers senior residents a Mayberry-like atmosphere, with tree-lined streets and community facilities that invite residents to meet friends and neighbors. Four Seasons-Dream Homes afford buyers quality-built, luxurious, energy-efficient homes priced from only $69,900 to $118,900. Homes include kitchen appliances, fireplaces, walk-in closets, central air conditioning and 2½-car garages. The baths include whirlpools, walk-in double showers and double sinks. 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.

Editor: John Stein jstein@suntimes.com
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2013 AUDI ALLROAD TAKES ON ALL SEASONS

BY DAVE VAN SICKLE
Motor Matters

Audi introduced us to its luxury wagon, the “allroad,” more than 10 years ago, but the allroad quietly faded away within five years as buyers took advantage of the growing number of crossover SUV choices.

That first allroad was a variant of the A6 wagon and came with V-6 and V-8 engines. Today, the all-new 2013 allroad is a variant of the A4 and is 2.3 inches taller, a bit wider and offers 1.5 inches more ground clearance than the previous allroad.

As with the A4, the 2013 allroad offers only one powertrain choice. Good for 211 horsepower and 288 pound-feet of torque, the state-of-the-art 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine is turbocharged with direct injection. Standard equipment includes an eight-speed Tiptronic automatic transmission and permanent all-wheel drive called quattro.

The 211-horsepower rating might sound a little anemic for a car this size, but performance is impressive. During our drive in the Rocky Mountains, the allroad delivered smooth, quiet power on the winding roads that took us over the Continental Divide at 11,890-foot-high Loveland Pass.

Transmission ratios are nicely spaced to take full advantage of the engine’s torque characteristics. A sport setting adjusts the transmission to shift more aggressively at higher engine speeds.

Environmental Protection Agency fuel economy figures are 20 mpg city, 27 mpg highway and 23 mpg combined.

The allroad’s combination of suspension, steering and handling qualities made our test car a delight to drive on a variety of twisting mountain roads. The firm suspension with standard 18-inch wheels is compliant enough to provide a comfortable ride without sacrificing good handling dynamics. The electrically assisted power steering felt light, but precise, with good on-center feel.

The 2013 allroad isn’t a serious off-roader. Even with its 7.1 inches of ground clearance and the stainless-steel front and rear skid plates it’s more of a competent all-weather vehicle.

Audi sets the standard for interior fit, finish and appeal. With its high-end materials, impeccable workmanship and a range of upscale features, the allroad stands out as an elegant and sophisticated place to spend time. The standard interior gets satin aluminum treatment while the upper-end models offer a choice of three wood treatments.

Our 200-mile five-hour drive was accomplished without aches or pains. Front seats are comfortable and supportive. The rear seats sit low to optimize headroom, but might not be comfortable for those with long legs.

The new Audi Connect system allows navigation-equipped cars to benefit from Google Earth maps, real-time traffic and weather, news and fuel prices. It also offers Wi-Fi connectivity for up to eight devices. The navigation system benefits from a bright 7-inch LCD screen. Audi allroad is offered in three trim levels: Premium, Premium Plus and Prestige.

Standard equipment on base models includes a panoramic moon roof and eight-way leather-wrapped power seats. The base sound system offers 180 watts, 10 speakers, subwoofer, CD player, MP3 capability, auxiliary input jack, SD card slot and AM/FM radio.

Some of the safety-related highlights include adaptive cruise control, blind spot monitoring and xenon adaptive headlights.

The Audi brand has steadily moved upscale as a rolling status symbol. Allroad is elegant, sporting and practical, and it’s luxurious enough to make you forget that it’s practical. At $40,495, the allroad is more expensive than any of its competitors. Even so, many buyers will think of it as the cost of admission to a lifestyle.

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Dreams to own
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 a second home 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, central air, attached 2½-car garage, newly sodded lawn and more.

The kitchens will please any gourmet. They are spacious, well-lighted 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

SEE DREAMS, PAGE 4

Fit for a chef: Dream Homes offer more than just kitchens, with premier space, appliances and layouts that beg the chef to dig in and enjoy. 1 SUPPLIED PHOTO
High rising

Park Monroe packs top-level amenities into great city location

The amenities and conveniences offered by high-rise, residential developments are really appreciated by prospective buyers that own a single-family home and want more of a maintenance-free lifestyle. Cutting grass, shoveling snow and the upkeep of a single-family home can become cumbersome for homeowners that crave the lifestyle of a managed, residential community.

Living in a luxury condominium environment eliminates many hassles. At first glance, monthly maintenance fees may seem unappealing. However, when a homeowner looks at what is spent on the upkeep of a single-family home, many condominium buildings actually come out less expensive in terms of monthly costs.

The Park Monroe, 65 East Monroe Street, has some of the finest amenities downtown and certainly offers maintenance-free living. The terrace on the 49th floor is ideal for summer entertaining. It features barbecue grills, comfortable furniture and a whirlpool spa in a beautifully landscaped setting. Adjacent to the terrace is an entertainment suite with catering kitchen, large-screen DVD theatre, an indoor lap pool and a fitness center.

A landscape architect maintains the entire outdoor garden on the 49th floor during the summer months. The indoor lap-pool and all the other common areas are the responsibility of the full-time maintenance crew.

In addition, the practical items are taken care of for the homeowner. There is a full-time property management staff on-site. The 24-hour door staff is available to greet guests, accept packages or to simply open the front door and welcome residents with a hello and a smile. The Park Monroe also offers an indoor dog run and grooming spa area.

The Park Monroe has sold and continues to sell condominiums in the current real estate market. Several large, duplex penthouses have recently sold for over $2 million.

Sales have been so successful that the developers introduced the second, and final, phase of condominiums on October 18. Called "Park Monroe 2.0," this phase consists of 48 one-, two- and three-bedroom residences.

Park Monroe 2.0 takes the best of The Park Monroe and re-imagines it with luxurious new floor plans, the latest finish options and state-of-the-art technology. The new residences are expected to be ready in late spring of next year. Less than 12 homes are wired for built-in, mobile device docking stations, which allow a homeowner to set up many of the latest "smart" home functions. Individually controlled cooling and heating on demand is also available. The new buildings actually come out less expensive in terms of monthly costs.

The models and sales center at 65 East Monroe are open seven days a week. Call (312) 885-0550 or visit ParkMonroe.com for more information.
Seniors reap benefits of their hard work with a reverse mortgage

For years, many seniors have worked hard to make their monthly mortgage payments and build equity in their home. Reverse mortgage loans are becoming an increasingly popular way for seniors to supplement their retirement by accessing the equity they have in their home. The money received from a reverse mortgage can be used for home improvements, health care expenses, travel, college expenses for a grandchild or virtually any purpose.

To be eligible, the youngest titleholder must be at least 62 years of age. A reverse mortgage does not require credit or income qualifications, which often makes it easier to obtain than a home equity loan. With a reverse mortgage, the borrower retains title to their home and repayment is not required until the homeowner(s) no longer live in the home. Flexibility is another important feature of a reverse mortgage, meaning that the proceeds of the loan can be received in a lump sum, a monthly check to help cover living expenses, a line of credit that can be accessed as needed or a combination of these options. Best of all, no monthly mortgage payment is required with a reverse mortgage.

"There are several myths about reverse mortgages," said Dan Mudd, of Standard Bank and Trust. "One common myth is a concern about the safety of a reverse mortgage. To this, Dan points out that a Reverse Mortgage is a government insured loan, making it a very safe alternative and one that can provide great peace of mind for seniors."

Generally, single family residences, two-to-four unit owner-occupied dwellings, townhouses and approved condominium units are eligible for a reverse mortgage, and those with existing mortgage loans can often eliminate that payment with a reverse mortgage. A current mortgage loan is not a requirement.

The process of obtaining a reverse mortgage is relatively simple and often much easier than obtaining a standard mortgage loan. Typically, the process takes from 30 to 60 days and involves five steps, including Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required counseling, application, appraisal of the property, underwriting by the lender and a loan closing, which includes signing of all final documents and disbursement of funds.

For more information on Reverse Mortgages or to determine if a reverse mortgage may be right for you or your loved ones, contact a specialist at Standard Bank & Trust or visit www.standardbanks.com.
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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

DREAMS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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 even day trips. In August, the pool complex became an Italian diner and the Four Seasons neighbors gathered under the stars to enjoy a lasagna dinner.

Shopping, 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 6 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.fourseasonsdreamhomes.com. Call (888)373-2604 or (815)544-2700 or email to dreamhomesusa@f6b.com.
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Located at 1055 Silver Lake Road, just north of the Fox River in Cary, this unique 80-unit community provides Assisted Living and Memory Care to seniors in spacious, comfortable apartments with all the amenities and services of a fine hotel. Three Oaks community welcomed its first residents on May 21, its official move-in day, and is currently taking reservations for a limited number of available apartments.

Residences, which range from studio-sized suites to two-bedroom, two-bath, 1,000-square-foot duplex units, are designed to maximize independence, health, security and peace of mind, while also supporting those seniors that need more assistance. The Three Oaks community features on-site personal care services and licensed providers offer physical rehabilitation, speech and occupational therapies, and monthly health screenings.

Residents have a wide-variety of on-site opportunities available to them. They could fill an entire day with different activities that will keep them feeling inspired, youthful and excited to be living in this community. One could start the day in the resource library that has computers for resident use. At the computer, individuals can view the daily activities happening at their community via the “Resident Resource” tab on the website, or email a family member, they can visit the state-of-the-art fitness center, which focuses on the wellness of the individual. Technology, the equipment found in a majority of the facilities, is designed to be non-intimidating and approachable. After the gym, individuals can paint in the art room, or learn to cook in the gourmet demonstration kitchen.

To make themselves look good, the residents can visit the full service beauty salon and day spa that is located right there in their building. The salon and day spa provides excellent service, and care to the residents.

Along with the individual activities, residents are provided with daily programming through the community. These daily events help individuals socialize, move, express their creativity and enjoy themselves. Imagine a ballroom dance competition, a fun brain fitness class, and the occasional Bingo game. Activities in the community are set up to engage the residents, to inspire their youthful side, and to keep them feeling good.

In addition to all the activities going on at the community, residents have the luxury of Spectrum’s At Your Service concierge service. This program helps to decrease stress while increasing easy living. It helps individuals move in, settle in, and get comfortable. By picking up the phone or stopping by the front desk, residents have the capability to set up reminder calls, get restaurant recommendations, have prescriptions dropped off, and even have their next vacation planned.

Not only are there so many options within the community, there are also opportunities to leave the property through the scheduled limousine and bus transportation.

At Three Oaks Assisted Living, individual happiness is high on the list of priorities. Individuals are encouraged to continue to grow through the different amenities provided to them. Overall, through the daily programming, and amenities Three Oaks is helping its residents live a fulfilled life.

Denver-based Spectrum Retirement Communities is a leader and innovator in senior living. The privately held company develops and manages 24 senior living communities in 11 states from New York to Washington.

Three Oaks assisted living is Spectrum’s first community in Illinois. For more information, visit www.threeoaksassistedliving.com or call 708.516.5120.

This Oaks is located at 1055 Silver Lake Road in Cary.

Spectrum Retirement Communities is a subsidiary of HCP, Inc. (NYSE: HCP), a healthcare real estate and investment innovator in senior living. The company is a leader in the development, acquisition and operating management of innovative, high-quality senior living communities that combine exceptional living environments with personalized services and programs to provide residents with the opportunity to live their best life.

Spectrum Retirement Communities is the innovator in senior living. The company is a leader in the development, acquisition and operating management of high-quality senior living communities that combine exceptional living environments with personalized services and programs to provide residents with the opportunity to live their best life.

