Niles Trustee Rosemary Palicki is the chairwoman of the Niles Plaza Art Committee which is hosting a contest for high school students to design a sculpture for the plaza. RYAN PAGELOW-Sun-Times Media

Wanted: Niles Plaza art

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A new art contest announced earlier this month will give Niles high school students the chance to win $1,000 and design an outdoor sculpture that will be displayed outside Niles Village Hall.

High school students who reside in the Village are asked to submit a design for a family-themed sculpture that will highlight Niles' 2010 designation by Bloomberg Businessweek as one of the top most affordable places to raise a family in the U.S. A sculptor will form the winning design into a piece of art that will stand near the new village sign in the administration building's plaza at 1000 Civic Center Dr.

The Niles Plaza Art Committee was created by village trustees this year to oversee the design and construction of the outdoor public artwork. Three committee members - chairwoman and Niles Trustee Rosemary Palicki, resident George Alpogianis and Tom Kanelos, chairman of the Niles Building and Zoning Board - will select a preliminary winner before sending the drawing to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

“We wanted acknowledgement of our Bloomberg award so we came up with this contest to create a lasting piece of art to serve as a reminder,” Palicki said.

“We don’t have anything specific in mind for the design except that it should be family-themed, so we’re excited to see what our high school students can come up with,” Palicki said. “With Christmas break coming up we’re hoping they’ll have time to start working on their projects.”

The piece of art will be positioned adjacent to the four-by-five-foot village of Niles sign that sits in the center island between Village Hall and the Niles Family Fitness Center.

The contest is only open to high school students who live in the village of Niles, and all entries should complement the existing sign, according to contest rules. Designs are accepted via e-mail at plaza@vniles.com or by mail or hand-delivery to the village of Niles Administration Building; Attn.: Niles Plaza Art Committee, 1000 Civic Center Drive, Niles, IL 60714.

Family members of the Niles Village Board and members of the Niles Plaza Art Committee are not eligible to participate.
Community says goodbye to ‘Mr. Canoe’

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES
It’s no wonder people called him “Mr. Canoe.”

During his life, Ralph Frese, of Niles, was known for his avid love of Chicago area waterways and his passion for canoeing.

Frese, a fourth-generation blacksmith and owner of Chicagoland Canoe Base on Chicago’s Northwest Side, died Dec. 10 after a battle with cancer. He was 86.

With a plethora of accolades during his lifetime, Frese was this year’s recipient of the Niles Chamber of Commerce’s Bob Wordel Living Legend Award for his dedication to preserving the rivers and waterways in the Chicagoland area.

The North Branch of the Chicago River is named The Ralph Frese Canoe Trail in his honor. He was determined to create a natural environment along the North Branch.

“He was probably one of the few well-known people that were not involved in the political scene,” said John Thill, president of the Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserve, who knew Frese for about 20 years.

“He was a common man and had a passion for what he believed in.”

Thill said that Frese joined the Friends of the Morton Grove Forest Preserve and remained with the organization for 10 years.

“Between his love of the waterways and his environmental advocacy, it was a perfect fit,” said Thill.

Frese was also selected to the Riverman’s Hall of Fame and the Illinois Conservation Hall of Fame.

Frese’s store, Chicagoland Canoe Base, 4019 N. Narragansett Ave. in Chicago, built and rented out canoes. Due to Frese’s death, the store has been closed and a liquidation sale is taking place.

Thill said that people would call the store from all over the world and Frese would talk to them about canoes and the waterways.

“We’re going to have a tree planted in his honor,” said Thill, who said the tree will be planted somewhere on public property in Morton Grove.

Ralph Frese was the husband of Rita and father of Diane (David) Gritton, Chaz (Char) Clary, Valerie (George) Fetcho and the late Scott Wayne Clary and William David Clary. He is also survived by four grandchildren.

A service was held Thursday, Dec. 13 at Simkins Funeral Home in Morton Grove.

Correction


Pioneer Press regrets the error.
Boy accused of bringing toy gun to school

| BY JENNIFER JOHNSON | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com |

NILES

Parents of children attending Mark Twain Elementary School in Niles were notified this week after a toy gun was found inside a locker belonging to a second-grade student, officials said.

The empty cap gun was located inside the boy's locker Monday at the school, 9401 Hamlin Ave. The locker was searched after students reported that they believed a student had brought a gun to school, an e-mail to parents stated.

The boy's parents were notified, but police were not contacted, Clay said. "Because of his age we didn't feel that any malice was involved," the superintendent told Pioneer Press. "He didn't point it at anybody or anything. He brought it to show his friend."

Clay stated that if the student had been older, he could have faced possible expulsion from school.

Candidates line up for 2013 election filing

| BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor |

Monday was the first day to file nominating petitions for the April 2013 election and it was a busy one in Niles.

The village received petitions from the New Niles Party 2013, with Andrew Przybylo for mayor and George Alpogianis, Danette Matyas and John Jekot for three, four-year terms as village trustees. The Responsible Leadership for Niles party also filed petitions on the first day, with current Trustee Chris Hanusiak running for mayor and incumbents Louella Preston and Jim Hynes and resident Mary Marusek running for trustee.

In Niles School District 71, the terms of Patrick Byrne, Mary Krueger, Matthew Holbrook and John Zuckerman are up in 2013. Holbrook and new candidate Jill Astbury-Brocro filed petitions Monday.

The current East Maine School District 63 board members with terms up are Jane Wojtkiewicz, Walter Gluzkin, Krystal Zec and Sheila Urban. Gluzkin, Zec and Urban filed petitions for re-election and new candidates Zeev Waly and Alexandra Brook also filed petitions. In Park Ridge-Niles School District 64, incumbent Scott Zimmerman and newcomers Vicki Lee, Terry Cameron and Rick Van Roeyen, all of Park Ridge, filed to run for four open seats.

In Maine Township High School District 207 there are four, four-year terms and one, two-year term up for election. Filing for both the two-year term and four-year terms were incumbent Eric Leys, recent appointee Carla Owen, and Mary Childers. Filing only for the four-year terms were incumbent Eldon Burk and new candidates Jin Lee, Jeffrey Spero and Sean Story.

The last day to file nominating petitions for the April 2013 election is Dec. 26 at 5 p.m. Jennifer Johnson contributed to this story

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IN PROFILE

LGH nurse honored for saving driver's life

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

PARK RIDGE

June Urban can be considered a local hero.

The Wheeling resident and emergency room nurse at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge saved a man by giving him CPR after he had a heart attack while driving his vehicle. She was honored by the village of Wheeling, which is where the incident and her heroic acts took place.

Q: How long have you worked as an ER nurse at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital?
A: Nine years. I've been employed at the hospital for over 23 years. I was an ICU nurse for 11 years and on the floor for three.

Q: Have you always wanted to be in the medical field?
A: I've wanted to do this for as long as I can remember.

Q: Can you describe the situation where you recently saved a man's life?
A: I dropped the kids off at school and I saw a car that was stalled in the middle of the intersection. He (drove) head-on into a building. I called 911 from my car. Another bystander happened to be there. Both of us did CPR on him. He was not breathing and had no pulse. We found out later he had a heart attack. He came in the hospital awake and talking.

Q: What were you feeling and thinking when you were saving his life?
A: I was scared to death. At work you have all the equipment in the world and (here) I had nothing. I was concerned that he wasn't going to live.

Q: How does it feel to be recognized for your heroic actions?
A: It's very nerve-wracking for me. I'm very honored that they took the time to honor me. The victim was there and helped present the award. It was quite incredible.

Q: Was it nice to see him there?
A: I don't even know if I can describe that. It was incredible to see the same person standing up and talking.

Q: Have you ever come close to experiencing anything else like this?
A: I don't do well with being in the spotlight. I don't do well with being in the spotlight. I don't do well with being in the spotlight.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital nurse June Urban was honored by the village of Wheeling for saving the life of heart attack victim Thomas Ziegler, right. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A: It's very nerve-wracking for me. I'm very honored that they took the time to honor me. The victim was there and helped present the award. It was quite incredible.

Q: What is the most challenging part of your job and what is the most rewarding aspect of your job?
A: The most rewarding part is seeing people do well, get better and go home, and to save them. The most challenging is trying to save them. I work with a great team. Nobody goes down alone, so to speak.
Toys mean happier holiday for hospitalized kids

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

PARK RIDGE

Parents of sick children and the staff at the Advocate Children's Hospital in Park Ridge can't help getting emotional when they see how happy the kids are to open presents that are donated by community members.

The children's hospital, located on the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital campus on Dempster Street, receives an outpouring of generosity during the holiday season.

"The community truly helps us have a holiday for our patients and their families," shared Child Life Specialist Linda Bensing.

This year the Women's Physician Group hosted a toy drive that brought in more than 600 toys for children who are at the hospital during the holidays.

A volunteer recently pulled up with an entire van full of toys that were donations from a party and another volunteer collected more than 4,000 toys from a trade show she ran. She also coordinated donations with Nordstrom in Oak Brook, explained Camille Vicino, a spokeswoman for Lutheran General Hospital.

Parents are given the opportunity to browse through the many items and choose the toy they feel is just perfect for their child.

"It enables a child to leave the hospital with a positive impression," said Bensing. She said the hope of the hospital is to create a happy memory for the kids.

In addition to the children who are hospitalized, toys are also given to children who are treated in the emergency room, ambulatory surgery, radiology and other areas of the hospital during the holiday season, Bensing added.

And if they aren't all distributed in December, the toys are definitely not wasted.

Bensing said that some are used to restock the play areas or are given to children on other holidays or to celebrate the end to a chemotherapy treatment.
The village of Niles and the Niles Fire Department also celebrated the season of giving during their 9th Annual U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive and community food drive.

Niles Fire Chief Steve Borkowski, Mayor Robert Callero and other village department heads recently accompanied two U.S. marines and visited the children and distributed toys at Lutheran General.

"The children were thrilled with the toys that they got," said Bernadette Knapik, assistant to the fire chief.

Knapik said the kids at the hospital were in awe of the fire chief, mayor and the two marines who visited the pediatric intensive care unit and a children's activity room.

"Collections are down from prior years," noted Knapik of the Toys for Tots Drive. "It's been the slowest season to date."

Knapik said their assumption is that the economy is playing a role in why toy donations are down this year.

Niles Family Services has also been collecting toys for local families in need of a little help during the holiday season and is also holding a community food drive.

Seth Knobel, family services director, said that the quality of toys they are receiving is higher than in past years. For example, he said they received several PSP video game systems. In addition, a foundation made a large donation and the department is able to give out gift cards to families as well, he said.

Child Life Specialist Kelsey Lepp is among staff members at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital who oversee Christmas toy donations to hospitalized children. | KEVIN TANAKA FOR Sun-Times Media.

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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.

**RETAIL THEFT**

Bryan Mangan, 23, of 7042 N. Ozark Ave., Niles, was charged with retail theft on Dec. 6 on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. Mangan allegedly took a bottle of Jack Daniels, concealed it on himself and left the store without paying for the bottle. Police said the man had a prior conviction for retail theft. He had a Dec. 10 court date.

Erica Paredes, 31, of 6255 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol on Dec. 9 on the 8500 block of Golf Road. The driver was involved in a private-property motor vehicle crash on the 8500 block of Golf Road, police said. She has a Jan. 2 court date.