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SALES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

186 Whistler Rd: Marks, James S & Catherine B; $300,000

29 Pral Loop: Wertheimer, Alison & Daniel; $455,000

Indian Creek
217 Us Highway Route 45: Bourdel, Paul; $230,000

Lake Bluff
309 Homewood Ave: Miller, Jeffrey; $325,000

Lake Villa
613 Blazing Star Dr: Stobaugh, Jordan T & Megan B; $295,000

Lincolnshire
40 Cedar Ln: Dixit, Nitad & Truppi; $892,000

Libertyville
216 Adler Dr: Pascual, Carmina; $400,000

Lindenhurst
2017 Fairfield Rd: Appel II, Terrance D & Falcone, Jimena Y; $139,000

500 Douglas Dr: Bires, Christian M & Mary W; $1,362,500

2150 Kenton Ln: Drometor, Eric; $3,333,333

1105 Loyola Dr: Creager, Dick N; $570,000

1150 Margate Ln: Desamor, Jeremy R & Sandra L; $340,000

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104 W Alden Ln: Lamberti, Joseph W & Amandas E; $1,402,500

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TODAY'S HOMES

SALES | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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SALES I CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

H & Sarah Fox; $630,000
711 Bay Hill Ct: Gurnae, Lev & Yulia; $665,000
3060 Blackthorn Rd: Kibue, Michael C; $640,000
2636 Crestwood Ln: Mattenson, Michael & Leslie F; $558,000

Round Lake
1108 Deerwood Ct: Couturier, Bruce B & Kristine K; $150,000
318 High Plains: Mack, Kevin & Ryan, Genevieve; $175,000
3452 N Larkspur Ct: Vaughn, Douglas L; $156,000
293 S Shagbark Ct: Astice, Michael D; $110,000
130 S Tanglewood Ct: Bennett, Rebecca S; $115,000
1480 W Remington Ln: Puig, Brooke E; $147,500

Round Lake Beach
82 E Honeysuckle Dr: Rodriguez, Bertha Alicia; $100,000
1205 N Hickory Ter: Perel, Christopher L & Kathy W; $69,000
244 S Catalina Dr: Larsen Jr, Richard & Mooney, Nicole; $175,000
1510 Woodridge Dr: Myers, Derrick; $61,000

Round Lake Heights
933 Sioux Dr: Zamora, Renne A; $156,000

Skokie
4840 Foster St 204: Ahmed, Masood & Masood; $118,000
6095 Frontage Rd: Ali, Mohammad Zahed; $90,000
906 Lamon Ave 1N: Imboden, Sarah; $114,000
4734 Russett Ln 211: Wegner, Chris; $99,000

Vernon Hills
344 Ashwood Ct: Zak, Jozef; $82,000
138 Brook Hill Ln: Xu, Liang & Au, Kit M; $470,000
1351 Cog Hill Ct: Schmidt, Michael & Rakstang, Kristin; $610,000
790 Court Of Birch: Barkat, Sahim & Aamena; $440,000
483 Evergreen Dr: Boinpally, Abishak & Reddy, Priva-
darshini V; $410,000
764 Keystone Ln: Daricetty, Srima & Bhaskaruni, Vashnavy; $297,000
28 N Old Creek Rd: Razdan, Anubha & Shekhar, Chandra; $4,465,500
798 Nardis Dr: Polisson Jr, William F & Polisson, Joanna; $554,000

Volo
490 Bedford Ln: Peschke, Jacob & Rebecca; $205,000
998 Brahms Rd: Huddleston Selling, Peggy & Huddleston, Lauren A; $175,000

108 Cannon Rd: Mach, Natasha A & Noah J; $225,500
693 Golden View Ct: Scheid, Michael C; $250,000
619 Seneca St: Schafer, David J & Stephanie S; $260,000
1236 Viola Ln: Patel, Vinodkumar A & Nita V; $251,500

Wadsworth
3190 N Magnolia Ln: Luna, Trinidad & Hilda; $208,000
3103 Newport Ln: Vijay, Vivek & Shelly; $243,000
4607 Sawgrass Blvd 120 3: Hardy, Latoya D & Chaney, Randolph; $110,000
13910 W August Zupec Dr: Strezo, Steven T; $145,000

Waukegan
2704 Adelaide Ave: Guzman, Jesus M & Lopez, Gloria; $105,000
2009 Alta Vista Dr: Lowy, Genny & Shawn M; $75,000
14 Melberry Dr: Stein, Hal S & Cecich, Vanessa F; $735,000
1205 N Ash St: Padilla, Omar J; $75,000
2414 Pearsall Pkwy: Mandujano, Roberto C; $100,000
2905 Sunset Ave: Flores, Ignacio & Blanca E; $86,500
4461 W Brownstone Way: Bell, Ashley M; $85,000

Wilmette
328 14th St: Alkhovsky, Victoria; $635,000
2615 Blackhawk Rd: Fox, Michael A & Ursula M; $1,350,000
3528 Elmwood Ave: Song, In Tae & Jina; $975,000
1328 Greenwood Ave: Harris, Daniel B & Molly M; $690,000
945 Manor Dr: Verona, Daniel & Patricia; $400,000
2136 Old Glenview Rd: Ottosson Jansen, Marie; $310,000
638 Pine St: Kashani, Amir A & Beata A; $340,000

Winthrop Harbor
3718 13th St: Haines, Mark A & Laronda E; $240,000
334 Prairie Ave: Townsley, Gregory & Margaret; $200,000
1427 West Dr: Vanhaecke, Diel & Lenette J; $275,000

Zion
2129 Bethesda Blvd: Woods, Rick D & Jane E; $107,500
1519 Southport Ct: Motino, Jose; $123,000

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IMPORTS & DOMESTICS

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<td>Automatic Power Seats, Leather, Sunroof</td>
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need to know

Nov. 2

Chicago House Speaker Series Luncheon

Chicago House, the first Midwest organization to offer support and housing for those affected by HIV and AIDS, hosts its fourth annual Speaker Series Luncheon. This year’s keynote speaker, Kenneth Cole (inset), will join Chicago House CEO Stan Sloan and event co-chairmen Todd Hamilton and Splash’s own Susanna Negovan at the Chicago Hilton’s International Ballroom (720 S. Michigan) for a three-course lunch, meet and greet, and Q&A with the designer. “Kenneth has been an outspoken supporter of AIDS-related causes in the fashion industry, and he'll give us a new perspective on how big business can be successful while being socially and philanthropically impactful,” says Chicago House manager of special events Jeremy Hilbom. For tickets ($150-$500) contact Beth Connor at (773) 248-5200, ext. 303, or visit Chicagohouse.org.

THINGS WE LOVE

Get camera-ready at Chicago’s new blow-dry-only spot, Blow by Blow (67 E. Oak). The movie-themed salon offers styles such as the “Leading Lady” or “Femme Fatale” for $35, 312.867.0332

Pucker up with Lip Velvet, Burberry’s latest line of long-wear lipsticks, which has a smooth, velvety-matte finish in one of 12 colors. $30, Nordstrom, 520 N. Michigan; Shop.nordstrom.com.

Celebrate National Sushi Day on Nov. 1 in the best way: with $5 hamachi serrano chili rolls at Roka Akor (456 N. Clark) all day long.

Home retailer The RoomPlace celebrates its 100th anniversary with 100 acts of kindness. This week the company donates 10 Catnapper recliner chairs to IMD Guest House (1933 W. Polk), which provides affordable accommodations for loved ones of those receiving treatment in the Illinois Medical District. Learn more at TheRoomplace.com.
Charles Tillman's Celebrity Server Night
Oct. 29: Taking hits on the football field may not seem so bad to Bears' cornerback Charles "Peanut" Tillman after he spends the night waiting tables. But at this annual fundraiser, Tillman and his teammates dish out entrees and refill drinks for a good cause: The Charles Tillman Cornerstone Foundation, which serves children and families in need. The ticket price includes four courses, fine wines and the chance to chat between bites with your favorite gridiron players. Tickets start at $275. Morto's The Steakhouse, 699 Skokie, Northbrook. To make a reservation visit CharlesTillman.org.

'S成本umes and Cocktails' with TCW
Oct. 30: Local magazine Today's Chicago Woman celebrates its 30th anniversary bash at the Chicago Cultural Center in haunting fashion. Get a jump on Halloween fun with spooktacular cocktails, celebrity-decorated faux pumpkins, music and dancing. Proceeds from the event benefit the TCW Foundation, which serves children and families in need. Tickets: $150. 78 E. Washington. Call (312) 951-7600, ext. 100 or visit Tcwmag.com.

SoFA Chicago
Nov. 2-4: The international Sculpture Objects, Functional Art + Design Fair returns with a rich array of work presented by nearly 70 galleries and dealers from 10 countries. At this year's show, look for a significant offering of limited-edition furniture, large-scale sculptures by the renowned Albert Paley and a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Studio Glass movement. Don't miss other exhibits such as "Eye of Mr. I: A Tribute," which honors Chicago artist Mr. Imagination. General admission, $15; three-day pass, $25. Navy Pier's Festival Hall, 600 E. Grand. Visit Sofaexpo.com.

'The Odd Couple'
Nov. 2-Dec. 9: Second City veterans descend on Skokie like gangbusters as Northlight Theatre presents the Neil Simon classic "The Odd Couple." Headlining the cast are George Wendt as slobby sports writer Oscar and Tim Kazurinsky (who played Charles Sweetchuck in "Police Academy") as his fastidious roommate Felix. Rounding out the ensemble are fellow Second City veterans Bruce Jarchow, William Dick, Molly Glynn, Marc Grapey, Katherine Keberlein and Phil Ridarelli. Preview tickets (through Nov. 8), $25-$54; regular run, $25-$72. 9501 Skokie, Skokie. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit Northlight.org.

'Macy's holiday window and tree lighting'
Nov. 3: Jack-o'-lanterns may still be sitting on front porches across the city, but when Macy's unveils its Christmas decorations, there's no doubt about it — the holiday season is here. Workers have been busy installing the store's iconic window displays for weeks and come Nov. 3, all will be revealed. At noon singer Chris Mann, a finalist on NBC's "The Voice," will perform at the 105th lighting of the tree in the historic Walnut Room. 111 N. State, (312) 781-1000, Macy's.com.
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The CHICAGO SUN-TIMES is a media sponsor of Credible. Colorful. Charitable.
Twas an evening dedicated to innovation as more than 800 esteemed guests — including co-chairmen Ron and Christina Gidwitz, Lisa and Jeff Aronin, Barry and Mary Ann MacLean and partygoers such as state Sen. Kwame Raoul and Shirley and Walter Massey — came together on Oct. 22 to raise a record amount for the Museum of Science and Industry at the 32nd annual Columbian Ball. Upon entering, guests were greeted by Anybot QB2 — a remote-controlled robot — before enjoying a cocktail reception in the museum's Rotunda, followed by dinner on the front lawn. Celebrity auctioneer Bill Kurtis took the stage for the live auction, which raised $242,000 with just eight items. Named after the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the annual ball helps support the museum's exhibits, educational programs and experiences. This year's event netted $2.2 million to help contribute to the museum's vision.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.
A CLEAN SLEATER

n tune with the overcast weather, the season’s coolest color is a sharp gray. Far from drab and bleak, a great gray is a nod to the futuristic style that is dominating runway trends. For men a slate suit can be amped up with bright shoes or ties. Meanwhile, stylish women can accessorize with statement jewelry or chic heels. It’s fashion’s “gray escape,” but we hope it’s here to stay.
It was a different kind of walk for a cure as the Rush Women's Board staged its annual fashion show with notables such as philanthropist Meredith Wood-Prince, broadcaster Brittany Payton and Fox 32's Robin Robinson strutting down the runway. Held at the Palmer House Hilton (17 E. Monroe), more than 600 of Chicago's chicest philanthropists turned out to sip cocktails, indulge in desserts and see the latest collections from designers like Ralph Lauren and Oscar de la Renta. Appropriately themed “Envision,” proceeds from the night benefited Rush's state-of-the-art early breast cancer detection and treatment programs. After 86 years, the fashion show has become a staple of the social calendar and a cure for the common fundraiser — as proof, the massive night helped net $500,000 for the behemoth hospital.
Literary fanatics came out in droves for the annual Carl Sandburg Literary Awards Dinner. At the Oct. 17 event, held at the UIC Forum (725 W. Roosevelt) and presented by the Chicago Public Library Foundation, book lovers were able to get to know their favorite authors, as each table was teamed up with a notable writer with Chicago ties. The evening’s honorees, including Don DeLillo (White Noise, Mao II), Walter Isaacson (Steve Jobs) and Nami Mun (Miles from Nowhere), were joined by other notables such as Bill Kurtis, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and co-chairs Trisha Rooney Alden and Michael Sacks (an investor in Sun-Times’ parent company Wrapports). Proceeds from the night benefit programs like One Book, One Chicago and the Family Summer Reading Program.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.

Help the Chicago Public Library Foundation to provide the free resources children need to develop critical reading, writing, math, science and study skills — and discover their love of learning. The Sun-Times Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust will match your donation to the Chicago Public Library Foundation, up to a total of $50,000, now through Nov. 27. Donate at: Suntimesfoundation.org/library.

PHOTOS BY RAMZI DREESSEN
Bundle up this season in fur-trimmed attire

1. Michael Kors: shearling trim cardigan, $495, Nordstrom, 520 N. Michigan; Shop.nordstrom.com
2. Paul Stuart: shearling gloves, $187.50, 107 E. Oak; Paulstuart.com
3. Woolrich John Rich & Bros.: Hudson field coat, $595, Park & Bond; Parkandbond.com
4. Gap: denim puffer vest, $79.95, 555 N. Michigan; Gap.com
5. Ermenegildo Zegna: double cotton trench, $2,995, 645 N. Michigan; Store.zegna.com
7. Ugg Australia: men’s Ascot driving slipper, $120, 122 N. State; UggAustralia.com

“Windy City Live” host Ryan Chiaverini in Loro Piana at the Rush Woman's Board 86th annual fashion show. | RAMZI DRESSEN•SPLASH
MR. CLEAN CUT
The everyman’s guide to good grooming

*HAIR STYLING*
1. For maximum hold: Mensecience hair styling gel, $18, Barney’s New York, 15 E. Oak; Mensecience.com
2. For matte: American Crew molding clay, $18, Halo [For Men], 70 W. Madison; Americancrew.com
3. For shine: Billy Jealousy hair forming cream, $16, Ulta, 114 S. State; Billyjealousy.com

*COLOGNE*
4. Strong and smooth: Rocawear Evolution, $67, Macy’s 111 N. State; Rocawear.com

*SHandING*
5. Truefitt & Hill Regency SB: Horn/4in brush, $89, Truefitt & Hill Chicago, 900 N. Michigan; Truefittchicago.com
6. Sabon citrus aftershave cream, $30, 1152-54 N. State; Sabonnyc.com

*SHAVING*
5. Truefitt & Hill Regency SB: Horn/4in brush, $89, Truefitt & Hill Chicago, 900 N. Michigan; Truefittchicago.com
6. Sabon citrus aftershave cream, $30, 1152-54 N. State; Sabonnyc.com

*TRAVEL*
7. Baxter of California travel kit, $50, Space 519, 900 N. Michigan; Space519.com

Looks from the Paul Stuart Phineas Cole Collection

Suit up(grade)
A classic black suit is always in style, but sometimes a dapper gent wants to kick it up a notch. That’s where the Paul Stuart Phineas Cole Collection comes in. The new line features slimmer fit suits in unexpected hues such as blues, reds and purples, plus unique patterns such as olive herringbone. Shop the new suiting at the Paul Stuart store (107 E. Oak).

Kind hearted
On Nov. 1 and 2, Saks Fifth Avenue (700 N. Michigan) teams up with fair trade line Same Sky for an ethical shopping event. Browse the collection of hand-blown glass beaded bracelets and necklaces, fabric bracelets, cufflinks and more, all of which are handmade by women in Africa living with HIV/AIDS. One hundred percent of proceeds from the sale of Same Sky jewelry will help fund its mission to expand and employ more women artisans around the world.

Aromatic affair
Find the perfect fall fragrance at Nordstrom Old Orchard's Fall Fragrance Festival (4937 Old Orchard, Skokie), where experts will be on hand to help sniff out the right scent for any style. Spend $150 and walk away with a mirrored tray, perfect for holding brand new bottles of perfume.

Face first
Put your best face forward at Macy’s Northbrook (1555 Northbrook) as it hosts a fashionable boudoir makeup bash with MAC Cosmetics Nov. 1 through 3. Work one-on-one with MAC artists to find a holiday beauty look, then keep it going at home with products like the Primped Out eye bag, the Sinfully Chic face kit and Guilty Passions lip gloss.
THE SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS RAPPER REMEMBERS LIFE ON THE WEST SIDE — AND WORKS TO GIVE BACK TO THE CITY HE LOVES

BY SUSANNA NEGOVAN

feeling lupe
Rapper Lupe Fiasco — born Wasalu Muhammad Jaco — comes by his rebellion honestly.

He recalls how his late father, a Black Panther, threw eggs at Mayor Richard J. Daley in 1962 when the Robert Taylor Homes opened on the South Side.

“He got whopped for that,” says Fiasco, 30, who grew up toggling between his mother’s home in East Garfield Park and his father’s in south suburban Harvey.

And though Fiasco has risen to global stardom — as a Grammy-winning artist with four albums to his credit (including "Food & Liquor II: The Great American Rap Album Pt. 1," which was released Sept. 25) — he is only six years removed from his former life in a gang-ridden part of Chicago, and it still haunts him.

In was obvious in July when the socially conscious rapper appeared on an MTV show, and the host prefaced the interview with a 2006 clip that was shot in Fiasco’s former West Side neighborhood.

Watching the video brought him back to that troubled time. “We’re standing in the alley, and it was like, ‘Oh, you just chose the alley for dramatic effect,’” explains Fiasco. “No, we used to play in that alley. We used to run from the police in that alley. Prostitutes used to turn tricks in that alley. People used to sell drugs in that alley. And then you get these shots of these people who are ex-cons, people who are currently incarcerated, people who are dead.” On the MTV show he was visibly shaken, barely able to speak about the “ghosts” of friends who had been murdered since the video was shot.

Chicago’s rising murder rate is a subject Fiasco, a Sun-Times Daily Splash columnist, has addressed in recent interviews. After a Twitter battle erupted with local rapper Chief Keef, Fiasco said he might retire from the music industry. Now, he broaches the topic of violence more carefully.

The new album, he says, is about the “duality” of food and liquor. “I think food is good; I think liquor is bad,” says Fiasco, a Muslim who shuns alcohol. “It speaks to the human condition. I think everybody has a little bit of good and a little bit of bad.”

But the rapper, who now splits his time between a home in Chicago’s “exurbs” and Los Angeles, balances his more introspective lyrics with songs like “Put Em Up” and “Form Follows Function,” which “have nothing to do with any type of agenda,” he says. “It’s just rap for the sake of rap as an art form.”

That duality goes further than the album: While he laments hip-hop consumerism (“the only thing that’s marketed to the hood is its own destruction: cigarettes, alcohol”), he’s also on the cover of this month’s Dub magazine, which features him talking about his car collection. He has a penchant for high-end clothing brands like Yohji Yamamoto’s Y-3 and Jeremy Scott, whose New York fashion show he attended in September.

Those contradictions may stem from the very thing that helped him rise above the circumstances of his childhood.

Describing his home on the West Side, which was in Gangster Disciples territory (he says his brother was a member of the gang), “There’s multiple views,” he says. “And when I say that I literally mean views from where we lived. We lived right on Madison, and from the alley all you’re seeing is a burned-out building. But if you walk up a block, you see the Sears Tower. So you knew that it was a way out; there was the Emerald City in the distance.”

His parents helped nurture his love of books — especially poetry — and shaped the lyricist he would become. “My father was a weird guy,” says Fiasco. “He would take us to Downers Grove and to all these different places to go to an army surplus store, or go here to do a karate class. We knew from an early age that the city was bigger than just our block.”

Fiasco’s mother was equally influential. “She was a part of all these different movements, and intellectual and fashionable things, and living life on the scene as a model and a gourmet chef,” he says. As a result, he grew up surrounded by a “collection of National Geographics and a poster of Malcolm X and a bust of the Sphinx — that was our house in the ghettos.”

These days, Fiasco’s social consciousness is at another level: During the summer he performed at the Electric Burma concert for Amnesty International with Bob Geldof and Bono, but he is still worried about Chicago.

The Lupe Fiasco Foundation is step one in his goal to “take back the city.” Over the summer, he provided 100 vegan meals each day during the monthlong Ramadan to reach Chicagoans in food deserts. His foundation also recently partnered with After School Matters on the Little Man Project, which provides a hip-hop music curriculum to inner-city youth.

“It’s music, art, theater, all these multimedia things,” he says. “One kid’s going to write the score, another kid’s going to write the raps, another’s going to stage it, another’s going to act.” He sees this as part of the solution; helping stem the city’s rising murder rate is “all about restructuring the cultural agency from one of corporate exploitation on every level to one of cultural advancement,” he says. “It gives people an incentive to stay alive, to do better for themselves, to participate in something.”

Sometimes, all it takes is a different point of view.
INTERNET + SERVICE - HASSLE = SHOPPING 3.0

THANKS TO THE LIKES OF TRUNK CLUB AND BONOBOS, A NEW ERA HAS DAWNED FOR MEN'S STYLE — LET'S CALL IT THE AGE OF ENLIGHTEN-FIT — AND WITH AFFORDABLE STYLISTS, TA LORED THREADS AND ONLINE SERVICE, A DUDE'S LIFE HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER

BY SETH PU NAM
IT'S A STORY MADE FOR THE DIGITAL AGE. Brian Spaly and Andy Dunn started out as roommates while attending Stanford University business school. Spaly, a soccer and hockey player from Detroit, couldn't seem to find pants that had enough room to accommodate an in-shape waist plus an athletic bottom and thighs, so he borrowed a sewing machine and learned to alter his own ill-fitting pairs.

After receiving a bevy of compliments, he and Dunn decided to launch Bonobos in 2007, an online trouser startup dedicated to finding the perfect fit without the worry of brick-and-mortar costs. But they split two years later due to creative differences, with Dunn continuing to run Bonobos while Spaly accepted a role as the CEO of Trunk Club, another online outfitter that sends head-to-toe outfits straight to guys' doorsteps.

While their story could have ended in bad blood, it takes a positive turn — especially for Chicago's stylish gentlemen. This month, both have debuted River North spaces within blocks of each other. They exchange text messages about trends in the city, and Dunn calls Spaly the "creative visionary" behind Bonobos' founding. They take turns doing case studies of their successes for students back at Stanford. "We're excited to still be in partnership," Dunn explains. "We're both trying to make it easy for guys to look good."

They're also both Chicago guys at heart: Dunn grew up here wearing Bulls Starter jackets and attended Northwestern for undergrad, and Spaly is a transplant who now lives in River North. "We have an authentic sense of what sucks about shopping, and we're fixing it for guys," Spaly says. "I get confused shopping online, and I'm a ninja — this is what I do for a living." He cites an example: "I bought shoes the other day, and the picture was totally different than the shoe. It was a hassle, and not easy to return."

It's the classic complaint: Guys hate shopping. It's hard to know, much less find, what you want. And you learn to shy away from the two sources most likely to try to sway you: pushy salespeople and significant others. But the Bonobos and Trunk Club business models have found a way to further decode a shopping process that's infamously frustrating for men.

At the new Bonobos Guideshop, the fourth outpost for the New York-based business, men can shop a curated showroom with samples of the company's online inventory. "If you're going to build a company around fit, you have to give your customers an opportunity to try things on," Dunn says.

Guys can schedule a free consultation online (Bonobos.com/guideshop), then drop by the showroom and spend 30 minutes with a guide picking through fit, style and color preferences. Guys order the products they fall in love with, which show up on the customer's doorstep within days.

Bonobos' guides are trained to help men find clothes that fit well and suit their personal styles. And over time, the company plans to take that information and develop an even better online experience tailored around what happened offline.

"Part of what makes shopping in person potentially wonderful is that you're actually having a relationship with the person you're transacting with," Dunn says.

Trunk Club, in turn, swung open the doors to a 30,000-square-foot addition to its loft headquarters at Ohio and Orleans streets on Oct. 23. "It was really a question of being out of space; business was growing quickly," Spaly says. "So now you can stop by our charming, alcohol-laden warehouse where you meet cool people and learn something interesting."

While Bonobos is its own singular brand, Trunk Club offers high-end clothing across a variety of well-known lines starting around $80 for shoes, shirts and accessories, going up to $300 for jackets. Members have 10 days to try on their gear at home, and what they don't like they can send back with free shipping. The model has always included a consultation with a stylist (by phone or email), but with the new space guys can walk into a physical location and get some one-on-one time if that's what they prefer.

As for the proximity of his former company, Spaly is nothing but complimentary — pairs of Bonobos pants are even included regularly in members' trunks. "We're excited for them to be here in Chicago," he says. "We're rooting for great people, and we feel like we're all trying to get guys to care more about how they look and stop going to the mall."

And so far, they're doing it: delivering guys great clothes conveniently — and maybe even showing them a good time while they're at it.

Bonobos Guideshop: 313 W. Superior; (877) 294-7737; Bonobos.com
Trunk Club: 325 W. Ohio; (866) 406-2235; Trunkclub.com

The new Massif collection

MORE IN STORE

T he Chicago men's fashion market is turning up the volume with a slew of new stores. Take a look at who else is making noise around town.

Who: THE MASSIF COLLECTION
Where: Bloomingdale's (900 N. Michigan)
What: Military-inspired work wear made with stretch fabric blends to wick moisture.

Who: ZAHAROFF
Where: 110 E. Oak
What: Local designer George Zaharoff's flagship store and collaboration with beauty expert Marilyn Miglin. The focus is on luxury wear — suits, trousers, shirts — with tailored silhouettes.
In most football-loving cities, it's the quarterback or wide receiver that commands the spotlight. And while we love Jay Cutler and Brandon Marshall, here in Chicago, we can't get enough of Bears' kicker Robbie Gould — and for good reason. In his eight seasons with the team he's established himself as one of the league's most reliable players. His 86.1 percent field goal success rate makes him the most accurate kicker in Bears history, and the fifth most accurate in the history of the NFL. He holds a slew of other franchise records as well, including field goals in a season (32) and consecutive games with a field goal (22). But it's his ability to come through in the clutch that endears him most to Bears fans: He's 37-of-43 in field goals during the last two minutes of a game — and who can forget the 49-yard overtime kick in 2006 that took the Bears to the NFC championship en route to the Super Bowl?

But his off the field accomplishments are equally as impressive. His foundation, The Goulden Touch (Gouldentouch.org), teams up with organizations to throw events such as golf and bowling tournaments and sports viewing parties that raise money for Chicagoans in need, and he's a staple on the philanthropic scene, supporting non-profits such as Working in the Schools (WTTS) and City Year. (He's especially passionate about education; his mom is a teacher in Pennsylvania).

During the week, Gould attends team practices and workouts, takes Pilates classes and works on his charity in his spare time. But while most Chicagoans kick back on Sundays, for Gould, it's show time. Here he details his typical game day, from start to finish.

7 A.M.
Gould wakes up in his home in the Northern suburbs.

8 A.M.
He swings by Starbucks for a Venti Awake tea, his favorite.

8:15 A.M.
Gould and some teammates drop by the South Loop Whole Foods for an on-the-go breakfast. His gameday meal? A breakfast burrito, strawberries and home fries. He also picks up a blackened chicken salad and fruit for halftime. "It's a long day and I try to eat small meals to keep my energy level up for the entire game," he says.

9 A.M.
He reports to the Soldier Field locker room

10:50 A.M.
Gould warms up by hitting the hot tub, stretching and listening to music (he loves Brad Paisley) before heading onto the field to practice.

6 P.M.
Gould is steak fan, so he heads to Gibson's Bar & Steakhouse or David Burke's Primehouse for a meaty post-game meal with family and friends.

9 P.M.
He kicks back on the couch and decompresses with Sunday Night Football.

Noon
Game Time!
"I'm excited and pumped during games," he says.
On November 14th, Ellen M. Costello, CEO & US Country Head, BMO Financial Corp., will receive the 2012 Daniel H. Burnham Award for Distinguished Leadership from the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. This marks the 21st year the Burnham Award has been given, and over these two decades, it has come to symbolize the importance of civic involvement and has served as a reminder of how Chicago thrives with a fully engaged business community.