A 51-year-old man from Chicago was shopping at a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road when she was distracted by a man and a woman. She soon realized her wallet was missing from her purse that was in her shopping cart, police said. A 24-year-old man from Niles told police that a man in his 20s asked him for change for a $20 bill at a store on the 800 block of Civic Center Drive. When the victim was making change the man allegedly stole his cell phone and ran out of the store. The phone has a value of $300.

An employee of a store on the 8200 block of Golf Road took a pair of shoes worth $117 and ran out of the store without paying for the shoes, according to police.

**BURGLARY**

The owner of a business on the 8200 block of Oakton Street told police that his business was burglarized between Dec. 9 and Dec. 10. Police said an unknown amount of money was taken. The incident is under investigation.
Niles seeing smaller purse from OTB

By Tracy Gruen | Contributor

Niles

It may be due to the economy or the fact that local gambling competition has increased, but revenue the village of Niles has received from Lucky Magee’s off-track betting facility has been steadily declining over the last four years.

In fiscal year 2007, the Niles OTB site brought in $475,936 to the village and the amount grew to $479,981 in 2008. The decline started during fiscal year 2009 when $378,223 in village revenue was collected, followed by $327,014 in revenue in 2010, $278,067 in 2011, and $260,974 in 2012.

For fiscal year 2013, it is expected that the OTB will generate $266,723.

“Betting dollars have been down from when we opened it,” acknowledged Randy Olech, chief operating officer of Illinois OTB.

Lucky Magee opened in April of 2006 at the former Circuit City site at 9215 N. Greenwood Ave., right next to Golf Mill Shopping Center.

Olech believes the drop in revenue is partly due to the economy and partly due to more competition for gaming dollars, like the 2011 opening of Rivers Casino in Des Plaines.

Olech said gambling proceeds are lower in Niles than at some of the other OTB locations.

“We don’t have supplemental income from slot machines,” he added. “We’ve been pushing for that.”

Despite the decrease in revenue, however, village officials say the OTB is still one of the top generators of revenue for the village.

“The OTB is the only establishment that we collect the gaming tax from,” explained Village of Niles Finance Director Scot Neukirch. “But if you were to compare the revenue we receive in gaming tax to what we receive in sales tax from other businesses, the OTB would be in the top 20 to 25 revenue generators in the village based on our calendar 2011 sales-tax numbers.”

The controversial OTB was rejected by neighboring Morton Grove before operators approached Niles.

In the fall of 2005, Rosemary Palicki, now a Niles trustee, and Library Trustee Morgan Dubiel worked on organizing a referendum asking voters if they thought an OTB should be allowed in Niles.

“The issue was never about whether or not there should be gambling in Niles,” said Palicki. “It was about the fact that this was going to be a significant change in Niles and we felt that residents should have the opportunity to vote on whether or not they wanted that change.”

Palicki said that a big obstacle took place when the village refused to bring the pair’s petitions to the Clerk of Cook County for placement on the ballot.

“This resulted in our suing the village and winning,” said Palicki.

She added that by the time the election was held, the OTB was already a sure thing. The majority of voters supported the OTB at the polls as well.

“My objection was 100 percent to the method by which it was brought about,” said Dubiel. “It deserved to have a debate.”

Crime has not been an issue at Lucky Magee’s, according to Niles Police Chief Dean Strzelecki.

“Crime has not been an issue at Lucky Magee’s,” said Strzelecki. “There’s a lot of activity there at all,” said Strzelecki. “It’s a bar and we don’t get any alcohol-related problems. We go there less than when it was retail there.”

Lucky Magee’s features a restaurant, sports lounge and more than 200 televisions to watch horse races and other sporting events.
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<tr>
<td>Michael Carbonara</td>
<td>Joey Carbonara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Carbonara Jr.</td>
<td><strong>In Memoriam</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Funeral Directors</td>
<td><strong>Holiday Deadlines</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus: (708) 343-6161</td>
<td>for Death Notices &amp; In Memorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home: (708) 865-8124</td>
<td>The deadline to submit a Death Notice to publish on Thursday, December 27th is Friday, December 21st by 5:00 pm. The deadline to submit a Death Notice to publish on January 3rd is Friday, December 28th by 5:00pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell: (708) 724-7500</td>
<td><strong>Death Notices</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rothschild, Marla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See Marla R. Zarach notice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Death Notices</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zarach, Marla R.</td>
<td>(nee Rothschild) 61, of Park Ridge and Marco Island, FL. Beloved wife for 33 years of Edward; loving mother of Allan (Michaelene) Zarach and Ashley Zarach; dearest sister of Max Rothschild; fond sister-in-law, aunt, cousin and friend to many.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral service Wednesday 10 AM at Weinstein Funeral Home, 111 Stokie Blvd., Wilmette. Interment Town of Maine Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association. Info: 847-256-5700.</td>
<td><strong>Everyone Has A Story</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Share the memories with your local community through a Death Notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com">deathnotices@pioneerlocal.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sign the Guest Book at pioneerlocal.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RYAN-PARKE</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>funeral home</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Our family serving yours for over 76 years”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We’d like you to know the Ryan family has owned and operated our business since 1936, in the same location. After three generations, we still believe in dedicated personal service with compassion.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Clement Ryan Michael Ryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suburban (847) 823-1171 <a href="http://www.ryan-parke.com">www.ryan-parke.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Chicago (773) 792-1811</td>
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<td><strong>In Memoriam</strong></td>
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<td><strong>In Memoriam</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Remember to visit the Catholic Cemeteries throughout the Holiday Season.**

As we gather with loved ones at the holidays, we will all have that “empty place” at the dinner table. The family members you’ve entrusted to us have become part of our family and their care has been our sacred commitment for 175 years.

Catholic Cemeteries
Archdiocese of Chicago
celebrating
175 Years
of service, faith, and tradition
1837-2012


**Express Condolences**

Sign the online Guest Book
For local community Death Notices visit pioneerlocal.com

Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems.
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
Express Condolences

Sign the online Guest Book

For local community Death Notices visit pioneerlocal.com

Ask about our available Death Notice Emblems.
Call: 847-998-3400 (opt 6)
William Ryan Homes cooks up the savings...

...with your NEW Dream Kitchen. on all to-be-built homes through December 31.

PROMOTION INCLUDES:
- Double oven with cooktop and microwave, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and tile backsplash

PLUS:
- YOU BUY OURS, WE'LL LEASE YOURS
- 100% Rent, Utilities & Maintenance*

You Buy Ours, We'll Lease Yours
You Buy Ours, We'll Lease Yours

UNLIMITED DEPOSIT INSURANCE

Senators failed, 50-42, to reach 60 votes needed to renew the Transaction Account Guarantee Program. Begun during the 2008 financial collapse to boost liquidity, the program provides unlimited deposit insurance to non-interest-bearing accounts held by depositors such as large corporations, small businesses, local governments, non-profits and wealthy individuals in banks and credit unions. A yes vote was to pass S 3637. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., said the program "has a cost-recovery provision that ensures no taxpayer is on the hook for this insurance. Financial institutions pay for the coverage. This is not and never will be a bailout. This is simply additional insurance paid for by the banks to ensure these accounts remain stable."

Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said "the overwhelming majority of TAG deposits are actually with the largest banks."

Sen. Richard Durbin: Yes; Sen. Mark Kirk: Did not vote

Major roll call votes in the House

1. OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

Members failed, 229-182, to reach a two-thirds majority needed to allow Primatene Mist inventory to be sold off by August 2013. The Environmental Protection Agency has banned sales of this product and more than a dozen other asthma inhalers because their chlorofluorocarbon emissions damage the ozone layer. This is in violation of a U.S. law that implements the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. A yes vote was to pass HR 6190.

Michael Burgess, R-Texas, said: "There are currently over one million units of these inhalers sitting in a warehouse in California not helping patients currently suffering from an asthma attack. ... It's unconscionable to allow them to sit and gather dust when they could be used to provide relief to America's asthmatic patients."

Calling it "a special deal" for one company, Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said "there is no reason for this bill. This is a drug that's already off the market. There are substitutes that are being developed and there are substitutes that are already on the market."

2. PROTECTION OF AFGHAN WOMEN

Voting 399-4, members urged the U.S. military to do more to ensure the rights and safety of Afghan women and girls during and after the ongoing transition of power to Afghan security forces. A yes vote was to endorse the non-binding language as part of the 2013 military budget (HR 4310), which is in a House-Senate conference committee. The four members voting against the measure to protect Afghan women and girls are Reps. Justin Amash, R-Mich., Walter Jones, R-N.C., Thomas Massie, R-Ky., and Ron Paul, R-Texas.

Key votes ahead

In the week of Dec. 17, both chambers will take up the conference report on the fiscal 2013 defense budget. They also may vote on a "fiscal cliff" bill and aid to victims of Hurricane Sandy.
What it means to you

TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

CHICAGO

20-year deal for digital billboards on expressways gets city OK

The landscape around Chicago area expressways will light up with 34 digital billboards — a dozen of them adjacent to the Kennedy — thanks to a 20-year deal that could generate $270 million to offset future tax increases.

By a 43-6 vote, the Chicago City Council signed off on Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s plan to let bus shelter operator J.C. Decaux and its partner, Interstate Outdoor Advertising, put up 100-foot tall digital signs on city property adjacent to the Kennedy, Dan Ryan, Stevenson and Eisenhower Expressways as well as the Chicago Skyway and Illinois Tollway.

In exchange, the companies have guaranteed Chicago taxpayers $15 million in 2013 and $154 million over the 20-year life of the contract. The city hopes to generate as much as $270 million over 20 years through a revenue sharing arrangement that starts with 50 percent of the first $25 million.

After the vote, Emanuel rose to challenge aldermen who dared to oppose the new revenue stream.

“If you have other ideas where you want to produce the $15 million from your residents, bring it up. I haven’t seen it. If you want to give me ... $15 million in service cuts, I haven’t seen that,” the mayor said.

Emanuel noted that Chicago’s 1,300 billboards generate just $1 million in annual revenues.

- Chicago Sun-Times

SPRINGFIELD

Illinois lawmakers hope to OK gay marriage in January

Two Illinois lawmakers say they will seek to legalize gay marriage when the General Assembly reconvenes early next year — a push that comes just 18 months after the state started allowing civil unions for same-sex couples.

Rep. Greg Harris and Sen. Heather Steans, both Chicago Democrats, declined to detail the status of roll-call votes in each chamber during a conference call with reporters.

But Harris has previously said he wouldn’t bring a bill to the floor without assurances that there are enough votes to pass it.

“We’re in striking distance of being able to get it done,” Steans said.

Harris and Steans, who played major roles in bringing civil unions for domestic partners to Illinois, said support for gay marriage has been rapidly gaining speed since President Barack Obama spoke in favor of it earlier this year. Voters in four other states either endorsed gay marriage or repudiated bans on it in the November election.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel calls it a legislative priority.

However, the Catholic Conference of Illinois opposes the measure and a conservative Christian group’s lobbyist says he considers passage now to be a bigger stretch than advocates believe.

- The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Senate takes step toward banning stalking software

A loophole that permits software companies to sell cyberstalking apps that operate secretly on cellphones could soon be closed by Congress.