HOST COMMITTEE

Ellen M. Costello - BMO Financial Corp.
Deborah L. DeHaas - Deloitte LLP
John W. Estey - S&C Electric
James A. Gordon - The Edgewater Funds

David B. Speer - Illinois Tool Works Inc.
Scott C. Swanson - Charter One & RBS Citizens
Glenn F. Tilton - JPMorgan Chase
Miles D. White - Abbott Laboratories

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012 ~ HILTON CHICAGO
5:30PM RECEPTION & SILENT AUCTION ~ 6:30PM DINNER

To register, please call 312.553.2000 or visit chicagolandchamber.org
ever after

Lindsay Segal and Louie Jacobsohn celebrated with friends at The Violet Hour.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALEB CONDIT

Lindsay Segal and Louie Jacobsohn

As one-half of the team behind upscale consignment business Luxury Garage Sale (Luxurygaragesale.com), Lindsay Segal is known for her love of vintage style and ability to rock almost any piece from any time period. So it's no surprise that she celebrated her wedding in a long striped vintage Missoni dress, modern-day Miu Miu shoes and earrings from the 1980s. But the groom's style was hardly an afterthought: Louie Jacobsohn, a commercial real estate broker, turned out in an Ermenegildo Zegna suit and shirt topped with a tie from Bar-ney's New York.

The bride and groom were introduced in 2007 by Segal's lifelong friend and business partner, Brielle Buchberg. Because Segal and Buchberg are in the throes of launching Luxury Garage Sale's first storefront at 1658 N. Wells (with Jacobsohn helping out on the real estate end), the couple wanted a wedding celebration that was fun but no-frills. They tied the knot in a small outdoor ceremony on Aug. 25 at the Cheney Mansion in Oak Park, and after a three-week European honeymoon they returned home to Chicago to celebrate their nuptials with 150 of their friends and family members in an all-out bash at The Violet Hour. “It wasn't the [typical situation] of going through the ceremony, then a formal dinner. Our guests were able to come in, dance and have fun,” Segal says. The food matched the lighthearted tone as revelers noshed on sliders, cotton candy and cake pops decorated with Segal’s and Jacobsohn’s faces.

— Katerina Bizios

Cheers!

Congratulations to Cullen Brown and his wife Audra on the birth of their new baby girl, Harper James. Cullen is a curator at Gilt City (Giltcity.com/chicago), an online luxury retailer owned by Gilt Groupe.

We're thrilled for Chicago native Nate Berkus on the publication of his new book, The Things That Matter. He recently dropped by his hometown on his book tour, stopping to sign copies of the memoir at Jayson Home & Garden then dining with an intimate group of friends at Sepia.

Caroline Mazurek won the fifth annual “Mario, Make Me a Model” competition, presented by Mario Tricoci Hair Salons and Day Spas. Mazurek and the four other finalists endured a 12-week model “boot camp” before strutting their stuff in a runway show at Fashion Focus Chicago. Mazurek’s reward? A coveted contract with Factor Models.

Send us your cheers at Splash@suntimes.com
sunday dinner

Nautical bites

Dive into new Wicker Park restaurant The Savoy

BY MADELINE SKAGGS

Wooden barstools, Edison light bulbs and a narrow, galleylike floor plan make walking into The Savoy reminiscent of boarding a classic sailboat. From the light, bright front space with open kitchen and raw bar to the dark Absinthe lounge in the rear, each step takes you a step further into a sea-centric voyage.

“The concept arose from seeing the space itself,” says owner Ricky Moore. “It lent itself to a concept with multiple areas within one larger space.” But it wasn’t just the building that Moore found appealing (even though he fell so in love with it that he moved into the upstairs apartment with his pup, Darshan). The long-time Wicker Park resident felt the neighborhood lacked quality seafood options.

so he opened The Savoy (named for the legendary Prohibition-era London hotel) and put chef Brian Greene at the helm.

A veteran of M Restaurant in Highland Park and Tramonto’s Steak and Seafood, Greene’s menu incorporates world flavors into fresh cuts of fish. The togarashi ahi tuna lettuce wraps are served with delicate salty-sweet soy ginger vinaigrette and mixed with crunchy pickled peppers, rice noodles and cabbage ($12). Pickled oysters topped with cucumber and caviar have a milder fish flavor—perfect for oyster rookies ($20 for six). And Greene’s clam chowder, full of tender chunks of fish in a creamy broth ($8), is topped with fried Japanese sunchokes, and is the perfect accompaniment to cool fall nights.

And what’s a good sail without a strong libation? Mixologist Deidre Darling is shaking up the long-shrouded Absinthe, using the liqueur in both classic cocktails and her own concoctions. The bar is stocked with 42 varieties, each blend offering its own unique flavor, from the traditional licorice to undertones of violet.

The Savoy is open seven days a week for lunch, dinner and late-night dining; brunch launches in early November. 1408 N. Milwaukee, (773) 698-6952; Savoychicago.com

Le Colonial • 937 N. Rush St.
Le Colonial’s Sup Do Bien is a bouillabaisse of coconut saffron lemongrass broth and aromatic herbs served with vermicelli noodles and a generous combination of lobster, mussels, shrimp, scallops and whitefish.

Irazu • 1865 N. Milwaukee Ave.
For a delicate and flavorful start to your meal, try Irazu’s white fish ceviche appetizer. Marinated in lime juice and served mild or spicy, this fresh appetizer is served with housemade crackers for scooping.

Nick’s Fishmarket Bar & Grill
222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza
Nick’s Spicy Peanut Marinated Ahi Tuna is seared rare and glazed in a housemade sauce. Served with a snow pea and shiitake mushroom sauté and tropical fruit relish over jasmine rice, this dish delivers a satisfying seafood fix.

4 Suyos • 2727 W. Fullerton Ave.
For a heartier seafood dish, try 4 Suyos’ Arroz Con Mariscos. This Peruvian paella combines mixed seafood and rice, flavored with leche de tigre and topped with Parmesan cheese.

If you fancy The Savoy’s refined menu, GrubHub staffers recommend these delicious seafood dishes, each one hand-selected and ready to be delivered right to your dinner table.

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GrubHub
Takes to The Seas

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GrubHub
happy eating

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SPLASH | OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 3, 2012
There's more to modern than just Mies

Fans of modernism who want more than just sleek architecture can get it all at The Montgomery (500 W. Superior), the extraordinary 2006 adaptive reuse of the 1974 travertine-clad Montgomery Ward corporate headquarters designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki of World Trade Center fame. The building has higher ceilings and more space than a typical midcentury residence, plus present-day amenities like a private dog park, a roof deck with a herb garden, a state-of-the-art fitness center and more. And since this is the only Yamasaki-designed residential building in existence, these 245 condos are akin to limited-edition artworks.

One of the most authentic units in the building from a modernist perspective is unit 912, a 2,245-square-foot, three-bedroom 2.5-bath for $1 million, owned by Karen and Lance Josal. He's president and CEO of the global architecture giant RTKL; she's a graphic designer and both are fans of a streamlined aesthetic. They gave the unit's contemporary finishes and lighting a modernist twist when they bought it in 2007 with elegant period options, including Artemide fixtures, travertine ledges using stone from the building's original quarry and flagstone walls, and filled it with equally authentic furniture that also can be bought with the place as the couple is transferring to Texas.

Contact Koenig & Strey broker Michael Rosenblum at (312) 893-8162, Michael@michaelrosenblumpresents.com.

Entry-level luxury

Perhaps in a nod to the proletariat mission of modernist design, The Montgomery (500 W. Superior) sports several less pricey units along with its million-dollar-plus pads. "They're an exceptional deal because you get to enjoy the gorgeous lobby designed by Chicago architect Darcy Bonner and great luxury amenities," notes Koenig & Strey broker Michael Rosenblum (312-893-8162, Michael@michaelrosenblumpresents.com), who is also marketing unit 2201, a 1,153-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bathroom home with a balcony, for $500,000. Other well-priced building beauties include unit 1101, a 1,309-square-foot, two-bedroom, 2.5 bathroom with a den for $500,000, marketed through Koenig & Strey broker Debra Dobbs (312-475-4522, Ddobbs@koenigstrey.com) and unit 1904, a 1,095-square-foot, two-bedroom, two-bathroom for $429,900, sold through Conlon Real Estate broker Mont Wickham (630-417-5015, Montwickham@conlonrealestate.com).

KNOW YOUR STUFF

Mid-Century Modern: Living with mid-century modern design ($39.99; available at Amazon.com) will teach you everything you need to know about the iconic design period. As will its author, internationally known British antique maven Judith Miller, who will give a free lecture on the topic and sign copies on Nov. 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Wright retailer and auction house, 1440 W. Hubbard. RSVP required. Call (312) 563-0020.
'Bachelorette' finds love

Jillian Harris, who starred in season five of "The Bachelorette," filled me in on what she's been up to since she broke up with Ed Swiderski and left Chicago two years ago. Her biggest announcement is that she managed to find love back in her hometown of Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, with professional snowboarder Justin Pasutto.

"I met the sweetest guy this summer," she gushed. "We are inseparable. We met at a bar in Kelowna."

Jillian didn't want to get ahead of herself when I asked if she sees a ring in the near future, but she did say she believes he's the guy for her. "I'm pretty sure he's not going anywhere and I'm not going anywhere!"

She's also working on a new show titled "Love It or List It Vancouver" that premieres in Canada in January, and she claims it should eventually air in the states, too.

She says she doesn't talk to Ed often, but they are on good terms. She also said that she did what she could to defend him during his recent stint on "Bachelor Pad." "I just want the best for him and for him to be happy," Jillian said.

When it comes to recent "Bachelor" breakups — both Emily Maynard and Jef Holm and Courtney Robertson and Ben Flajnik have split — she believes the pressure of the media just got to them. "The pressure from the media and fans to stay together is too much," she said. "You're engaged to someone you barely know and everyone is asking when you are getting married. It's unhealthy."

The truth behind the 'Bachelor' breakups

The news of the recent "Bachelor" breakups comes as no surprise to most, but there's more than meets the eye when it comes to both reality couples.

Recent reports accused Emily Maynard and Jef Holm of sticking together only to promote the "Bachelor" brand and to capitalize as much as possible on their union. This is no shock because Emily has faked an engagement before! She was never engaged to NASCAR race car driver Ricky Hendrick, which she claimed on both "Bachelor" shows. After she found out she was pregnant with his baby, she put on a ring that Ricky had given to a former fiancé. Even Ricky's obituary listed Emily as just a girlfriend. So the fact that Emily faked her relationship with Jeff is really old news. This is what she does!

Courtney Robertson and Ben Flajnik's relationship was a little more real, but it also was doomed from the beginning. My sources say that Courtney truly fell in love with Ben and wanted to marry him; however, after Ben saw how awful she was on TV he lost interest real fast. My source says that he stuck it out for as long as he did because of the perks he got from staying with her, but he never intended to marry her once he saw her true colors.
ask jenny

THE NEW NORMAL

Actress and author Jenny McCarthy offers advice to a suddenly single Wheaton man

Dear Jenny:
I was married for 21 years and got divorced in January 2011. I'm having a tough time dating and hope you can give me some help.
— Norm from Wheaton

Jenny says: Oh man, Norm. I feel ya. I know exactly what you are going through. I was married for seven years and then jumped into a relationship for another five. When I was finally free, I was scared. I didn't know how to date. I would meet someone and stay with them for five to seven years just so I didn't have to go on any dates,

Now I'm proud to say I've turned into a date-aholic. So you asked the right person, my friend.

The first thing you need to do is hang out where single people are. If you are young, it’s the clubs. If you're older, restaurant bars would be the place to go. Please make sure you are up to date with your wardrobe and make sure you are groomed. I don't mind a few extra pounds on a guy, but if you're sporting a see-through comb over, you're in trouble. It is time to shave your head. Bald guys are sexy.

If you are not doing well in public settings, then try online dating. I did it for a while, but then I couldn’t differentiate between a serial killer and a nice guy, so I quit.

My dad is also single and when I put him on a dating site I could not believe the number of women who were asking him out. He enjoyed being able to weed out those who were living with 30 cats and find women with tastes similar to his.

So, get current in your style and with technology and get your butt out there. There is a really nice woman waiting for a really nice man named Norm.

Send Jenny your questions, email Askjenny@suntimes.com.
As recommended in Dr. Oz’s show and by many doctors - UVB is a natural source of Vitamin D

$10 Vitamin D membership  $25 custom air brushing
Merry Clinique Makeup Event

It's the season to sparkle! Create your own party-perfect look for any occasion with eyes that twinkle and lips that shimmer. Ask a Clinique Expert to show you a Merry Winks makeup look for life-of-the-party eyes or play up pretty, bold lips with Merry Kisses.

Take home a free treat with your consultation.
Get your choice of a travel-size Instant-Lift For Brows in Soft Blonde or Soft Brown or a 5-week-supply* of Butter Shine Lipstick in Pink-a-Boo or Baby Baby. Allergy Tested. 100% Fragrance Free.

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One per customer while supplies last.

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FREE SHIPPING AT MACYS.COM with $50 fragrance or beauty purchase. No promo code needed; exclusions apply. Enter the WebID in the search box at MACYS.COM to order. *When used twice a day. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's and selection may vary by store.
Prices & merchandise may differ on macy's.com. 2090281.
Simple Gifts Concert Series' 'Piano Duos' concert is at 5 p.m. Nov. 4 at Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St. Call (847) 724-2210 or see gccucc.org.