The software is popular among jealous wives or husbands because it can continuously track the whereabouts of a spouse.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill that makes it a crime for companies to make and intentionally operate a stalking app. The legislation also would curb the appeal for such inexpensive and easy-to-use programs by requiring companies to disclose their existence on a target’s phone.

Stalking and wiretapping already are illegal, but there are no provisions in federal law that clearly prohibit businesses from making an app whose primary purpose is to help one person stalk another.

The proposal would extend the criminal and civil liabilities for the improper use of the apps to include the software companies that sell them.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill that makes it a crime for companies to make and intentionally operate a stalking app. The legislation also would curb the appeal for such inexpensive and easy-to-use programs by requiring companies to disclose their existence on a target’s phone.

Telephone companies currently are barred from disclosing to businesses the locations of people who make traditional phone calls. But there’s no such prohibition when communicating over the Internet.

- The Associated Press
Madigan should appeal gun ruling

Illinois' status as the only state that does not allow the carrying of concealed loaded guns was threatened last week when a federal appeals court gave the state 180 days to change its law.

But that doesn't mean Illinois should immediately allow anyone who feels like it to start toting a pistol.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan should appeal the overbroad ruling by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. And if the courts won't extend the deadline while considering the appeal, the Legislature will have to craft a law that meets the court's standards while providing as many protections as possible for citizens who don't carry guns. The Legislature has every reason to limit the danger as much as possible.

Searching for true meaning of Christmas

In this information age, there is no reason for anyone to be uninformed.

Misinformed, perhaps, but not uninformed.

Need an answer to a question? Just search the Web.

Had Charlie Brown lived in the Internet age, he would not have agonizingly pleaded, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" He would have Googled it.

So that's what I did, searching for the "true meaning of Christmas."

My search returned what I would call the usual suspects of holiday answers.

Christmas celebrates God incarnate coming into the world as Jesus Christ.

Christmas is a time to bring those closest to you even closer.

Christmas is a time of giving, for it is better to give than to receive.

As it is with so many topics these days, after surfing the Web, I was back to Square One and back to Charlie Brown's question, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?"

I've decided it is a sign of maturity to recognize things for what they are and not for what we wish them to be. So I will give it a try with Christmas.

I will grant there were ancient rituals and celebrations this time of year that marked death and renewal, and, over time, stories and myths were created to express those deeper meanings.

But if that's all Christmas is, I doubt very much we would still be doing them. I doubt that so much art and music would have been created to mark the coming of Odin and Saturnalia.

Of course, we've created modern myths and stories, too, all centered on our modern idolatry of money. How else to explain Santa Claus sliding down a chimney with a sack of gifts?

If you reject false gods, are revolted by rampant commercialism, and if a group hug just isn't enough, what remains?

The only advice for us mere mortals about this day were these, supposedly spoken to the shepherds: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to men of goodwill.

Forget the myths, the stories and the symbols, and focus on that message. Put your life in the proper order -- give glory to God in heaven and peace to your fellow man right here, right now.
Pension fix should start with legislators

It's like giving matches to a pyromaniac.

Expecting the Illinois General Assembly to solve the public pension crisis, that is.

The Illinois General Assembly has created the public pension crisis. For years and years and years, Illinois legislators have not provided their share of money to fund the pensions for state employees.

Public employees were doing their bit, paying their share of pension costs. But not the state. It used money that should have gone to the pension fund for other state expenses.

The result? A pension deficit of $95 billion.

And now Illinois legislators are having a problem solving the pension deficit crisis.

Well, duh!

But perhaps there is hope. Our legislators are very good at some aspects of pensions.

Their own.

By law — law they created — Illinois legislators are eligible for a pension after serving only four years. After 20 years, they can receive a pension of up to 85 percent of their final salary. And as a cherry on top of this pension cake, Illinois legislators receive 3 percent of their initial salary for every additional year they are in office.

Oh, yes, their pensions are immune from state income tax. That's just for you and me.

And how much is that salary they get 85 percent of?

Members of the General Assembly receive a salary of $67,836 a year, plus — and there always is a plus — $132 a day for, oh, I don't know — for stuff.

But that's just for legislators.

The pension solutions lawmakers impose on other state employees are always quite different from the solutions they provide for themselves.

The latest proposal I've heard to solve the problem includes these major provisions: cutting annual cost of living increases for pensioners, making state workers pay more toward their retirement and raising the age at which state employees can receive retirement benefits.

No doubt when a pension crisis deal is struck it will include these and/or other sacrifices state workers will be expected to absorb.

Our General Assembly members are quite adept at legislating sacrifices for others — that, and getting indicted.

Though my feeling is that what should be done first is eliminate the pensions of all persons who have served in the Illinois Legislature for the last 40 years or so.

Just as in the criminal justice system, blame and punishment ought to go to the perps.

That might not wipe out the $95 billion deficit.

But it's a start.

NIL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2012 | 23

Niles Herald-Spectator
Wants to Hear from You

Please send your Letters to the Editor to Niles Herald-Spectator, 3701 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60026. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. The Herald-Spectator reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. All letters must be signed to be published.
Question of the Week

“Was 2012 a good year for you?”

Janet Lee
Niles

“Yes, it was a great year. I was able to stay home with my 3 small children.”

Laurie Strzelecki
Niles

“It was a great year and I got my second grand baby.”

Jessica Igartua
River Grove

“Yes 2012 was a great year. I welcomed in my 3rd nephew and started a new job.”

Gaston Stanley
Niles

“Yes, 2012 was a good year for me because I got to spend most of my time on a golf course.”

People Poll

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION: “Will the Bears make the NFL playoffs?”
RESPONSES: 1) Yes: 49% 2) No: 48% 3) Undecided: 3%

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION: “What is your new year resolution?”
RESPONSES: 1) Eat healthier. 2) Exercise more. 3) Quit smoking. 4) Other.

To respond to this week’s People Poll question, visit niles.suntimes.com.
Brittany Laskowski has already graduated from Maine South High School, but she still visits her former school district a couple times a week — for assistance with college homework.

She is able to do so through the JumpStart Youth Employment Program offered at Maine East High School in Park Ridge. Funded by the Workforce Investment Act grant, the program provides academic and employment services to students who are economically challenged or face some type of barrier in their lives.

The services are provided to students attending all three Maine Township District 207 high schools as well as other teens in Maine Township and Cook County.

Laura Cook, director of the program at Maine East, said that some students struggle with basic math or reading, have a documented disability or have other personal challenges, such as legal problems or a child of their own. If a student has their own child, JumpStart helps them find resources to look for quality daycare.

“JumpStart has definitely gotten me on my feet,” said Laskowski, of Park Ridge. “They are such amazing people; they have helped me every step of the way.”

Laskowski said the program helped her with school and real-life job opportunities. She was given the chance to work with senior citizens in the community through a center associated with Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

“It was great over there,” Laskowski said.

Laskowski visits Maine East to get assistance with the homework she gets from her classes at Oakton Community College.

Like many other students, Laskowski was referred to the program by one of her teachers.

The JumpStart Program can help about 100 students every year. The Maine East High School program started in 1998.

“It’s just grown every year,” said Cook.

Cook explained that the program teaches the students strategies to become more organized, how to interact with teachers in order to prepare them for interacting with their future bosses, provides academic scholarships to colleges or training sites, holds work readiness workshops, helps them apply for permanent job positions and more.

The program also has community members help out and conduct mock interviews to help prepare the students for real-life job interviews. They also help teach students skills like operating a cash register and filing papers prior to them getting to a work site.

“I love the program,” said Dan Pitu of Niles, a senior at Maine East High School who joined the program his junior year.

Pitu works at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, transporting trays to the employees who deliver them to patients. He said he would have never gotten this job if it wasn’t for JumpStart.

Pitu added that through JumpStart he has also been able to receive assistance with his science homework.

Students in Maine Township are from a variety of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. According to the 2011 Maine East Report Card, 45 percent of families fall into the low-income range.
MAINE TOWNSHIP

A portion of the property taxes paid to East Maine School District 63 this year is expected to support the replacement of Gemini Junior High School's aging roof next summer. District 63 is allocating an additional $1 million from its 2012 tax levy for operations and maintenance work in order to fund needed capital projects and better support the regular upkeep of its facilities.

Administrators had anticipated building a new roof at Gemini in 2014. Yet a report last month found construction needed to happen sooner, rather than later, according to Director of Operations Dan Barrie.

"It's not a matter of if, but a matter of when," he said. "The roof is basically five years beyond its expected lifespan."

He added: "There's no leaking or anything like that, but we want to replace it before we get to that point."

The current spray foam roof will be replaced with more sustainable asphalt and stone paving that typically lasts 20 to 30 years.

The last roof replacement at the six-decades-old school in Niles took place about 15 years ago, Barrie said. He said the district would likely begin seeking bids on the roof project, estimated to cost $1.86 million, in the spring.

The school district's $32.59 million tax levy, approved by the Board of Education on Dec. 5, reflects a 4.7-percent increase over last year.

Debt service brings the total amount levied to approximately $36.27 million.

A majority of levied funds — $25.25 million — would be used for educational purposes. The district also set aside $4.5 million for operations, building and maintenance; $1.7 million for transportation; $650,000 for tort immunity; $340,000 for special education; $100,000 for social security; and $50,000 for working cash.

Tax cap laws, however, limit this year's levy increase to the Consumer Price Index of 3 percent plus new taxes associated with new construction. The actual amounts that District 63 projects to collect are $32.19 million, plus an additional $3.68 million for debt service, reported David Bein, executive director of business services.

Schools provide soundtrack to the holidays

PARK RIDGE

Schools in Park Ridge-Niles District 64 will again make music for the holidays during annual Holiday Sings. The following performances are scheduled:

• Carpenter School, 300 N. Hamlin, on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the north gym.
• Field School, 707 N. Wisner Ave., on Thursday, Dec. 20 and Friday, Dec. 21 in the north gym.
• Franklin School, 2401 Manor Ln., on Wednesday, Dec. 19 and Thursday, Dec. 20 in the auditorium.
• Roosevelt School, 1001 S. Fairview Ave., Thursday, Dec. 20 in the south gym.
• Washington School, 1500 Stewart Ave., on Friday, Dec. 21 in the gym.

For additional information about when specific classes and students are performing, contact the schools.
Schools always on alert for safety concerns

By Jennifer Johnson | jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com

North suburban schools reacted with shock and concern last week to the school shootings in Newtown, Conn. at the Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Several schools requested stepped-up police presence in their vicinity, worried that copycats may emerge. Skokie in particular increased patrols at all its schools, reacting to requests from various schools there.

"Even though it hasn't happened here, it certainly has created shock among the teachers and parents for the loss of life, especially at this time of year," said Philip Bender, superintendent of Park Ridge-Niles School District 64.

In a letter prepared for parents in response to the school shooting, Bender indicated that District 64, as well as schools across the country, "will integrate lessons learned into ongoing school safety procedures."

Bender said the district stays on top of its safety protocol and just over one year ago formed a "crisis committee" with Maine Township High School District 207 and local police and fire departments.

"Especially when staff members are on the playground during playground time they're always on the lookout" for any individuals who are not familiar to them, Bender said.

Each school conducts lockdown drills with assistance from the local police departments so students and staff know the procedure if violence were to occur in the building.