So You Think You Can Dance — Live Tour 2012 takes place at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Akoo Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Visit rosemonttheatre.com.

Rising music stars Lucy Wainwright Roche (above) and Lindsay Fuller perform Nov. 7 at S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. See evanstonspace.com.

A costume curator will discuss the 'Bedrooms, Bathrooms and Boudoirs' exhibit at Evanston's Charles Gates Dawes House at 7 p.m. Nov. 8. See evanstonhistorycenter.org.

Glenview House's Ladies Night with wine, dining, a book talk and pampering is 6:30 p.m. Nov. 8 at the restaurant, 1843 Glenview Road. Visit theglenviewhouse.com.
Guide to bazaars, boutiques & craft fairs

The holidays are a time to enjoy family and friends and to give thanks for all that we have, as well as give gifts to our loved ones. For very special handmade gifts, check out the area's holiday bazaars, boutiques and craft fairs listed.

The annual Candy Cane Holiday Bazaar, hosted by the Glenview Senior Center, will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 7-8 and from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 9 at 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview. Items include bread sales, handicrafts, gifts, children's items, American Girl clothes, pillows, quilts and festive decorations. There will also be a Holiday Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 3-4 in the Main Lobby, Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview.

Westminster Place holiday crafts made by residents will be on sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 9 at Westminster Place of Presbyterian Homes, 3131 Simpson St., Evanston. Bake sale items and a Victorian doll house with furniture will be raffled. Lunch available for $7 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Geneva Place Dining Room. For more information, call (847) 492-4872.

The annual Arts & Craft Fair hosted by Resurrection College Prep High School will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. Admission is $5 for adults, $2 for seniors and children younger than 10 are free. For more information, call 773-775-6616 or go to www.reshs.org.

The annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale, hosted by Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Women's Club Queen of Peace Guild, will be at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 10 and 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 11 in Paluch Hall, 8300 Greenwood Ave., Niles. There will be a variety of all handmade crafts, ornaments, wreaths, flower arrangements, gift baskets, needlepoint, afghans, baby knit quilts, dolls, home decorations, jewelry and more plus a grand raffle, bake sale, turkey booth and a Christmas stocking tree for added chances at gifts and items. There also will be
a variety of baked goods for sale. A lunch menu will be available. Proceeds benefit the parish. For more information, call the Ministry Center at (847) 823-2550.

Holiday Gift & Craft Show, hosted by Montclare Leyden Post #1284 Ladies Auxiliary VFW, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 10 at Messiah Lutheran Church Hall, 6201 W. Patterson Ave., Chicago. The event will include bake sale and raffles; lunch will be available. A $1 entrance fee provides cake and coffee. For more information, call Barb at (773) 481-2899.

Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale, hosted by the River Park Women of the Moose Chapter 780, will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 10 at the River Park Moose Lodge, 8601 W. Fullerton at River Road in River Grove from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 10.

The Fisher Dance Center Holiday Shopping Bazaar will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 11 at Fisher Dance Center, 807 Ridge Road, Wilmette to Benefit The Dance Foundation. The Shopping Bazaar will also include a cash raffle and a separate raffle of items. For more information, call 847-920-9121 or email office@fisherdancecenter.com.

A Holiday Boutique will be presented by Ezra Habonim The Niles Township Jewish Congregation 3 to 8 p.m. Nov. 14 at 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. There will be handmade jewelry, knitted sweaters, scarves, hand painted silk accessories, and hand painted and different clothing for children. For more information, call (847) 675-4141.

The Holiday Market is held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 16-17 at the Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Ave. The market features more than 20 local artists and artisans. Hot cider, lunch, desserts and beverages will be served in the cafe and a bake sale will feature homemade pastries and coupons for special orders, including pies for Thanksgiving. A raffle will feature items from participating artists and local merchants. For more information, call (847) 208-6872, go to www.ourplaceofnewtrier.org or email William Johnson at johnson@ourplaceofnewtrier.org.

The NWC Holiday Boutique will be 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Skokie Country Club, 500 Washington Ave., Glencoe. For more information, call 847-835-0600.

Have a bazaar, craft fair or holiday boutique you would like to add to this list? Email the information to hleszczewicz@pioneerlocal.com.
**People to watch**

**Anne Heaton**

Photos in Perspective: Images of the Okefenokee Swamp by Bob Tanner and of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico by Faigie Tanner grace the walls of Perspective Photography Gallery, 1310-1/2B Chicago Ave., Evanston through Nov. 25. Meet the artists at a reception from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3 and listen to them at an artists’ talk at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15.

A Weiss move: North Shore artist Nina Weiss is inviting everyone to her new home. The longtime adjunct professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago is having a grand opening of her studio space at Suite No. 12, 3150 Skokie Hwy, Highland Park from 5-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9. Weiss’ artwork is featured in the new book, "700 Artists of the Midwest" and in "Art in Hand" playing cards, both of which will be available for purchase at the opening. Aspiring artists who attend the event can register early for Weiss’ always filled art classes.

Colombian connection: Buy a copy of singer/songwriter Anne Heaton’s new album, “Honeycomb,” and help homeless children in Bogota, Colombia. The Evanston resident, who grew up in Wilmette, is donating a portion of the proceeds from her fall tour and her album sales to the cause through ninandes.org. Purchase a copy at her show at 8 p.m. Nov. 1 at S.P.A.C.E., 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Call (847) 492-8860 for reservations. Stream Heaton’s new album at www.anneheaton.com/newrelease.

Given a gift: Deerfield actor, director and playwright Tommy Lee Johnston is celebrating the publication of his play "Gifted" by Dramatic Publishing. The one-act play, set in a classroom, deals with bullying. It has been presented at area schools and other venues under Johnson’s direction. Catch it while you can: You only have until Nov. 4 to view Recent Works exhibit at the Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art, College of Lake County, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake. "Tarzanian Koppe" by Kathy Weavert of Highland Park, won a $100 Award of Merit; the $50 Honorable Mention went to Brooke Bally and Amy Robillard, both of Libertyville. See gallery.cicillinois.edu for exhibit hours.
Buffalo Grove writer comes home in print

BY LAURA AMANN | Contributor

It took leaving the Chicago suburbs to bring Jami Attenberg back.

The novelist grew up in northwest suburban Buffalo Grove. She's lived all over the country since then and found that the more time she spent away, the more she missed this area. Since she can't move back, the Brooklyn-based author did the next best thing: she set her new novel, The Middlesteins (Grand Central Publishing, 2012), smack in the town she grew up in and surrounded her characters with sights and sounds familiar from her childhood.

"This is obviously a work of fiction," says Attenberg. "But it's set in my community, where I grew up. It's a Jewish family and I'm Jewish."

Although the book is similar in ways to Attenberg's own life, it is by no means autobiographical.

The mother, Edie, suffers from a compulsive eating disorder which has her weighing in at 350 pounds and forces her family to pick sides in her battle.

Her husband Richard is a pharmacist who has buckled for years under the weight of Edie's strong-armed criticism. He leaves her after 30 years of marriage, unable to watch her kill herself with food any longer.

Their daughter Robin has Edie's cynicism and sharp retorts, but is unable and unwilling to do much more for her mother other than blame her father. Robin's brother Benny is a pot-smoking, father of two, married to Rachelle who suffers her own form of compulsion in trying to keep her family healthy and fit while saving her mother-in-law.

"I really wasn't interested in exploring the derogatory side of obesity," says Attenberg. "I wanted to write from a compassionate place."

The result is an engaging, complex book which, lucky for us, is filled with glimpses of familiar streets, stores and scenery.

"This is by far my favorite book of mine," says Attenberg. "I feel such fondness for it and the characters. It was very comforting to write about the suburbs of Chicago because I knew it so well; I could see it in my head. It was like visiting home, in a way."

Jami Attenberg, author of 'The Middlesteins'

7 p.m. Nov. 8
The Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln Ave.,
Chicago
(773) 293-2665 www.bookcellarinc.com

2 p.m. Nov. 11
Barnes & Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center,
Skokie
(847) 676-2230 barnesandnoble.com

7 p.m. Nov. 12
Indian Trails Library, 355 Schoenbeck
Road, Wheeling
(847) 459-4100
www.indiantrailslibrary.org

"FALL PREVENTION & RECOVERY STRATEGIES"

Wednesday, November 14 at 10 a.m.
Terrace Gardens Assisted Living
8415 Waukegan Rd • Morton Grove, IL

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's
Mindy Haglund, Social Worker and
Laura Filas, Physical Therapist will present:
- Safety strategies to minimize your risk
- Exercises to encourage stability, strength and independence
- Techniques for safely recovering from a fall

Gourmet desserts will be served! Following the presentation, tours will be available of Terrace Gardens... Morton Grove's beautiful new Assisted Living and Memory Care community!

RSVP at (847) 470-4550 or terracegardens.org
**Tiny Tim actor talks about ‘A Christmas Carol’**

**BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor**

A small chicken is all that the Cratchits plan to eat for Christmas dinner but the family is still having fun.

That's the word from 9-year-old Asher Ramaly, of Skokie, who plays Tiny Tim in the Devonshire Playhouse production of "A Christmas Carol: The Musical," 7 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 3-18, at Devonshire Cultural Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie.

The Alan Menken, Lynn Ahrens and Mike Ockrent musical is based on Charles Dickens' classic novel.

To celebrate the holiday, Asher said, Tiny Tim's family "sings a bunch of blessing songs."

As for Tiny Tim, "He's a poor child. He's very sweet. He's got one crutch, not two," the Skokie Montessori School fourth-grader said.

On the other hand, Tiny Tim's father's boss Scrooge is as mean as Tiny Tim is sweet.

"He just wants to be rich," Asher said. "He's a 'cheater.'"

Tickets are $11 for adults, $9 for students and seniors.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400 or visit www.skokieparks.org/devonshire-playhouse.

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**WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?**

Your kids will become junior entomologists, learning about the bugs around us, when the Creepy Crawly Zoo comes to the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6. Pick up free tickets starting at 3:30 p.m. that day.

For details, call (847) 324-3149 or visit www.skokielibrary.info.

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**GIVE THANKS**

... that you can spend time with your children, ages 6-10, making table decorations during Family Thanksgiving, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17 at Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge. Fee for family of 3 or 4 is $35 for nonmembers, $30 for members. Space is limited so register early.

For details, call (847) 823-6611 or visit www.bricktonartcenter.org.
‘Chekhov Shorts’ are always good for a laugh

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN | Contributor

Comedies don’t always stand the test of time.

But the Old World Theatre Company will rely on a master of laughable moments as it presents “Chekhov Shorts: An Evening of Comedic One Acts” at Skokie’s Congregation Kol Emeth weekends, Nov. 3-18.

“For the audience, they’re going to recognize these situations very quickly, even though these plays were written almost 120 years ago,” said Bill Raffeld of Chicago, the company’s artistic director. “There are a lot of wonderful comic devices in the play, a lot of mistaken identity, a lot of things in the play that will make the audience feel like they understand. These plays speak to today, but in a very funny way.”

Performing comedies, serious plays, farces and more, the troupe’s experienced actors have all studied at University of Illinois at Chicago at some point whether it has been in more recent years or in past decades.

Their mission is to concentrate on the script, the text, the characters, Raffeld said, so they work in a minimalist style.

“We do plays that are substantial, that are what I would call well-written plays from the classical standards, modern standards, so we’re always working with first-rate scripts,” he said.

This particular program focuses on Chekov’s early works that still resonate today, and Raffeld is confident audiences will be taken by their wonderful plots and characters.

The production consists of three one-act farces: “The Bear,” “The Marriage Proposal” and “The Dangers of Tobacco.”

Chicago’s Ginger Leopoldo plays the part of an 80-year-old maid in “The Bear.” She says that performing a classic piece — and a Chekhov work at that — is refreshing and thrilling because her more recent experience has included newer works, improv and sketches.

“To be able to have the opportunity to revisit something that’s highly acclaimed, has a real strong message that’s pertinent to today is really exciting,” she said. “I’m very honored and feel very privileged to have gotten cast and to be part of this.”
Big Band concert will aid jazz students

Jazz Community Big Band

It will be an evening of fine, big band jazz to support a new generation of jazz musicians.

"I'm proud of what we're doing and accomplishing in this short time with Jazz Community, in we're keeping Bill's memory alive with the music he loved through the band he created and built," said Marianne May of Norridge.

May, the non-musical leader of the Jazz Community Big Band, is talking about the Nov. 7 fundraising event benefit at FitzGerald's Nightclub in Berwyn.

The band's founder, the late Bill May, was her brother, and to support the Bill May Jazz Education Fund, a 60/40 raffle will be conducted during the show, with 60 percent of the money going to the Bill May Jazz Education Fund and 40 percent to the winner.

The band has already provided help for a new generation of jazz musicians. Recipients of its 2012 Summer Scholarship, Hoffman Estates High School students Matthew Capone, a trumpeter, and Carlos Garcia, a saxophonist, attended the Music Institute of Chicago's summer jazz camp this past June. They will perform a couple of numbers with the band at FitzGerald's.

"Bill was all about teaching his students not only music, but to be better people by taking charge of their lives by always striving to do their best," said May.

The 18-piece big band will play from a mix of charts from the Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and Thad Jones/Mel Lewis libraries, as well as arrangements by band members and some original compositions.

"We also want to make sure our audience feels like they're more than just spectators on Nov. 7, so we've asked them to provide suggestions as to what songs they might like to hear that evening with our "Listener's Choice" offering," she said.

Capri Ristorante, next door to FitzGerald's, is offering a 15 percent discount to Jazz Community fans that evening. Attendees can call ahead to place their order and pick-up and take to the club to enjoy during the concert.

Coordinating the fundraiser is a big job, said May, but "none of that matters when we're playing a gig — we're all having a blast!"
Troupe Scala of Cuba makes their U.S. debut with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's circus.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents 'Dragons'

Nov. 1-11
Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont
$13-$90
(847) 635-6601; www.allstatearena.com

Nov. 14-25
United Center, 1901 W. Madison, Chicago
$13-$90
(312) 455-4500; www.unitedcenter.com

A naughty and hilarious night out!

SPANK!
The Fifty Shades Parody

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Royal George Theatre • spankshow.com
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Chicago, get ready to be SPANK!’d

Contains Mature Content (duhl) | Groups Ten or More Save!
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SPANK! is not associated with, nor authorized by, author E.L. James or Vintage Press.
OPENING FRIDAY

FLIGHT

★★★½
Rated
R for drug and alcohol abuse, language, sexuality/nudity and an intense action sequence
Stars
Denzel Washington, Nadine Velazquez, Kelly Reilly
A pilot (Washington) saves a plane full of passengers with a death-defying emergency landing, but ends up being investigated for drugs and alcohol found in his system.

WRECK-IT RALPH

★★★½
Rated
PG for some rude humor and mild action/violence
Stars
John C. Reilly, Jane Lynch, Jack McBrayer
The misunderstood bad guy in a vintage video game (Reilly) sets out on an adventure to prove he can be a hero too. Rich Moore ("Futurama", "The Simpsons") directed the animated family comedy.

CLOUD ATLAS

★★★
Rated
R for violence, language, sexuality/nudity and some drug use
Stars
Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent
A variety of characters in six separate stories gradually connect over 500 years of history. Tom Tykwer ("Run, Lola Run"), Andy Wachowski and Lana Wachowski ("The Matrix") directed the fantasy adventure.

THE MAN WITH THE IRON FISTS

★★★½
Rated
R for strong sexuality including graphic nudity and frank dialogue
Stars
Russell Crowe, Helen Hunt, William H. Macy
A poet and journalist (Hawkes) who has lived most of his life in an iron lung begins a relationship with a sexual surrogate (Hunt). Ben Lewin ("The Favour, the Watch and the Very Big Fish") wrote and directed the drama.

ALEX CROSS

★★★★
Rated
PG-13 for violence including disturbing images, sexual content, language, drug references and nudity
Stars
Tyler Perry, Matthew Fox, Rachel Nichols
After learning that a member of his family has been murdered, detective Alex Cross (Perry) vows to track down the killer. Rob Cohen directed the crime thriller. The movie is based on James Patterson's "Alex Cross" book series.

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4

★★★★
Rated
R for language and some violence/terror
Stars
Katie Featherston, Kathryn Newton, Matt Shively
A suburban family notices strange goings-on when a mysterious woman (Featherston) and her spooky little boy move into the neighborhood. Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman ("Paranormal Activity 3"; "Catfish") directed the latest installment in the horror franchise.

SMASHED

★★★½
Rated
R for alcohol abuse, language, some sexual content and brief drug use
Stars
Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Aaron Paul, Octavia Spencer
A married couple (Paul, Winstead) whose relationship is based on a mutual love of alcohol have a difficult time adjusting when the woman decides to give up drinking. James Ponsoldt ("Off the Black") directed the drama, which won a Special Jury Prize at the Sundance festival.

A LATE QUARTET

★★★★
Rated
R for language and some sexuality
Stars
Christopher Walken, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener
On the eve of a string quartet's 25th-anniversary performance, the news that the leader (Walken) must retire leads to a power struggle within the group. Yaron Zilberman ("Watermarks") co-wrote and directed the drama.

STILL PLAYING

CHASING MAVERICKS

★★★
Rated
PG for thematic elements and some perilous action
Stars
Gerard Butler, Jonny Weston, Elizabeth Shue
When a young surfer (Weston) learns about the existence of a legendary wave near his home, he enlists the aid of a veteran (Butler) to help him tame it. Michael Apted and Curtis Hanson ("Gorillas in the Mist," "L.A. Confidential") directed the true-life adventure.

FUN SIZE

★★★
Rated
PG-13
Stars
Victoria Justice, Chelsea Handler, Ana Gasteyer
A high school girl's (Justice) dreams of an exciting Halloween are frustrated by her annoying little brother. Josh Schwartz ("The O.C.") directed the teen comedy.

THE SESSIONS

★★★
Rated
R for strong sexuality including graphic nudity and frank dialogue
Stars
John Hawkes, Helen Hunt, William H. Macy
A poet and journalist (Hawkes) who has lived most of his life in an iron lung begins a relationship with a sexual surrogate (Hunt). Ben Lewin ("The Favour, the Watch and the Very Big Fish") wrote and directed the drama.

ARGO

★★★★
Rated
R for language and some violent images
Stars
Ben Affleck, John Goodman, Alan Arkin, Bryan Cranston
When six Americans slip away from the American embassy during the Iranian hostage crisis, a CIA operative (Affleck) attempts to bring the escapees home by posing as a Canadian film producer and passing them off as members of his crew. Affleck also directed the espionage thriller.

HERE COMES THE BOOM

★★★
Rated
PG for bouts of MMA sports violence, some rude humor and language
Stars
Kevin James, Salma Hayek, Henry Winkler
A teacher (James) attempts to raise the money needed to save the music program in his high school by becoming a mixed martial arts fighter. Frank Coraci ("The Wedding Singer," "The Waterboy") directed the comedy.
Harrowing 'Flight' into addiction

BY BRUCE INGRAM  |  Film Critic

“Flight”  

★★★½

Just what the beleaguered airline industry needs: a movie that could make even the most confident flyer think twice about ever setting foot on an airplane again.

“Flight,” director Robert Zemeckis’ (“Back to the Future,” “Forrest Gump”) spectacular and devastating return to live-action after 12 years making motion-capture films, opens with what may be the single most harrowing plane crash in movie history. Two factors in the brilliantly executed, 20-minute sequence combine to make traveling by train, bus or even covered wagon seem attractive by comparison: a series of major equipment failures resulting in a power dive from 39,000 feet and a pilot who has prepared for the flight with a jolt of cocaine after an all-night booze binge.

After skillfully threading his way through a whopping storm, Capt. Whip Whitaker (Denzel Washington) promptly falls asleep in the cockpit. He's rudely awakened by his panicky co-pilot to learn that the hydraulics system is down, the tail elevators are locked in a downward position and they are all going to die.

Fortunately, either Whitaker's natural genius for flying kicks in or the booze and drugs give him the nerve to attempt the impossible. Close to the ground, he rolls the airplane upside down to level off its flight, then, with one engine after another failing, flips it right-side up again just in time for a somewhat controlled crash landing.

Whitaker wakes up in an Atlanta hospital to learn that 96 passengers survived and that he is a national hero. A few days later, an old friend (Bruce Greenwood), now representing the pilot's union, and a plainly disapproving attorney (Don Cheadle), tell him that a post-crash blood toxicology report revealing large amounts of alcohol and cocaine in his system could mean he's looking at life in prison.

“Flight” doesn't belabor the question of whether Whitaker is a hero or a disgrace. Whitaker plainly states that no one but him could have landed that plane and lab simulations with other pilots back him up. Instead, it shifts into a long, slow, careful study of Whitaker's complicated character (Washington's restrained yet emotionally intense performance is one of the best of his career) - strong, charismatic, essentially decent, yet stubbornly proud and self-destructive.

Halfway through, Whitaker's attorney informs him that he can probably walk away from the investigation with a clean record if he stops drinking until it's over. Whitaker wholeheartedly agrees, believing he is in control of his assorted indulgences, yet something compels him to continue.

Screenwriter John Gatins (“Coach Carter,” “Real Steel”) said, in an interview with Tribute.ca, he based Whitaker's struggle on his own personal experience of alcoholism, a fear of drinking himself to death that was only equaled by one other personal terror: his fear of flying.

Thanks for sharing, John. We'll remember you fondly as our hearts shiver the next time we hear “prepare for takeoff.”
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GEORGE
GERSHWIN
ALONE
A PLAY WITH MUSIC

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The stars of "A Late Quartet" include Christopher Walken, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Catherine Keener.

A comprehensive list of movie times is available online at www.pioneerlocal.com. Choose your publication, and then select the Entertainment and Movies tabs.

847.673.6300 | NorthShoreCenter.org

There's More at the North Shore!

SHOWTIMES
SHOWTIMES
pioneerlocal.com

Movie theaters

The stars of "A Late Quartet" include Christopher Walken, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Catherine Keener.

A comprehensive list of movie times is available online at www.pioneerlocal.com. Choose your publication, and then select the Entertainment and Movies tabs.

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There's More at the North Shore!
**THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND**

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

### STAGE

**"Damn Yankees"**

**13+ 18+**

Presented by Rising Stars Theatre Co. Nov. 3-11 at the Stahl Family Theatre 5900 W. Belmont, Chicago. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. $17; $15 seniors and children. Visit www.risingstarschicago.com or call (773) 736-2490.

**"Dirty"**

18+


**"Evanston, Which Is Over There: A Tale of Men and Women in the Modern World"**

18+


**Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre**

18+


**"Sandlot"**

18+

The musical adaptation of the classic family movie will be presented at 8 p.m. Nov. 9-10 and Nov. 15-17 and 3 p.m. Nov. 11 and 18 in the Notre Dame College Prep Little Theatre, 7655 W. Dempster St., Niles. www.nddons.org.

**"Twelve Angry Women"**

13+ 18+ 65+

Performed at 7 p.m. Nov. 15-17 at Resurrection College Prep High School, 7500 W. Talcott Ave., Chicago. $5. Call (773) 775-6616, ext. 110, or visit www.reshs.org.

**CLASSICAL**

**Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra**

13+ 18+ 65+

Performing at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $36-$75, with discounts for seniors and youth. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.arsviva.org. Nov. 4, 3 p.m.: The program includes works by Brahms, Sibelius and Shostakovich.

**Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players**

13+


**Dempster St. Pro Musica**

13+


**Handel's Messiah**

13+ 65+

Performed by chamber choir Bella Voce and period instrument ensemble The Callipygian Players at 7 p.m. Nov. 16 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. $40-
$45; $15 students. Visit www.bellavoce.org or call (312) 479-1096.

**Chicago Choral Artists**

13-

Presenting "Reflections of the Spirit," a concert focusing on spiritual elements of life, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2012 W. Dickens, Chicago. $20; $15 seniors; $10 students. Call (708) 848-1762 or visit www.chicagochoralartists.org.

**Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra**

Performing at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $36-$75, with discounts for seniors and youth. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.arsviva.org. Nov. 4, 3 p.m.: The program includes works by Brahms, Sibelius and Shostakovich.

**Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players**

Music Institute of Chicago

Kraemer leads the Music of the Baroque Orchestra in a program of instrumental works by Johann Sebastian Bach. $27-$75. Call (312) 551-1414 or visit www.baroque.org.

What to do
Continued from page 59

NOVEMBER 4TH
3:00 p.m.

Music Institute of Chicago
Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m.: Cuban pianist Yleana Bautista performs sacred music by George Ivanovich Gurdjieff and Thomas de Hartmann. $25-$30; $15 students and seniors. Tickets at www.journeytickets.org.

North Shore Choral Society

The Northshore Concert Band
"Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving," 4 p.m.

BRAHMS: Academic Festival Overture
SIBELIUS: Symphony No. 4
SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 9

Ars Viva! Symphony Orchestra
Alan Heatherington, Music Director

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie
9501 Skokie Blvd. Ample free parking

ART GALLERIES

Oakton Community College


Skokie Art Guild

“Members Only” fall exhibit, on display through Nov. 17 throughout the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Visit www.skokieartguild.org.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Norwood Park Historical Society

Accepting applications from crafters and artists 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, plus 15% commission on sales. Call (773) 631-4633.

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.

CHILD’S PLAY

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. (847) 673-6300. www.northshorecenter.org. Nov. 14, 16 and 18: Chicago Children’s Theatre presents “Harold & the Purple Crayon.” Performances at 10 a.m. and noon Wednesday; 10 a.m., noon and 6:30 p.m. Friday; and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday. $16.50, $27.50, $37.50 and $42.50.

DANCE

Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre


Zanies Comedy Club

Beethoven and Mozart

Sunday, November 4, 7 p.m.

Pick-Staiger Hall, Evanston
Joel Smirnoff, Conductor
Joan Kwuon, Violin

Mozart Overture to “The Impresario”
Beethoven Concedo in D Major

Tickets $20-$75.
Pick-Staiger Hall
50 Arts Circle Dr., Evanston

(866) 811-4111
www.chicagophilharmonic.org

What to do
Continued from page 61

FILM

Lincolnwood Public Library

4000 W. Pratt Ave.
(847) 677-5277. www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org
Nov. 2, 1 p.m.: “Rock of Ages” Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m.: “The Three Stooges” Nov. 8, 1 p.m.: “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.” Nov. 9, 1 p.m.: “Moonrise Kingdom.” Nov. 15, 1 p.m.: “Then!” Nov. 16, 1 p.m.: “Prometheus.”