In an e-mail to parents that was sent out Friday afternoon, East Maine School District 63 Superintendent Scott Clay also assured parents of safety measures put in place at the district's schools. All exterior doors of the school buildings are locked, all visitors must enter through the school office after being buzzed in, students and staff are reminded to never open a door for anyone, and lockdown drills are practiced, the e-mail stated.

"We continuously revisit our safety measures so we can be confident that we are doing all we can do to ensure the safety of everyone who is in our care," Clay said.

District 63 social workers also met to develop a procedure for addressing any concerns students and staff had following the Connecticut tragedy.
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**

The Center of Concern: 1580 N. Northwest Highway, Suite 310, Park Ridge, (847) 623-0453, calendar of events includes:

**Note:** The Center of Concern is closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1; it will be open from 9 a.m.-noon Dec. 31.

**CLASSES**

**Animal assisted therapy**

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

**MOMS Club**

Northern Chicagoland group holds weekly activities (such as play groups, outings, museums, park dates) and monthly member meetings and Moms Night Out. Call (773) 853-2834 or visit [http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago](http://sites.google.com/site/momsclubofnorthernchicago). The Center of Concern: 987 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-7900, 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 5:30-9 p.m. Fridays, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Feb. 28; Niles Family Fitness Center, 987 Civic Center Drive, (847) 588-7900, 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, 5:30-9 p.m. Fridays, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Feb. 28; Park Ridge Public Works Service Center, 400 Busse Highway, (847) 318-5240, 6-10 a.m. Thursdays, of- fers stress reduction techniques, Class Code 8C48. Nutrition for Optimal Cancer Wellness: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fridays, Discusses foods and nutrients to help cancer patients and survivors eat healthy, Class Code 8C45.

**Whooping Cough Vaccine**

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

**Exercise/Nutrition for Cancer Patients**

A variety of exercise and well-being classes for cancer patients is offered at Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster St., Park Ridge. Call (800) 323-8622 to register - Gentle and Restorative Yoga: 6-7 p.m. Mondays, can be done in a chair if needed, Class Code 8C49. Exercise for Cancer: 9:30-10:30 a.m Tuesdays, improve strength, stamina and flexibility, Class Code 8C47. Gentle Yoga: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Class Code 8C46. Stress Reduction: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays. Offers stress reduction techniques, Class Code 8C48. Nutrition for Optimal Cancer Wellness: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fridays, Discusses foods and nutrients to help cancer patients and survivors eat healthy, Class Code 8C45.
Calendar

Continued from page 29

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.

Golf Maine Parks offices are located at Feldman Recreation Center, 8800 Kathy Lane (one block south of Golf Road on Western Avenue), in Niles or at Dee Park, at the corner of Dee and Emerson roads, Des Plaines. Call (847) 297-3000.

Preschool


Kampus Kids/Child Care

Before and after school available for children in grades K-6 at Stevenson, Apollo and Mark Twain schools.

Zumba

Fun and easy Latin inspired workout. Ongoing classes 7:15 p.m. Mondays or Tuesdays at Feldman.

Ballet & Tap

Ages 3 years to adult ongoing classes year round. Dee and Feldman Parks.

Tae Kwon Do

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

St. Luke's Community Church

Holds Adult Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services at 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie. Classes held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with “Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch” the first Sunday of each month. Call the church (847) 673-1434.

Holy Trinity Episcopal

Holds Adult Christian Education classes following 10 a.m. Sunday services at 8201 N. Karlov Ave., Skokie. Classes held on a variety of topics. A Fellowship Hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week with “Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch” the first Sunday of each month. Call the church (847) 673-1434.

Messiah Lutheran

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1605 Vernon Ave., Park Ridge, holds a Christian education hour 9 a.m. each Sunday, with worship service at 10:15 a.m. During the hour, Sunday school is in church parsonage; children from preschool-sixth grade welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

St. John Brebeuf

Adoration Chapel in the Parish Ministry Center, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for spiritual devotion, prayers and meditation. Call (847) 966-8145.

Ezra-Habonim

Ezra-Habonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, offers Introduction to Judaism and beginning adult Hebrew classes on Sundays and monthly Yiddish. Members and nonmembers welcome. Call (847) 675-4141, or visit www.ehnt.org.

NILES SENIOR CENTER

The center offers membership to Niles residents age 55 and older and their spouses. Drop by the Niles Senior Center, 999 Civic Center Drive, Niles, or call (847) 588-8420 for an application. Visit www.vniles.com, click on Departments and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.

Holiday Parties

Celebrate the new year from noon-2:30 p.m. Jan. 3. Lunch will include salad, chicken parmesan, potatoes, vegetables and dessert: Peter Oprisko and his
and day trips.
shops, special events
special-interest work-
free consumer seminars,
fitness classes, free
long learning programs,
programs such as life-
to-moderate-priced
occasionally taught, free-
perience profes-
adults 55 and older
Mather's invites
W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, (773) 774-
Mill management office at (847)
the second Wednesday. Call Golf
Health seminars and blood pressure
within an enclosed environment.
urdays, to enable seniors to walk
program Mondays through Sat-
"Feats of Fitness," a mall-walking
Golf Mill Shopping Center: Hosting
Walking program
Golf Mill Shopping Center: Hosting
"Feats of Fitness," a mall-walking
program Mondays through Sat-
urs, to enable seniors to walk
within an enclosed environment.
Health seminars and blood pressure
screenings offered throughout the
year every month from 9-10 a.m. on
the second Wednesday. Call Golf
Mill management office at (847)
699-1070.

SENIORS

Walking program

Golf Mill Shopping Center: Hosting
"Feats of Fitness," a mall-walking
program Mondays through Sat-
urs, to enable seniors to walk
within an enclosed environment.
Health seminars and blood pressure
screenings offered throughout the
year every month from 9-10 a.m. on
the second Wednesday. Call Golf
Mill management office at (847)
699-1070.

Mather's

Mather's, More Than a Cafe, 7134
W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, (773) 774-
4804 - Mather's invites
events professionals to
experience professionally taught, free-
to-moderate-priced programs such as life-
long learning programs, fitness classes, free
blood-pressure checks and health screenings,
free consumer seminars, special-interest work-
shops, special events and day trips.

Chess Club for check-
mate champs and new
people who want to
learn the rules and
basic strategies ses-
tions are Wednes-
days at 1 p.m.

Exercise classes -
Jazzercise combines
aerobic exercises
with elements of jazz
dance. A series of
dance routines is set to
popular
while incorporat-
ing yoga, Pilates, cardio-
kickboxing, and other fitness
styles. Classes move incremen-
tally through different intensity
levels, so anyone is welcome to
join. Classes are held at 11 a.m.
Wednesdays. Try the gentle-
moderate exercise class, 11:15 a.m.
Mondays and 10 a.m. Tuesdays
which features a combination of
seated and standing exercises
for a complete cardiovascular
workout. The moderate-high
energy class is at 11 a.m. on Thurs-
days and Fridays, giving more
of a challenge with cardio,
stretching, stretching and
toning routines.

Computer Classes - All
classes are four weeks and
meet once a week for two
hours. Begin with level
one and advance through
to level four. Classes are
regularly forming and are
offered every month.

Learn how to create
a holiday centerpiece
with Robert Neri
of Robert's Floral
Design Studio at 2
p.m. Dec. 21. Dona-
tion of $15 re-
quired in advance.

Weight Loss groups

Weight No More - Friendly
weight loss support group
welcomes new members. Dis-
cussions include weight loss tips,
recipes, and helpful ideas to help
participants reach their goals.
Fees are $5 monthly to defray the
room rental costs and small fines
for weight gain. Meetings take
place from 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Fridays at the Howard Leisure Center,
6676 Howard St., Niles (elevator
accessible). Call (847) 679-4229.

TOPS Club: The local chapter
meets 5 p.m. Mondays at the
Niles Park District Center,
6676 W. Howard St., Niles
(formerly W. Howard St.), Niles,
on the lower level (handicap
accessible). TOPS meet-
ing lot in the rear. Group 173 meets
at 7:30 p.m. every Monday (except
holidays) at First United Method-
st Church, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park
Ridge, in the Parlor Room, south por-
tion of main level; use entrance at
rear (Grant Place), across from the
parking lot. No dues or fees required.
First names only used at meetings to
preserve individual anonymity. This is
a nonprofessional and non-religious
program. Call (773) 777-4442 or visit
www.familiesanonymous.org.

Grieving groups

Holding Onto Hope: Monthly daytime
program for widowed people grieving
the loss of a spouse meets 1-2:30
p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the
month at the Park Ridge Non-Profit
Center, 720 Garden St. Registration
is required. Admission is $5 per ses-
sion. Call (847) 692-8884 for more
information.

Rainbow Hospice: The
Life Transitions Group
is an ongoing support
program for anyone who,
as a general guideline,
hangs been widowed
for one to four years,
meeting 7-8:30 p.m.
the fourth Tuesday of
the month at the Park
Ridge Non-Profit Center,
720 Garden St., Park
Ridge. The fee is $5
per session. Call (847)
692-8884.
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Spotlight

Wine of Scrimmage: Ditka Touches Down in Niles for Promo

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES
Carrying footballs, photographs, Chicago Bears memorabilia and bottles of his new wine, fans of Mike Ditka anxiously stood in line for several hours to get an autograph from the former Bears coach at Binny’s Beverage Depot in Niles.

Ditka was at the store Dec. 12 promoting his new line of wines with names like “The Player” and “The Hall of Famer.” His line includes Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Noir and others.

“The day has been terrific,” said Steve Mandell, Ditka’s business manager.

Chuck Campagna, general manager of the Binny’s Beverage Depot Niles location at 8935 N. Milwaukee Ave., said fans started to get in line at 1 p.m. for the signing that took place from 6 to 8 p.m. Hundreds of other fans had to be turned down due to the big turnout.

“It shows how popular he is and what an impact he has made on the Chicago community,” said Brad Hokin, a fan and friend of Mandell’s. “He really takes the time for every single person.”

Campagna said that the liquor store chain has had celebrity signings at some of the Chicago locations, but it is a rare occasion for the Niles store.

Mandell said that Ditka, a Hall of Famer and Chicago sports legend, has always loved wine and his wine is sold at his iconic steak houses.

“People are buying four to five cases at a time,” noted Mandell, who said that the wines are perfect for holiday gifts. Ditka was also promoting his line of cigars at the event.

Hokin said that Ditka truly represents Chicago sports and he felt it was great for the Niles community to have him promoting his wines in town.

Holding signed Chicago Bears memorabilia, Fred Rodriguez drove all the way from Indiana to see Ditka.

“We’ve met him three or
NILES

Niles Mayor Robert Callero expressed disappointment in village trustees who voted Dec. 11 to table a resolution in support of granting a commercial printing business a Cook County Class 6B incentive to reduce the company’s property-tax bill.

Gustafson Group, LLC opened a business in Niles 25 years ago at 7350 Croname Rd., two doors down from the vacant building they want to purchase and renovate.

The 6B program is used as an incentive to occupy vacant property by offering a tax break to the business interested in purchasing the property.

John Gustafson, one of the brothers who own the company, told trustees that he wants to purchase the property at 7430 N. Croname Rd. by the end of the month for tax reasons and said he and his brother really need the 6B status.

The property at 7430 N. Croname has been vacant since January 2008. The growing Gustafson Group has consolidated a lot of their operations into a 160,000 square-foot building at 6701 W. Oakton St. The company owns three buildings in Niles that do not currently have a 6B status.

Gustafson Group has grown to 131 employees and the proposal is for the new building to add 10 full-time positions and 35 part-time jobs.

Niles Trustee Chris Hanusiak said that the village needs to put some kind of parameters in place before granting businesses a 6B incentive.

Trustee Andrew Przybylo felt strongly that the board should grant the tax break to Gustafson, saying this is a family business that has been in Niles for many years.

Hanusiak questioned whether being a long-standing family business in town should be a “parameter.”

“This is a question of loyalty to someone who’s supported this village for all of these years,” responded Przybylo, stating that tabling the issue was “anti-business.”

The board voted 4-1 to table the issue until the January board meeting. Trustee Joseph LoVerde was absent.

“I’m ashamed of this board,” said Callero. He stated that he supports looking at future parameters for granting 6B incentives, but did not feel that Gustafson Group should be penalized just because none are currently in place.

Local business owner Henry Achino was upset about the board not granting the tax incentive on Dec. 11 and said he apologized to representatives of the Gustafson company as they were leaving the meeting.

“I’m ashamed to be part of this community,” Achino said.

Hanusiak stated that as a result of a 6B incentive other businesses in town will have to pay more in taxes over the 12-year period, stating it may cause other businesses to want to leave town.

But Finance Director Scot Neu-kirch said this is not the case when going from a vacant property to a 6B status. He said it is estimated the village would bring in $22,000 if the property remained vacant and about $33,000 if the building was occupied with a 6B status.

four times before,” Rodriguez said.

Daniel and Graham Cohen, high school students who live in Northbrook, purchased photographs of Ditka online so that he could sign them during his Binny’s appearance.

“I’ve never met him before,” said Daniel Cohen. “I think it’s really cool that he’s doing this. I’m a big Bears fan.”

The brothers were in line since 4:30 p.m. and finally got their turn to meet Ditka a few hours later, just like many of the other enthusiastic fans.

According to a handout given at the event, Ditka teamed up with Bill Terlato, of Terlato Wines, who shares his passion for sports, food, wine and a good cigar, to create a high quality line of wines.
Holiday Worship Guide

Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
invites you to join us for our
Christmas Worship Services
Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve
5 pm Family Service
10:30 pm Musical Prelude
11 pm Candlelight Service
Park Ridge Presbyterian Church
1300 W. Crescent Ave. (847) 823-4135
http://tinyurl.com/PRPC-Holiday

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24
5:00 p.m. Family Service
11:00 p.m. Traditional Service With Candlelight & Carols
“From the Inn to the Stable”
DECEMBER 25
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
All are Welcome!
www.parkridgecommunitychurch.org

Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church
Worship this Christmas at
Carter-Westminster Presbyterian Church
Advent Service
Sunday, December 23, 10:45 am
Followed by the
Sunday School Christmas Pageant
in Sawyer Hall
Annual Christmas Eve Vespers Service
Monday, December 24
Refreshments at 4 pm & Worship at 5 pm
4950 W. Pratt Ave., Skokie
www.cwupc.org
847-673-4441

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2038 Central Rd.
Glencoe, IL 60022
847-224-6060
Rev. Dr. Robin Brown
Christmas Eve
4:00 pm 10:00 pm
Family Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
New Year's Eve
5:00 pm
Candlelight Service

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve Worship Services
Monday, Dec. 24
10:00 am - Holy Communion at all services
5:00 pm - Family Candlelight Service
7:30 pm - Candlelight Service
11:00 pm - Candlelight Service
Christmas Day Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 25
9:30 am Service - Holy Communion
9:30 am Service - Holy Communion
5320 N. Canfield, 60631
708-867-5044
www.stpaulcanfield.org

Our Lady of Ransom Church
8300 N. Greenwood, Niles, Illinois 60714 • Rev. Christopher Gustafson, Pastor
www.olransom.org • 847-823-2550

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday, Dec. 22 - 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon
Regular Sunday Schedule

CHristmas Masses - 2012
CHRISTMAS EVE - MONDAY, DEC. 24
4:00 p.m. Mass (Carols at 4:00 p.m.)
Christmas Day - Tuesday, Dec. 25
7:30-9:00 AM and 12:15 PM

Our Lady of Ransom Church
8300 N. Greenwood, Niles, Illinois 60714 • Rev. Christopher Gustafson, Pastor
www.olransom.org • 847-823-2550

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday, Dec. 22 - 11 a.m. to 12 noon
(Individual Confessions in English, Italian and Polish)

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday & Sunday, Dec 29 & 30
Regular Sunday Schedule

SOLEMNITY OF MARY (holy day)
New Year's Eve - Monday, Dec 31:
Mass (5:00 p.m.)
New Year's Day - Tuesday, Jan 1:
9:00 a.m.
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PROSPECT HEIGHTS
8555 Maynard Road: Chicago Title Land Trust to Sang K. Lee for $135,000 on Oct. 29
9050 Heathwood Circle Unit 14-E: International Bank of Chicago to Sang K Lee for $135,000 on Oct. 29

PROSPECT HEIGHTS
209 Rob Roy Lane Unit B: Betty A. Freykin Trust to Tramell Fisher for $135,000 on Oct. 31

DES PLAINES
9374 Landings Lane Unit 403: Lisa Roll Myntik Trust to Ostat Chuyko for $59,500 on Oct. 30
8852 Leslie Lane Unit 202B: Lena Mopsik to Iliya Petrov for $65,000 on Oct. 29
1580 S. Cora St: Theodore Kersting to Mohamed Aqorahami for $180,000 on Oct. 31
711 Des Plaines River Road Unit 418: John Haupt to Alexandra Laura Morar for $70,000 on Oct. 29
659 Des Plaines River Road Unit 6D: John Donato Trust to Vladimir Kocavcic for $73,000 on Oct. 29
1087 Hollywood Ave: Iliana Herrera Trust 013512 to Slamovir Ciurej for $140,000 on Oct. 29
936 W. Villa Drive: Barbara Strunisawska to Tomas Glodz for $180,000 on Oct. 29
805 Hollywood Ave: Intercounty Judicial Sales Corp to 3 FCB LLC Holdings 9 for $84,000 on Oct. 29
150 S. Wolf Road: Linda Wilkins Pierce Trust to Roman Dudzinski for $180,000 on Oct. 31
645 Joll Court: William J. Makuch to Donald D. Baronc Trust for $221,000 on Oct. 30

MORTON GROVE
5708 Keeney St: Harold C. Scanlon to Nabi M. Zaher for $265,000 on Oct. 31
9080 Ozark Ave: Vicken Ichkanian to Demetrio Martinez Quiroz for $285,000 on Oct. 30
9129 Waukegan Road: Chicago Title Land Trust to 0000000031531 to 9129 Holdings LLC for $300,000 on Oct. 31
8913 Marmora Ave: Lois Y. Erdman to Angel Rivera for $199,000 on Oct. 29

GLENCOE
769 Birch Road: Herbert Bronstein to Michael J. Glass for $400,000 on Oct. 31

MOUNT PROSPECT
1114 N. Hemlock Lane: Carolyn Burton to Christopher J. Loechel for $380,000 on Oct. 29

EVANSTON
2204 Forestview Road: Scott M. T. Mayer to Brian P. Crowley for $647,500 on Oct. 29
330 Ridge Ave Unit 3: Frederick Fissell to Maureen R. Evers for $110,000 on Oct. 29
2009 Harrison St Unit 204: Loris C. Hagemann Trust to Marianne Woodward for $190,000 on Oct. 30
1615 Oak Ave: Harold Friedman to Meadowpool Properties LLC for $1,320,000 on Oct. 29

GLENVIEW
3243 Roder Ave: Piya Sirithas to Jignesh Soni for $285,000 on Oct. 30
1001 Elmdale Road: Zheng Li to Christopher F. Ratzky for $473,000 on Oct. 30
1502 Meadow Lane: Thomas C. Kendall Trust to Kevin P. Wood for $474,000 on Oct. 30

PARK RIDGE
1217 S. Washington Ave: Thomas W. Brown to Terence Bernier for $160,000 on Oct. 30
WHAT'S IN MY PRICE RANGE?

GLENVIEW
1114 Vernon Drive, $339,000
House size: 2,000 square feet
Lot size: 7,500 square feet
Year built: 1997
Bedrooms: 4  Baths: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $7,604.03 (2011)
Agent: Ben Gerstman, Prudential Rubloff, 847-790-8428

LINCOLNWOOD
4545 W. Touhy Ave., $325,000
Unit size: 2,223 square feet
Lot size: NA
Year built: 1991
Bedrooms: 3  Baths: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $6,631.73 (2011)
Agent: Marlene Bass, Prudential Rubloff, 847-790-8479

LAKE ZURICH
47 Carolyn Court, $339,900
House size: 1,998 square feet
Lot size: 10,019 square feet
Year built: 2002
Bedrooms: 5  Baths: 3.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $7,604.03 (2011)
Agent: Christopher Hoelz, RE/MAX Showcase, 847-596-6150

ELMWOOD PARK
2625 74th Ave., $314,900
House size: 1,650 square feet
Lot size: 6,250 square feet
Year built: 1923
Bedrooms: 4  Baths: 4
Garage: Two-car detached
Most recent available tax: $7,931.94 (2011)
Agent: Gabe Caporale, Caporale Realty, 708-473-7334

MUNDELEIN
613 Lexington Court, $319,000
House size: 2,800 square feet
Lot size: 11,200 square feet
Year built: 1983
Bedrooms: 4  Baths: 2.5
Garage: 2.5 car attached
Most recent available tax: $8,850 (2011)
Agent: Debbie Dunn and Diane Miller, Prudential Rubloff, 847-987-8074

What can I get for $300K-$350K?

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.

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WILLOWBROOK
16W648 90th St., $399,000
House size: 2,500 square feet
Lot size: 11,342 square feet
Year built: 1979
Bedrooms: 3  Baths: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $6,118 (2010)
Agent: Michael Giliano, Prudential Rubloff, 630-816-1363

HOUSE FOR SALE? For details to get a home listed on the Price Range page, contact homes@suntimes.com with Price Range in subject line or 312-300-7987. Information for listings that aren't submitted is received from the local county assessor's offices.
Smart games for the holidays

Make 2013 the year of having fun with these additions to your family game night

GET CREATIVE

One of the best ways to get kids (and adults) involved in games is to engage their imagination. Magic Feather (www.wiggitybang.com) and Telestrations (www.telestrations.com) are two games that do just that. Magic Feather bills itself as a "nuttty rumpus of a game," which is code for "it's silly, imaginative and fun." Players choose a story card, which will guide them through a magical neighborhood where they'll answer questions, engage in dramatic play and try their hand at problem solving. The game is geared towards kids 7 and older, though I imagine younger siblings might enjoy playing along with an older brother or sister. Telestrations is designed for slightly older kids (12 and up) and is part Pictionary, part Telephone. Players learn to communicate without words by drawing words and phrases in a sketchbook, which is then passed around in much the same way you would pass around a secret in a game of Telephone. It's a great game to play with a large group of kids as it emphasizes having fun and working together.