Northwest Chicago Film Society

13+ $5

Classic Film Series is held at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday, unless otherwise noted, at the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Admission is $5. Visit www.northwestchicagofilmsociety.org. Nov. 7: “Thanks a Million” (1935) plus the cartoon “Let’s Go” (1937).

LECTURES

Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre

16+ $5

Nov. 14, 1 p.m.: “The Creation of Fiddler on the Roof,” presented by musical theatre historian Charles Troy. $12 in advance; $14 at the door.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Oakton Community College

65+


ORGANIZATIONS

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 43

16+ $10

Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in the auditorium at Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Evanston. Oscar Munoz, award-winning illusionist and humorist, will perform and teach. Guests $15 which can be applied to membership. Contact Robert K. Miller at (847) 272-3850 or visit www. ring43.org.

Skokie Photographic Society

13+ $6

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie. All levels of photographic skill are welcome. Call (847) 677-8324 for information.

Skokie Art Guild

13+ $10

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

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center

13+ $10

9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. (847) 967-4889. www.iho Holocaustmuseum.org. Admission: $12; $8 for students and senior citizens; $6 for children ages 5-11. Special exhibitions are free with museum admission. Through Jan. 6, 2013: “Spies, Traitors and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America,” a creation of the International Spy Museum. The exhibit explores how the United States should balance civil liberties and individual rights during times of conflict, crisis and fear. At interactive stations following the themes of the exhibition — revolution, sabotage, hate, radicalism, world war, subversion, protest, extremism and terrorism — visitors are able to record their opinions on issues of national security and civil liberties and compare their reactions to those of past Gallup polling results.

Nov. 9, 10 a.m.: Program of Remembrance, screening “Names Not Numbers: A Movie in the Making,” produced by the eighth-grade class of Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School. Free. Nov. 10-11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Annual holiday bazaar. Nov. 11, 1:30 p.m.: “Honor the Rescuers, Remembering Kristallnacht.” Featured speakers will focus on Greek Jewry, and the program concludes with remarks from Novem ber Pogrom survivor Ernest Fruehau. Free; reservations required.

Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.: “Civil Rights in Perilous Times.” Alison Cuddy, WBZ’s arts and culture reporter, discusses past and current civil rights challenges with Geoffrey Stone of the University of Chicago Law School. Free with museum admission.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

13+ $10

3001 Central St., Evanston. (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Nov. 10, 3:30 p.m.: American Indian journalist, entrepreneur and political activist Paul DeMain presents “American Indians and the Tipping Point: No Longer a Miner’s Canary” at the Skokie Public Library. $20; $15 students.
BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER PRESENTS

ONE NAME ONLY

A DIFFERENT KIND OF REALITY SHOW

Now through November 11 Featuring the music of Aretha, Gladys, Tina, and Patti with a special tribute to Whitney
Written and Directed by Rueben Echoles.

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The New Diversity in the Workplace?
Diversity of Thought

By Steve Pemberton

There was a time when organizations believed that if they looked diverse, many of the issues they faced around this topic would simply dissolve. Corporate commitment to diversity and inclusion often went no further than being attentive to historical issues of underrepresentation and applying corrective action where needed. Diversity in the workplace, in essence, had a natural end state.

But this strategy has had limited success. Organizations can’t simply move on by virtue of their standard diversity practices. Matters of diversity and inclusion, like many other organizational objectives, are ongoing processes. They require constant refinement to create a more effective and competitive organization. And similarly, you as a job candidate need to think about and potentially change how you present and talk about diversity to employers during your job search.

Diversity Jobs and Recruitment Practices Are Changing

Organizations are getting the message, and they’re redefining their commitment and approach to diversity recruitment. In order to attract the best talent (this means you), employers are making diversity a part of all their processes. Fueled by shifting demographics and attitudes, increased global interactions and advancing technologies, companies are looking beyond appearances, conventional qualifications and traditional categories of race and gender.

Today’s world of diversity and inclusion is increasingly about how you think, not how you look. Forward-leaning companies are interested in your ability to bring diversity of thought and informed perspectives to their organizations. These companies also want to harness your ability to help them connect with the increasingly diverse constituencies they serve.

Turn Your Diverse Background into a Marketable Asset

Unfortunately, many job seekers are still reluctant to share their diversity with employers, believing it somehow constitutes a disadvantage to their candidacy. Still others believe that indicating their background means they will be recruited on that basis alone. Neither premise is true.

So it’s time to rethink how you approach the job search. Consider all written and in-person communications opportunities to convey your diversity of thought, ideas and world view. Here are a few examples:

- Numbers can underscore your experience. Rather than homogenize your achievement of increasing market share, for instance, paint

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- Numbers can underscore your experience. Rather than homogenize your achievement of increasing market share, for instance, paint

- Parlay your interview preparation into a chance to demonstrate your strategic thinking. You may learn, for example, that an organization has not yet identified diverse markets as new growth opportunities. In the course of your interview, mention that this is something that interests you. Discuss how you would leverage your experiences to approach and build relationships with potential customers.

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2012, 11/9/12 425913

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For information call the Sales Clerk, The Wacker Construction, 100 South Wacker Drive - 20th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, at 10:00 AM on November 7, 2012.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD AT THE LOCK UP STORAGE 350 W. Kinzie Loop, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60610

DATE: Thursday, November 1, 2012
TIME: 12:00 PM

Management reserves the right to determine the final bid prices and the right to withdraw any bid on all units sold. Payment must be made in full at the time of sale by cash, certified check or money order. All personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted. Payment is due at the time of inspection. All goods must be removed from the premises within 24 hours of the sale. Returned checks will be charged a $50 fee. No personal checks, credit cards, or cash accepted by mail. All goods must be removed from the premises within 24 hours of the sale.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD AT 2351 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60622

DATE: Wednesday, November 14, 2012
TIME: 1:00 PM and continue day by day until all units are sold.

Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or multiple buyers are sold "As Is / Parts Only", no titles or registrations.

NAME

Chad Smith, 505
Michelle A Ortiz, 5080
Dana Coleman-Newman, 3105
Tiesha T Gray, 5016

CONDITIONS: All units will be sold to the highest bidder, Bids taken only for each unit in its entirety. Payment must be made in cash or certified check or money order only. No personal checks or cash accepted. All goods must be removed immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability is subject to prior settlement of account. Payment must be made in full at the time of inspection. All goods must be removed from the premises within 24 hours of the sale. Returned checks will be charged a $50 fee.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD AT 2351 W. Grand Ave., Chicago, IL 60622

NAME

Pauline Brown, 5058
Dana Coleman-Newman, 3105
Tiesha T Gray, 5016

CONDITIONS: All units will be sold to the highest bidder, Bids taken only for each unit in its entirety. Payment must be made in cash or certified check or money order only. No personal checks or cash accepted. All goods must be removed immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability is subject to prior settlement of account. Payment must be made in full at the time of inspection. All goods must be removed from the premises within 24 hours of the sale. Returned checks will be charged a $50 fee.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE TO BE HELD AT THE LOCK UP STORAGE 350 W. Kinzie Loop, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60610

DATE: Monday, November 12, 2012
TIME: 12:00 PM

Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale. Registered or multiple buyers are sold "As Is / Parts Only", no titles or registrations.

NAME

Jay M. Rodriguez, 3105
Michelle A Ortiz, 5080
Dana Coleman-Newman, 3105
Tiesha T Gray, 5016

CONDITIONS: All units will be sold to the highest bidder, Bids taken only for each unit in its entirety. Payment must be made in cash or certified check or money order only. No personal checks or cash accepted. All goods must be removed immediately upon acceptance of bid. Unit availability is subject to prior settlement of account. Payment must be made in full at the time of inspection. All goods must be removed from the premises within 24 hours of the sale. Returned checks will be charged a $50 fee.
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Catchings earns WNBA title, named Finals MVP

BY NICK BULLOCK | Contributor | @Pioneer_Press

Former Stevenson High School standout Tamika Catchings was named WNBA Finals MVP after she led her Indiana Fever to the championship with an 87-78 Game 4 victory against the Minnesota Lynx on Oct. 21 in Indianapolis. She averaged 22.3 points, six rebounds and 3.5 assists in the finals.

Although this was her first WNBA title, Catchings has tasted plenty of success in her career.

Now an 11-year WNBA veteran, Catchings spent the first two years of her high school career at Stevenson. She led Stevenson to a Class AA state title in her sophomore season and was later named the 1995 Ms. Basketball of Illinois, the first sophomore ever to win the award.

Catchings also won an NCAA championship at Tennessee in 1998 and went on to win three Olympic gold medals.

Libertyville graduate Jessica Price has been a big contributor to the Florida State women's soccer team's season-long success. The senior forward scored her second goal of the season against Boston College on Oct. 18 and sits at fourth on the team in scoring with 10 points. On Oct. 25, Price's Seminoles earned the top seed in the ACC Women's Soccer Championship.

The Illinois Wesleyan men's soccer team fell to Wheaton College on Oct. 21 in Bloomington, Ill., but Wesleyan senior Kyle Gorgol tallied his eighth goal of the season for the Titans. The Hinsdale South graduate finished the game with two shots and one shot on goal. Through 15 games, Gorgol leads the Titans in goals (19), shots (41) and shots on goal (25). He also has two game-winning goals and two penalty kicks.

Several local high school graduates were recently recognized for their superb play for the Oakton Community College men's and women's soccer teams.

From Niles North, freshmen Berina Gradjian and Angela Jones earned women's first team all-conference honors, while sophomore Caitlin Nikitow earned second team all-conference honors.

From Niles West, freshman Jacqueline Cardenas earned women's first team all-conference honors, while sophomore Daniel Niedzielski earned men's first team all-region and first team all-conference honors.

Sophomore Jasmina Markovic, a Maine East alumna, earned women's first team all-region and first team all-conference honors.

Freshman Jamal Banton, an Evanston alumnus, earned men's first team all-region and first team all-conference honors.

And sophomore Arnoldo Reyes, a Leyden alumnus, also earned men's first team all-conference honors.

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With the season concluding, major league baseball teams are focusing on the June draft. One note of caution: beware of high school pitchers in round one. A statistical study of all 102 high school pitchers selected in the first round over the two decades of the 1980s and 1990s showed that they were more likely to have never pitched a day in the majors (43%), than to have become a 20-game winner (34%).

One game of 12 straight strikes for a score of 300 is considered perfection in bowling. But it's not. Given all the bowling alleys in the United States, somewhere a good recreational bowler rolls a 300 practically every night, according to the U.S. Bowling Congress. The sport's real holy grail is three 300 games in a row, called a "perfect series." Almost 100 million Americans go bowling, but according to the USBC, only 21 certified 900s have ever been recorded.

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Despite defeat, Wolves pleased with taste of playoffs

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

PALATINE

Despite ending its season with a 27-point loss in the first round of the Class 8A playoffs, the Niles West football team felt encouraged on its bus ride back to Skokie.

The Wolves could be proud of outscoring Palatine 28-20 in the game's final 17 minutes, of becoming the first in school history to begin a season 5-0, and of being the first Niles West squad since 2004 to qualify for the postseason.

"I think just getting this 10th game is a big step in our program," said junior Garrett Iverson, a wide receiver and defensive back. "We were the first team in Niles West history to go 5-0. We're making history in our program. It's disappointing to end like this, but all-in-all I think we (made) a big step in our program."

Niles West took a four-game losing streak into its week of preparation for Palatine, but coach Scott Baum could feel a tangible difference in the team's intensity and excitement as the Wolves prepared for their Oct. 27 playoff game.

As Baum tries to continue the program's ascension, he hopes Niles West's experience in the playoffs provides motivation for the underclassmen as they prepare for next season.

"I can't say enough about this week of practice," Baum said. "You can talk about being in the playoffs, but being out there for five days practicing - we had some sophomores up, and we were young all year - that just buys us so much. That, as a coach, is tough to teach. But when they see (the playoff atmosphere), that's pretty cool."

They got that experience just out here today with the crowd and stuff."

Niles West, like most teams, will be forced to replace several senior standouts heading into next season. The high school careers of wide receiver Jeremiah Jordan, running back Anthony Underwood, defensive lineman Vaughn Monreal-Berner, linebacker James Williams and cornerback Jake Glotzer all ended with the 69-42 defeat.

But several underclassmen assumed vital roles this season. Players like junior Andrew Milhulet hope getting the taste of the postseason provides increased focus and intensity in offseason workouts and, eventually, leads Niles West back to the same position next year.

"We're only going to have a three-week break and then we're back in the weight room," said Milhulet, a cornerback and wide receiver. "We're a year-round program and we're trying to make it the best that we can. Maybe we can improve our record for next year and get home-field advantage."
Maine South gets its redemption

BY DAN SHALIN | Contributor | @danshalin

SKOKIE

What a difference a year makes for the Maine South boys cross country team.

The Hawks left the 2011 sectional devastated after not qualifying as a team or having any individuals reach the state meet. That their ouster came in somewhat controversial circumstances—an opponent’s fall at the finish line, a question regarding a computer timing chip, a perceived hasty ruling by IHSA officials—made the pain even worse.

But Maine South has put those memories in the past with last Saturday’s stellar performance at the Class 3A Niles West Sectional. The Hawks had four of the top-20 runners, scored 70 points and finished second behind York (29 points). The top-five teams advanced to Saturday’s state meet at Peoria’s Detweiller Park.

“We’re really happy how we did. It feels great right now, like a huge brick was lifted off our shoulders,” said Maine South senior Jon Vaccaro, who finished sixth (15 minutes, 17.74 seconds). “All our guys ran well. To have three in the top 12, that’s a winning formula for a sectional.”