BE AWKWARD

No need to wear your ugly Christmas sweater because Awkward Family Photos (www.awkwardfamilyphotos.com) has more than enough to go around. The board game, based on the hit website and bestselling book is oddly engaging and yes, even a little awkward. Players take turns responding to open-ended questions that relate to the people, places and scenes that populate the game. The result is usually a funny mix of clever comebacks, silly gaffes and the occasional "what were they thinking?" comment. Recommended for kids ages 13 and up, this game is perfect for college-age kids who will be quick to remember the time their mom dressed them up for their own awkward family photo (yep we all have them).

BUILD SKILLS

For parents looking for games that require no reading skills, check out Don't Rock the Boat (www.patchproducts.com/product/6949). Perfect for children ages 3 and older, this game has players carefully placing penguins on a topsy-turvy boat. It's the perfect game for little hands and a great way to build concentration and motor skills. Another smart activity for pre-readers are puzzles which combine visual-spatial awareness with problem solving skills. Frecklebox (www.frecklebox.com) has a fun assortment of puzzles that can be personalized with your child's name. I love this idea because it's always thrilling for kids to see their name in print, which in turn provides just the right amount of motivation to put the puzzle together.

GO WITH IT

For fun on the go, few games are as convenient as Appletters (www.bananagrams.com), which come in their own apple-shaped carrying case. Although the game has been around since 2009, it's the perfect example of a tried and true game that gets better with age. Appletters can be modified to be easier or more challenging and will help get your early readers thinking about letter sounds, spelling rules, prefixes and suffixes. For older kids, Words of the Wise (www.griddlygames.com) is a challenging, on-the-go brainteaser game. The object is to come up with items that fit a specific category such as state capitals, cartoon characters or books. Of course, there are twists and turns along the way and sometimes the easiest category might be a stumper, but that's all part of the fun.

Do you have a favorite game we missed? Let us know on Facebook www.facebook.com/PioneerPressGo.
Matunda ya Kwanzaa means first fruits of the harvest in Swahili.

And during Kwanzaa, an homage to Africa's ancient year-end harvest festivals, as well as all things African-American, food customs are a prevailing theme. The festival, which is observed during the last week of each year, originated in 1966. Since then, Kwanzaa has been a perennial chance to toast classic, comforting soul foods indicative of the American South. And recently chefs are giving some of those guilt-inducing classic recipes healthier makeovers.

At soul food eateries like Wishbone in Chicago, Kwanzaa party orders have been up in recent years. But there the standard Southern fare isn't just a culpable indulgence anymore. Oak Park resident Joel Nickson, and his brother, Guy, opened the first of two family-run eateries in 1990, because they wanted to show off soul food's lighter side. "A lot of people think soul food is all hush puppies," Nickson says. "We wanted to have soul food that wasn't just fried."

At Wishbone, brown rice is as popular as white and polenta squares are frequently topped with medleys of roasted red pepper, zucchini and other vegetables.

Grits are everywhere lately, from greasy spoons to gourmet restaurants, and the trend is noticeable at Wishbone. "It's 50-50 now between grits and home fries," Nickson says. What's more, he insists that grits can taste just as good without cheese. "Grits with a little bit of black pepper and a little bit of butter go great with eggs," he says.

And Nickson has a new recipe for a healthier Hoppin' John Salad. His recipe features the historic salad's usual nutritious main ingredient, black-eyed peas. The legumes, a celebrated New Year's Day staple in the South, represent coins, symbols of prosperity. But another traditional Hoppin' John ingredient is missing from Nickson's recipe: bacon. Instead, Nickson's dish is rich in flavorful ingredients such as tomatoes, scallions, carrots, parsley and peanuts. He mixes the ingredients together with cooked brown rice and tosses the mixture in a salad dressing made with red wine vinegar, canola oil, sliced onion, black pepper and kosher salt.

Chef Joel Nickson, owner and chef of Wishbone, adds more black-eyed peas into a Hoppin' John Salad.
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6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL
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Sunday Worship: 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor
Carole Edwards, Associate in Ministry
Matt Haider, Worship/Music
MithaLL1, Children's Ministry
St. Paul Lutheran Church
5650 N. Canfield, 60631,
(708)867-5044, www.stpaulcanfield.org
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Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School & Adult Bible: 9:30 AM
Saturday Worship: 6 PM
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6201 W. Peterson Ave.
Chicago, IL (773) 631-0715
Saturday Worship: 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Holy Communion Weekly
Pastors: Barbara Berry-Bailey
and Jeffrey King

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Presbyterian Church (USA)
8944 Austin Avenue
(Lake and Austin)
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www.mgccpresbyterian.org
Sunday Worship: 10 AM
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Second City That Never Sleeps: Letters to Santa

The Second City sets the standard for comedic excellence, so it's not surprising that when this talented crew decides to raise funds for Onward Neighborhood House, it pulls out a star-studded all-nighter. The marathon benefit begins at 6 p.m. and features 24 hours of non-stop comedy and music from an all-star cast. This year's lineup includes improv sets from Olivia Wilde, Jason Sudeikis and Fred Armisen, plus performances from music legends Jeff Tweedy, Kim Deal and Bonnie Prince Billy. Tickets: $20. Second City e.t.c. Theatre, 1616 N. Wells. Tickets available at the door starting at 5 p.m. and will last throughout the event as long as seats are available. For more information, call (312) 337-3992 or visit Letters tosantachicago.com. —Thomas Connors

Shopping for your favorite jewelry lover is simple, thanks to designer Erin Gallagher's new concierge service. She uses a series of unconventional questions about the recipient to get to know his or her style, then brings spot-on options directly to the buyer's home or office. The service is free, with no obligation to buy. 1013 W. Webster, Egjewelry.com

Who needs chestnuts on an open fire when you can have them served confit over a pumpkin seed-encrusted cobia? Sola's December prix-fixe menu features three chestnut-infused dishes for $30; wine pairings $15 additional. 3868 N. Lincoln, Sola-restaurant.com

Protect skin from winter wear and tear with Clarins beauty kits, featuring bath, body and makeup products that range from glowing goddess moisturizers to smoothing body scrubs. $48-$60. Available at Sephora (520 N. Michigan) or at Clarins.com.

On Dec. 15, kick off the day with bubbles and baubles as Sarca (710 N. Wabash) hosts a Damen + Division holiday trunk show. Starting at 10 a.m., the local line will showcase its big, bold bracelets, necklaces and earrings, including the exclusive collection created especially for the Gold Coast boutique.

Though the Marché de Noël has been a French Christmas tradition for the past four centuries, it's a new holiday hobby that Chicago is happily adopting. Taking place at the French Market (131 N. Clinton), the free event will showcase a variety of unique present possibilities, from jewelry to sophisticated gourmet snacks. Through Dec. 21. Learn more at Frenchmarketchicago.com/events.

It's the season of hosting, making it the perfect time to turn your attention to a home revamp with the help of the annual Jayson Home Floor Model and More sale. Starting Dec. 21, scoop up furniture galore at up to 70 percent off. The sale lasts long after the relatives have left town, ending Jan. 21. Shop in the store at 1885 N. Clybourn or online at Jaysonhome.com.

Stylish Chicagoans are having a great month: Lanvin, the high-fashion French brand, opens the doors of its new Chicago boutique at 116 E. Oak — just a week after Louboutin set up shop down the block. The new Lanvin store will feature two floors of jaw-dropping fashion, including men's and women's clothing, shoes and accessories.

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THE SPLASH SEVEN

1 Do-It-Yourself 'Messiah'
Dec. 17 & 18: After participating in a sing-along version of Handel's "Messiah" in England, music-loving Chicagoan Al Booth launched a Windy City version in 1976, and this wonderfully democratic rendition has been a holiday tradition ever since. From the stirring strings of "For Unto Us a Child Is Born" to the irresistible power of the "Hallelujah!" chorus, there's nothing quite like it to get in the seasonal spirit. Who wouldn't want to join in and lift their voice in song? Tickets: $10. Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph. Visit the box office, call (312) 334-7777 or purchase online at Harristheaterchicago.org.

2 An Evening of Wine & Film with Ed Burns
Dec. 18: Forget popcorn and a movie — City Winery's Michael Dorf and director/actor Ed Burns have their sights set on a more unconventional pairing. Oenophiles and film buffs alike will get a kick out of this event, in which Dorf pairs eight wines with eight scenes from Burns's films, from his indie debut "The Brothers McMullen" to his latest, the Tribeca Film release, "The Fitzgerald Family Christmas." Burns, who's delved as deeply into the Irish-American psyche as Scorsese has the culture of Italian-Americans, will talk shop and take questions. Tickets: $38 and $48. 1200 W. Randolph. Call (312) 733-9463 or visit Citywinery.com/chicago.

3 'Dickens' Women'
Dec. 18-22: 'Tis the season of Scrooge and Tiny Tim, not Miss Havisham and Mrs. Micawber. But with Dickens in the air, what better time to take a look at the parade of women who populate his many memorable novels? Created and performed by award-winning actress Miriam Margolyes (Professor Sprout to "Harry Potter" film fans) this one-woman show, in which 23 of the author's creations come to life, explores the wonderful characters he created and the ways in which they reflect those in his own life. Tickets: $50-$60. Chicago Shaepeare Theater, Navy Pier, 800 E. Grand. Call (312) 595-5600 or visit Chicagoshakes.com.

4 'Underwater Dogs' book signing
Dec. 19: Seth Casteel never set out to be the photo world's answer to the Dog Whisperer, but once his shots of canines cavorting in pools went viral, his reputation was sealed. Now captured in the pages of a book — the aptly titled Underwater Dogs — Casteel's unique portfolio has captivated dog lovers and photo fans alike. Meet the man at Chicago Art Source, where amid music and holiday cheer, he'll sign books from 6-9 p.m. Free. 1871 N. Clybourn. (773) 248-3100, Chicagoartsoure.com.

5 Andrew Bird at Fourth Presbyterian Church
Dec. 19-21: It's one thing to take in the talents of songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Andrew Bird at an outdoor show or music venue. But to listen to his folk-inspired vocals and trademark violin in a place like the majestic Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago — the grand, gothic structure on North Michigan Avenue — is a completely elevated experience. For the third year, the Chicago native returns to the sacred space for his annual multnight December show. Expect to hear songs from classic albums like "Noble Beast," new music from his October release, "Hands of Glory," and a few holiday tracks in between. 126 E. Chestnut, (312) 787-4570. Purchase tickets at Songkick.com.

6 Taiko legacy
Dec. 21-22: This celebration of thunderous Japanese drumming is no silent night. Spun from a ceremonial art more than 2,000 years old, these sounds seem to rise from deep in the earth, and the aural rush permeates the listener's entire body. In addition to the soul-shocking percussion, the performance — orchestrated by Tsukasa Taiko, a program of Asian Improv Arts Midwest — features jazz improvisations and the stylized kimono dance of Ayako Kato. Tickets: MCA members $13; nonmembers $15; students $10. Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago. Call (312) 397-4010 or visit Mcachicago.org.

7 Marty Casey Silver Elements trunk show
Dec. 22: Most locals know Marty Casey as the charismatic lead singer of Lovehammers. But when he's not penning and performing rock tunes, he's also one half of the creative team behind the Marty Casey Silver Elements Collection (his collaborator is designer Maria Zegart), a line of jewelry, watches, scarves, leather bags and other accessories that fuse classic designs with a rock 'n' roll edge. Shop the collection for last-minute holiday gifts — and enjoy some acoustic music as well — at this Made in Chicago trunk show, presented by the Apparel Industry Board Inc. 6-9 p.m. 44 E. Grand. Learn more at Silverelementscollectiion.com.
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'Kia Sorento and certain Optima GDI models are assembled in the United States from U.S. and globally-sourced parts. Based on 5-year cumulative growth between 12-month retail sales for periods ending August 2007 and August 2012 of all U.S. automotive brands. Standard on Optima Limited, available on Sorento SX with Premium Package. The Kia Optima received the highest numerical score among midsize cars in a tie in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2012 Automotive Performance, Execution and Layout Study. Study based on responses from 74,759 new vehicle owners, measuring 233 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February - May 2012. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com/Kia. Class-leading claim based on comparison of 2012 and available 2013 midsize sedans with optional engines as of September 2012. Max HP for 2.0L GDI Turbo engine is 274 hp @ 6,000 rpm. Turbo engine available only on SX and SX Limited. MSRP for Optima LX starts at $21,975. MSRP for Optima SX Limited shown is $35,275. MSRPs include freight and exclude taxes, title, license, other options and retailer charges. Actual prices set by retailer. Available 3.5L V6 comes with 276 hp. Available 2.4L GDI comes with 191 hp. Available 2.4L MPI engine comes with 175 hp. Available 2.4L GDI comes with 191 hp. Available 3.3L V6 comes with 276 hp. Max HP for 2.0L GDI Turbo engine is 274 hp @ 6,000 rpm. Turbo engine available only on SX and SX Limited. MSRP for Sorento LX starts at $23,950. MSRP for Sorento SX shown starts at $32,500. MSRPs include freight and exclude taxes, title, license, other options and retailer charges. Actual prices set by retailer.
In true Columbia College Chicago style, 90 students — representing II of the school’s departments — showcased their talents in visual arts, music, dance, theater and fashion at the Open Doors Gala on Dec. 7. Held at the school’s Media Production Center (1600 S. State), the event — co-chaired by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Marshall Field V, Richard Kiphart and Sylvia Neil and attended by guests such as Linda Johnson Rice — also honored the former chairman and CEO of Sara Lee Corp., John H. Bryan, who received the Chicago Legacy Award (in memory of publishing pioneer John H. Johnson) for his contributions to the arts. The sold-out crowd helped raise more than $800,000 for the Open Doors Scholarship fund, which assists Chicago public school graduates in continuing their education at Columbia College.

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

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The fashion-forward always have a flair for the dramatic, and these Chicago women are taking it literally with eye-catching peplum. The figure-flattering cut ranges from flirty (with bright colors and soft pleats) to formal (with chic fabrics and structured flare). Whatever the occasion, pair peplum with a slim-fit skirt or skinny jeans for the season's sleekest look. With so many options — including peplum belts — there's never been a better time to put a little pep in your step.
Debi Lilly knows how to party without breaking a sweat. As the creative powerhouse behind A Perfect Event, one of Chicago's premier event planning companies, Lilly strives to make entertaining easy. And while her clients include megastars like Oprah and publications like InStyle, she considers the young married couple hosting their first dinner party just as important. "The thing I love about my job is inspiring other people to elevate their own entertaining," Lilly says. "Everyone thinks throwing a party is stressful and expensive. We disagree."

It's that mentality that led Lilly to write her book A Perfect Event, a greatest hits collection of the celebrations she's thrown, along with tips, shortcuts and tricks to help people do it on their own. The party-planner's guidebook, published last July, is built around her key piece of advice: Have fun. "As the host or hostess, when you open that door for your guests, you're the barometer of fun. You want to answer that door ready to go with a big smile on your face."

But it's not enough to pen a book or plan a party — Lilly wants to make entertaining easy, accessible and affordable. She's partnered with Safeway, the company behind Dominick's, to create Debi Lilly Designs, a collection of timeless, beautiful objects at an affordable price point. Her holiday collection, in stores now, includes topiary, candles, cake stands and vases, many made from mercury glass, which Lilly loves for its elegance and yearlong usability.

While she's always up for a swank shindig, Lilly knows that people are busier than ever and can't always play host. So she recommends Chef Art Smith's Table 52 (52 W. Elm) as a home away from home. "It's a lovely, comforting and intimate setting," she says.

Here, Lilly walks us through her standard Sunday, spent with people that always make her merry: her family.

9 A.M.
Lilly takes her two children, ages 8 and 10, to Julius Meinl (3601 N. Southport) for their daily green tea fix.

NOON
The family heads to Music Box Theatre (3733 N. Southport) for an artsy, old-school singalang show.

2 P.M.
"My kids upped the ante on their lemonade stand and opened their first business, an old-fashioned candy bar inside my store, A Perfect Event [3050 N. Lincoln]," says Lilly. "Sunday is their time to check inventory and brainstorm new candyland projects."

3 P.M.
Lilly loves scouring the Chicago Antique Center (3036 N. Lincoln) for perfect pieces for her home, inspiration for party themes and ideas for her bimonthly digital magazine, A Perfect Event.

4 P.M.
The Lilly clan heads down to the Heritage Bicycle General Store (2959 N. Lincoln) to relax in the café. They're fans of the shop's Chicago-made bikes.

5 P.M.
"Sundays end with me cooking a giant pot of turkey black bean chili or the kids' favorite: picadillo," says Lilly.
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Chicago native Brian Atwood’s shoe collection towers above the rest

Story by Susanna Negovan
Photos by Maria Ponce

Brian Atwood has always had an eye for design. When he was a sophomore at Joliet Catholic High School, he taught himself to sew to make prom dresses for his friends. He would also sit in his bedroom and stare at a framed poster of a Lamborghini, which his mother recalls cost $100 at the mall, a small fortune for a single mom raising three kids.

Last month, Atwood, now 45 and at the helm of a shoe brand sold in 270 stores, bought his first car: a Lamborghini Aventador.

It was a full-circle moment that capped off the best year of his career: His Brian Atwood shoes — a collection he launched in 2001 — are now sold nationwide in stores including Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom and Intermix, and his label took on additional firepower last year when he partnered with The Jones Group, a global marketer of more than 35 brands. The move broadened his base thanks to the debut of the line’s younger, more accessible “cousin,” B Brian Atwood, which is sold in the same stores that carry his main line, plus scores of additional outposts including Bloomingdale’s. In September he opened his first Brian Atwood store — a mirrored and rock-crystal shrine to his 6-inch platforms — on New York’s Madison Avenue.

“What I really wanted from Jones, besides a great partner who could grow the business to where it needed to be, is operational support,” says Atwood. “My business was viewed as huge, but it was still just a few people running it. And I think that we really needed to amp that up so that we could do what we wanted to do.”

He’s just getting rolling.

There are plans for more stores around the country, along with recently launched brand extensions such as handbags and jewelry. Soon he’d like to launch a fragrance.

Today Atwood divides his time between Milan, where his eponymous collection is based, and New York, where B Brian Atwood is designed, and he lives with his fiancé, Dr. Jake Deutsch. He also regularly visits his Chicago area family (his mother, who now lives in Northwest Indiana, eventually remarried and had another son, Zak Sterner, who is an editorial assistant at Splash).

It’s been more than 20 years since a psychic told him, “You’ll be well known for something to do with feet.” He moved to New York at 19 to attend the Fashion Institute of Technology as a fashion design major, and shared his first apartment in Hell’s Kitchen with “Bridesmaids” actress Melissa McCarthy, a friend from his high school days.
school days. "I made her move to New York to do stand-up," he recalls. "I knew she would be a star because she was so funny. But we had no money. For her birthday I gave her a subway map and I was like, 'Here, you've got to learn your way around.'"

So it was another full-circle moment last year when McCarthy was nominated for an Academy Award, and she wore Brian Atwood shoes that were inscribed with the message: "Exclusively made for my BFF Melissa McCarthy on Oscar night."

After graduating from FIT, Atwood moved to Milan to pursue a career in modeling. "I figured modeling would be the way I could fly to Europe and meet the designers I wanted to work for," he says. Almost immediately, he was booked for runway shows for brands including Dolce & Gabbana and Dries Van Noten. In 1996, after modeling for seven years, he hand-delivered his resume to people he knew at Prada, Gucci and Versace. "If I knew the casting guy for the models, that's who I gave it to," he says. Atwood's resume was passed from a friend to Gianni Versace and he was hired, eventually becoming the head designer of accessories for the Italian luxury label.

Back then shoes weren't considered a major part of the fashion industry. "The accessory business then was pretty much if you had a pink silk dress on, you wanted that shoe dyed to match — it was a different business," says Atwood. "But it just blew up."

By the time he launched his own label in 2001, with the blessing of his "Italian family," the Versaces, Atwood was poised to capitalize on the spike in growth of the shoe business. He debuted the Maniac pump in 2007 — a sky-high covered platform that is a red-carpet staple among celebrities such as Emma Stone, Kate Hudson, Victoria Beckham and Katy Perry — and kept it front and center by reinventing it each season in new colors and fabrications. (His current collection offers the shoe in black silk with gold crystals.) In September 2011 he launched B Brian Atwood, offering the same bold designs at about half of the price: While Brian Atwood shoes start at $600, B Atwoods typically run $300.

And though Atwood is frequently photographed socializing with the celebrities who wear his shoes — Heidi Klum, Kim Kardashian and Rachel Zoe are among the friends who attended his store celebration in September — he's loyal to the cadre of Chicago women who promoted him long before anyone else.

"It's my hometown, and the support I get here is amazing," says Atwood. "When we opened the New York store, all the Chicago women came and shopped. It was very cool."

His mother says it was her group of friends who boosted his career when he began his own collection 11 years ago, including Peggy Martay (an ardent supporter, Atwood named a shoe after her two seasons ago), Laurie Davis, Stacie McClane Mickelson, Roni Siegel and Lynda Silverman, who are all members of Chicago's oldest women's non-profit. "The Service Club women were instrumental in first buying his stuff here in Chicago," she says.

So when Atwood finally opens a store here, it will be the culmination of not only his childhood dreams, but a wide circle of friends and family who have been cheering on his success every step of the way.

"I was walking down Oak Street the other day," says Atwood. "There are some beautiful spaces. [I'll open a store here] within the next three years for sure."

If history is any indication, once he has it in his mind's eye, it's only a matter of time.
Dear Santa...

Here's what five high-profile Chicagoans are hoping will be under the tree this year — plus their picks for gifts with the personal touch

BY BARRI LEINER GRANT

The clock is quickly ticking on the holiday season — have you finished your shopping yet? To help combat gift-giving stress, we asked five local tastemakers what they’re currently coveting this holiday season. From classes to camping goods, we’ve gathered their most inspired ideas to help carve out your own list.