Maine South senior Kevin Dolan was 10th (15:35.02), senior Robert Taylor was 11th (15:35.82) and junior Jack Carpenter came in 18th (15:50.09).

Hawks coach Greg Nordahl said the painful memories of 2011 still lingered into last Saturday’s race, but he urged his runners to put those aside and focus on the present.

“We had a little bit of a chip on our shoulder because of what happened last year. But at the same time, we didn’t want to dwell on it,” he said.

“For today’s race, we had our plan, which was to mix it up with York. They are one of the best teams in the nation, and if we can mix it up with them, that means we’re not too bad.”

Nordahl said expectations remain high for state.

“Our goal is to be a top-five team with a chance for a trophy (top three),” he said.

STICKING TOGETHER

The Trevians may have had last year’s state champion in Leland Later, but the team finished a somewhat disappointing 11th at the 2011 state meet. Later has moved on to the University of California Berkeley, but New Trier coach Dave Wismer believes his 2012 team is capable of a higher finish because of the Trevians’ ability to run together.

“We’re able to keep together more as a pack this year, and that’s really what’s going to be successful in any big meet. If we cans stick together, we’re going to score well,” said the coach, whose team scored 119 points and finished third at the Niles West Sectional.

Wisner continued: “Our goal (at state) is to keep together. Obviously, we also want everyone to get out fast, which hopefully won’t hurt us too much, and then roll in the last two miles like we did (at sectionals). That’s the recipe, we’ll see if we can execute.”

At the sectional, senior Ethan Kaplan (seventh, 15:25.79) led the Trevians. Junior Connor Trap (20th), senior Ben Rosenkranz (26th), junior Chase Silverman (32nd) and sophomore Austin Santacruz (34th) also did their part.

Kaplan ran only 3 seconds below his personal best despite losing a shoe in the middle of the second mile.

“I’ve lost a shoe in track before, but that’s the first time in cross country,” said Kaplan, after the race just before returning to the course to look for his missing footwear. “Normally, I keep them tight, but I must have been in such a hurry to get to the (starting) line. I’ll probably double knot my shoes (at state).”

BELLER GOING BY HIMSELF

Senior Micah Beller finished ninth (15:27.81) and will make his first appearance at state. But he will be the only Vikings runner competing after Niles North (231 points) finished seventh at the 21-team sectional.

“It’s horribly disappointing. It would have meant so much more to qualify as a team,” Beller said.

“That was our goal all season. It was a step in the right direction compared to last season (when the Vikings struggled at the sectional and had no qualifiers), but it’s horribly disappointing.”
Acance provides Vikings with a spark

BY MATT HARNESS | mharness@pioneerlocal.com | @harnesspreps

WILMETTE
If senior Andrea Lopez has been the heartbeat of Niles North's historic volleyball season, then Samantha Acance has been no less than a major artery.

During the Oct. 25 regional final at Loyola, Acance was the player on the court always offering high-fives, pats on the back and otherwise general encouragement to the Vikings.

Tangibly, the second-year starting setter passed out 21 assists to go with seven digs, two kills and one ace in the team's 25-23, 25-21 win over the host Ramblers. It was Niles North's first regional championship since 2006 and the team's 30th win, a program record.

Acance, a senior, also served three of the team's final four points in the second set to secure the victory.

"She'd run through a wall for this team. If she wasn't our setter, she'd be our best defensive libero. She plays extremely hard and always gives us big energy."

Following the victory, Acance, who's benefitted from hitters like 6-foot-2 junior standout Taylor Louis this season, circled the court like a celebrity, alternating between hugging fans and posing for pictures with them.

"This is my biggest win," she beamed after the victory that avenged an earlier two-set loss to Loyola on Aug. 31. "I've never made it this far, so this was one of my goals, especially after not winning conference."

With 11 returning players, including nine seniors, the Vikings expected big things this season. Losing out to Glenbrook North for the CSL North title was tough to take, but Niles North quickly forgot about that after beating the Ramblers.

"This team has such great chemistry, on and off the court," said Acance, who was part of the club that lost in the regional final last fall. "We won all those games last year, so we want to go all out this year.

"We had high expectations and (lots) of motivation."

The regional title was the program's third in history. The first came in 2005, the same season that produced the program's only sectional championship.

"We tried not to focus too much on the results," Cott said. "We wanted to do what we needed to do on that day."

"We were disappointed about conference. That's why this one is sweet and feels so good."

Niles North was scheduled to play New Trier in the Niles North Sectional semifinal on Tuesday.
Vikings' progress can be traced to freshmen

BY MATT HARNESS | mharness@pioneerlocal.com | @harnesspreps

Paul Torres barely paused before he answered the question.

"Yes, this is the best freshman class I've ever had, probably the best ever," said the Niles North girls swimming coach, who is now in his eighth season.

Led by freshmen Azra Avdic and Lana Wolff, the Vikings are showing improvement this season. Already, the team has broken four varsity records. Avdic owns records in the 200-yard freestyle, 500 free and 100 butterfly and was on the 400 free relay team with Wolff, sophomore Megan Crane and freshman Alma Jukic that established the new program mark.

"These girls are so talented," Torres said of Avdic and Wolff, two of the six freshmen on varsity. "If we rest them right, we hope to squeeze them into the state meet.

"I would say it's 50-50 and will all depend on how well they rest in these next couple of weeks."

First, the Vikings will swim at the CSL North meet Saturday at Maine East. The following Saturday they are at the Glenbrook South Sectional, which will be one of the fastest sectionals in the state and sure to produce multiple state champions. The state meet is Nov. 16-17 at Evanston.

A big reason for the improvement is due to the development of local feeder programs, including SWIFT Aquatics, run by Niles North boys coach Seth Orlove.

"We've known about a lot of girls because they swam with clubs around town," said Torres, who discovered Avdic at SWIFT. "SWIFT in particular is really making strides."

Even if the Vikings don't get anyone to the state meet this season, they are set up for the future with 16 freshmen in the program. Niles North has sent only one swimmer to the state meet since 2000. Ksenia Kopylova qualified in 2010 in the 100 butterfly.

"So many of our top girls are young," said Torres, whose team has been without a home pool all year while the one at the school is under construction. "They are learning how to do things, and they will keep getting better and better in the next couple of years."
Don't Miss

Friday
Football: Notre Dame at Steinmetz (Hanson Stadium), 6 p.m.
The 14th-seeded Dons rode junior running back Chris James (47 carries, 323 yards, seven rushing touchdowns) to a 46-27 upset of No. 3-seed Grayslake North on Friday. Notre Dame stunned the Knights with 33 straight points in the first half, and it will try to do the same thing against Steinmetz on Friday. Steinmetz, the No. 11 seed, will host the game at Hanson Stadium. The Dons (6-4) played on Hanson Stadium's AstroTurf earlier this year when, in Week 2, they lost 40-21 to St. Patrick.

Saturday
Cross Country: Notre Dame at Class 2A state meet at Detweiller Park, noon
The Notre Dame boys cross country team took the fifth and final spot at Saturday's Fenton Sectional to advance to Peoria as a team. Seniors Mike Gibson (17th, 16 minutes, 38 seconds) and Matt Siemienowski (19th, 16:41) were the Dons' top runners, and they were supported by a pair of freshmen. Robert Koteski (17:13) finished 33rd overall, and Matt Contreras (17:24) finished 35th.

Grandmother primes James for success

BY TIM FROEHLIG | Contributor | @TFroehlig

GRAYSLAKE
Audrey Davis was not able to see Chris James’ 47-carry, 323-yard performance—which included seven touchdown runs—in the first round of the Class 6A playoffs at Grayslake North because the 71-year-old Chicago resident doesn't drive on the highway.

However, she's been there almost every day since James, her grandson, was little.
When James was just 4 years old, his mother died from lingering scar tissue complications following surgery to have her appendix removed. Then, when he was 6 or 7, according to James, his father started spending "less and less time" with him until one day he was no longer around.
That's when Davis, his paternal grandmother, knew she had to intervene.
"Chris would've had to go to a foster home," said Davis, who is an English teacher at Lake View High School. "I couldn't bear to see that happen."
So Davis successfully petitioned the court to become James' legal guardian.
"Everything happens for a reason," James said. "If my mother and father had always been in my life, who knows, maybe I wouldn't have been as motivated to get where I am now. But I use those things as motivation. It makes me work even harder, because I know my mom would be proud of me."

It wasn't until sixth grade, when he came home from attending a local Boys & Girls Club, that his interest in football began to show. That's when James told his grandmother he wanted to play football for the Highridge Chargers youth football team, located in Rogers Park. So she spent $200 in league fees so he could.
"The rest is history," Davis said with a laugh. "You should see the trophies he's got from playing football. There's so many of them, it's incredible."
That's not to say there weren't bumps in the road along the way. In fact, James wasn't even viewed as a very good football player at first by some of his coaches.
," I just didn't understand the fundamentals of football my first year," James said. "And it didn't help that I was just 5-foot-2 and about 102 pounds right before junior high."

But James, who is now 5-11 1/2 and 200 pounds, didn't give
up.

"In sixth grade, I went out for running back, but they didn't pick me," James said. "So I ended up playing nose tackle and returning kicks. I was really good at returning kicks. Seventh grade, I lost my position right after the first game."

James was given a chance to carry the ball the following year after the team's older running backs had graduated from the program.

"They had no choice but to put me at running back," James said.

That's when he caught everyone's attention.

James said he rushed for 28 touchdowns and led his team to the semifinals of the American Youth Football playoffs. That same season, he was selected to participate in the Under Armour All-American junior game.

But James isn't bitter about being thwarted early in his career. In fact, he laughs about the situation now.

"People kept asking me why I'd never done that well before (eighth grade)," James said. "And I was like, 'Because coach, you never gave me the chance.'"

Davis knew she had to put James in a situation that would give her grandson the best chance to succeed.

Auggie Genovesi, Davis' landlord and an assistant football coach at Notre Dame, convinced Davis to enroll James at the college preparatory school.

"Chris wasn't too happy about the idea at first, for a couple of reasons," Davis said. "First, it's obviously a school that has a much different ethnic background than he had been used to growing up."

James is black, while Notre Dame's student body is mostly white.

Continued Davis: "But I always told him those things weren't what mattered. People are people. It's his education that matters. Secondly, it's an all-boys school, and Chris loves girls, so he wasn't too keen on that either."

James played on the Dons' sophomore team as a freshman, and last season, started to stand out in his first year at running back for the varsity squad.

"I really grew fast when I got to high school," James said.

Davis has helped ensure that James is at his best on game day.

"I always try to make sure when I cook for him at home, or when he eats, he's eating healthy, because I think that's a big key," Davis said. "Especially for an athlete who works as hard as he does."

Each weekday, he gets on a bus at 6 a.m. to head toward school, and doesn't usually arrive home until at least 7 p.m. During the football season, since he has his final period free, he spends his Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays before football practice doing plyometrics and squats, lifting free weights and doing large numbers of repetitions with lighter weights to build endurance.

He's needed it.

"Playing in the rugged East Suburban Catholic Conference, James has 268 carries for 1,742 yards and 25 rushing touchdowns through 10 games. He also has 13 receptions for 247 yards and three touchdowns.

Heading into Friday night's second-round playoff game against Steinmetz at Hanson Stadium, Notre Dame coach Mike Hennessey makes no secret about the fact his team is putting a lot of weight on James' shoulders.

"He carries the mail, and the kids up front enjoy blocking for him (because of how successful he is running the ball)," Hennessey said. "It's a nice marriage. We've gone into games with Chris being fully aware that we're going to rely on him a lot, and he's done a nice job of stepping up to that challenge."

Division I programs have taken notice.

"I pick him up every day from the (Bryn Mawr) train station," Davis said. "And every day when I get home, our mailbox is flooded with letters from colleges, all wanting to talk to Chris. I've had to tell him, a lot of the people you encounter are going to have agendas, so you're gonna have to be careful from now on. But I've also told him he has to have his own agenda."

He's received letters of interest from programs such as Duke, Oregon, Northwestern, Oklahoma and Arkansas. And no matter what school he winds up choosing, James — who carries a 2.8 grade-point average at Notre Dame — says he plans on studying computer technology as his primary field in college. But he has an even bigger dream. One few kids will ever see become a reality — make it to the NFL.

"It took a lot of hard work for me to get to this point, and I know I'm gonna have to keep working hard if I want to continue to accomplish my goals and dreams," James said.

"And I have to thank my grandmother for all she's done for me. Yeah, we disagree or argue about stuff sometimes, but no matter what, she's always been there for me. And that means everything to me."

His grandmother feels the same way.

"I love Chris so much," Davis said. "It hasn't always been easy, but it's been worth every moment."

Notre Dame's Chris James scores the second of his seven touchdowns Friday night at Grayslake North. The 14th-seeded Dons beat the third-seeded Knights 46-27 | JOE SHUMAN-For Sun-Times Media
Notre Dame's Chris James ran for 323 yards and seven touchdowns in the Dons' playoff-opening win over Grayslake North. JOE SHUMAN-For Sun-Times Media

Pushing past

Notre Dame running back Chris James overcomes, helps Dons to first-round win over Grayslake North

Notre Dame's Chris James ran for 323 yards and seven touchdowns in the Dons' playoff-opening win over Grayslake North. JOE SHUMAN-For Sun-Times Media

Read the full story [Page 86]