**Neal Sabin**

**President of Content and Networks for Weigel Broadcasting**

**The Get:** "The gift I'd like is an Apple gadget and app that monitors your physical activity as well as diet," says Sabin. The Nike+ iPod Sport Kit goes wireless, making it perfect for runners, and the free, top-rated app MyFitnessPal keeps New Year's resolutions in check. $29, 679 N. Michigan, (312) 529-9500; Apple.com

**The Give:** This year Sabin will be gifting a classic — but in modern form. "I'm giving the new blue ray DVD set of the complete 'Dick Van Dyke' TV series, which includes an extra feature [with] all of the MeTV Network promos for the program." (Sabin has first-hand knowledge of the project, as he created the clever clips for the station.) $150; Amazon.com

**Naomi Beckwith**

**Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art**

**The Get:** Beckwith would love to go under the knife — with cooking lessons, that is — to brush up on her cutting and chopping skills. The Techniques Workshop, a hands-on class at the Wooden Spoon in Andersonville, is right up her alley. Classes start at $65, 5047 N. Clark, (773) 293-3190; Woodenspoonchicago.com

**The Give:** "Lately I've been interested in handmade objects and working with hands. So I would love to either give or get the new limited-edition Martin Creed album, with a hand-painted cover (shown above), recorded and painted here in Chicago," says Beckwith. Martin Creed No. 1370, $320, MCA Store, 220 E. Chicago, (312) 397-4000; Mccachicago.org

**Martha Lavey**

**Artistic Director, Steppenwolf Theatre Company**

**The Get:** When it comes to presents, Lavey is a "no gifts" kind of gal. Instead, "make a contribution to an arts organization — the size doesn't matter — that has brought you happiness this year," she suggests. "Write a note and tell them why you're giving. You're going to make someone's day!"

**The Give:** "Of course my recommendation for a great gift is tickets to Steppenwolf's next show, 'The Mother**** with the Hat,' [shown at left]" she says. It's a clever and sometimes foul-mouthed look at modern love and other addictions that runs through March 3, 2013. If you're buying for a 20-something, check out the Red Card. For $100, the card is good for six admissions to any Steppenwolf subscription show. Buy tickets and the card at Steppenwolf.org.

**Aviva Bowen**

**District Director, U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley**

**The Get:** For her wish list, Bowen looks to her own neighborhood. "The West Loop is known for incredible restaurants, but we have some cool boutiques as well," she says. "I love the Yumi Kim silk tops and dresses they carry at Tribeca on Madison." Tops range from $128 to $144, dresses from $178 to $198, 1035 W. Madison, (312) 492-9373; Shopattribeca.com

**The Give:** Bowen's pal Matt Glavin is a talented photographer who shoots vivid images of Chicago (shown above) and prints them on aluminum and other formats. "I'm giving friends who call Chicago home, or once did, a beautiful piece of our city to hang in their home," she shares. Images start at $200; Exposingchicago.com

**David Hernandez**

**Executive Creative Director, Ogilvy & Mather**

**The Get:** "I'm all about my tools, so just about anything from the fine folks at Winter Session would be welcome," says Hernandez. Toting his goods would be easy in the versatile, made-to-order roll-up from the locally produced line, which crafts durable yet stylish bags and wallets from sustainable materials. $65, Morlen Snoway Atelier, 1052 W. Fulton Market, (312) 432-0100; Winter-session.com

**The Give:** In his spare time, Hernandez and his family run the kitchy Camp Wandawega in Wisconsin, and even the most jaded urbanite will rediscover his or her inner camper with a care package from the camp store. From vintage-style slingshots to classic wooden scout arrows to antique tennis rackets, you can easily assemble an adorably nostalgic camp collection for anyone on your list. Shop the goods at Tereasa.com/campstore.
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head of CLASS

Style maven Nena Ikon, professor at Columbia College, founder and partner of TalksChic and former fashion director at Saks Fifth Avenue, shares her festive finds for an elegant holiday season.

1. **Randolph Street Antique Market**: season's pass, $150; Randolphstreetmarket.com
   “A perfect gift is a season's pass to the monthly Randolph Street Antique Market. I'm obsessed with it from February through November.”

2. **Orchids by Hausermann**: $6.50-$45, 2N134 Addison, Villa Park; Orchidsbyhausermann.com
   “One of my passions is orchids. I normally get them from Orchids by Hausermann, but you can also find lovely orchids at your local grocery store. I love them during the holidays as an alternate to a poinsettia.”

3. **Oscar de la Renta**: sleeveless embroidered shift dress with sequins, $5,290, Saks Fifth Avenue, 700 N. Michigan; Saksfifthavenue.com
   “For that special party any time of the year, no one does it better than Oscar de la Renta. My dream dress is all-over beaded, simple in design with high drama of sparkle!”

4. **The Peninsula Spa**: pedicure, $75, 108 E. Superior; Peninsual.com
   “While shopping for that perfect party dress at Saks, pick up a bottle of polish from the new Chanel Beauté Boutique, and walk across the street for your appointment with Aleks at the Peninsula Spa. You will be a new person!”

5. **Art Institute of Chicago**: Impressionism, Fashion & Modernity, edited by Gloria Groom, published by the Art Institute of Chicago, $40-$65; Artic.edu
   “I can't get enough books - it's an obsession. Treat yourself or another fashion book fanatic to Impressionism, Fashion, & Modernity, edited by Gloria Groom. It accompanies next year’s blockbuster exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago and it's truly a beautiful and informative tome.”

6. **Macy’s**: The Walnut Room, 111 N. State; Macys.com
   “Breakfast under the tree in the Walnut Room at Macy’s on State Street. It’s something I have done since birth and a holiday event I wouldn’t miss. It’s even better with a child to share their wonder!”

7. **Neiman Marcus + Target**: Judith Leiber compact mirror, $59.99. Target, 1154 S. Clark; Target.com
   “Who knew that the combination of Neiman Marcus and Target would work so well? My choice is the eye-catching Judith Leiber compact mirror.”

8. **Anthropologie**: Iced dew bracelet set, $38, 3532 N. Southport; Anthropologie.com
   “I love everything about Anthropologie, from the look of the stores, to the ready-to-wear, accessories and home items (and, of course, the books). It’s a perfect place to find last-minute gifts - as well as all sorts of good things for you!”
This holiday season, ship a pizza anywhere in the continental U.S. at GIORDANOS.COM

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A

ccording to Jaya Subramanian, the only thing traditional about her
July 21 wedding to Luke Lizalde was the Catholic ceremony, held at St.
James Chapel in the Gold Coast. Afterward — when the party moved
to Cafe Brauer at the Lincoln Park Zoo — “it was all about fun.”

And appropriately so: Subramanian, originally from Chicago, met
Lizalde in Los Angeles in 2009 while doing improv at the L.A. outpost
of Second City. Though Subramanian is an actress and Lizalde a graphic designer and
illustrator, both picked up improv as a hobby and grew closer while making each other
laugh.

But while they fell in love trading quips on the West Coast, Subramanian says it
was a “no-brainer” to hold the wedding in Chicago. “My family is all here, and we
had lots of friends and family fly in from San Diego and L.A.” Their comedy life was
well represented, as friends Parvesh Cheena (“Outsourced”), Sonal Shah (“Scrubs”) and Timothy Simons (“Veep”) attended the event.

Subramanian describes the nuptials as a “cultural extravaganza” — she’s half-Indian and half-Irish, while the groom’s roots stem from both Mexico and Europe.

The duo’s diverse backgrounds were woven throughout the celebration — Subramanian clad her bridesmaids in
bright pink and purple dresses made from sari fabric, and the menu included macaroni-and-cheese muffins, pot stickers and Indian
fusion fare. Guests stacked their arms with Indian bangles, pulled out of a bangle basket, took photos in a photo booth and danced
to the sounds of the Dan Hayes Orchestra.

“It was a beautiful night,” says Subramanian. — Rachel Handler

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Del Frisco's brings the classic steakhouse to one of our city's most iconic streets

**By Madeleine Skaggs**

In a city known for spectacular steakhouses, how does a new arrival steal some of the spotlight? Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House seems to have it figured out. After six years of searching for a Chicago location, the Dallas-born concept (which also has outposts in Boston, New York and Las Vegas, among other cities) finally settled on the Oak Street space where the historic Esquire Theater once lived, instantly catching the attention of devoted Chicagoans.

Though the cinema was demolished and the restaurant built in its place, the theater's history is at the heart of the design. The iconic Esquire marquee welcomes guests into a classic room filled with deep booths, handpicked art, a two-story wine tower and large windows that look out onto one of Chicago's storied streets.

But it's not just the location that has people talking. The steaks, seafood and sides crafted by chef de cuisine Anthony Reyes are big, bold and balanced. His menu ranges from standard steak house fare, such as a blue cheese wedge salad ($10), a filet mignon (8 ounces $39, 12 ounces $45) and a smoked pork chop with a bourbon apple-butter glaze ($28), to dishes that are slightly more extravagant. Scallops are wrapped in bacon ($35) and topped with a lobster butter jus; there's a tender veal ribeye ($36) served with spinach and potatoes; and a whole lobster is carved and served table side (market price). But few things are as impressive as the shellfish plateau, which has Alaskan king crab legs, jumbo shrimp, oysters and crab claws piled on a platter ($75 for two guests, $145 for four).

To stay on top, Reyes isn't just resting on dinner — he's introducing a new lunch menu perfect for shoppers and business lunches alike. Options like filet medallions ($26) feature the same prime cuts that are on the dinner menu. Or try the business lunch option, which includes a starter and entree for only $24.

Day or night, pair your dish with a bottle from the extensive wine list or a perfectly prepared martini, and you've got a memorable meal.

58 E. Oak, (312) 888-2499, Delfriscos.com

---

Wanting to try Chicago's latest upscale steak spot but can't seem to find the time to make it happen? The beef enthusiasts at GrubHub have voted on a few of their favorite takeout spots to help make sure you can still get your fix.

**III Forks Prime Steakhouse**
333 East Benton Place

III Forks Prime Steakhouse offers takeout for all your high-end steakhouse standards, and their USDA Prime Bone-in Ribeye is truly something special. Try it with an order of Bacon Wrapped Scallops to round out your meat parade. Toot, toot!

**Butcher & The Burger**
1021 W. Armitage Ave.

If you're on the hunt for one of Chicago's finest beefcakes, Butcher & The Burger's got you covered with their House Prime Blend Beef Burger. And with shrimp, salmon, veggie, turkey and bison patties also on the menu, there's something for everyone.

**Kinzie Chophouse**
400 N. Wells St.

With 14 different steaks, 13 preparation styles and eight sauces to choose from, Kinzie Chophouse has something for every craving. And it's not all steak — they whip up a remarkable Chicken Pot Pie, too.

**Las Tablas Colombian Steakhouse**
2942 N. Lincoln Ave.

In the mood for something out of the ordinary? Try Las Tablas' Entrana Dinner - a char-broiled skirt steak served with fried plantains, yucca and potatoes.
Prospecting for pied-á-terres

He pied-á-terre, a charming French concept (and undoubtedly the sexiest word in the English real estate lexicon) that translates to a second, smaller living space in the city, is making a big comeback right now, says star Prudential Rubloff broker Joanne Nemerovski (312-720-4505; joannesellschicago@gmail.com). "The prices are right and mortgage rates are unbelievably attractive," she says. This double-whammy, combined with the uncertainty of the markets, "makes it a decent investment that can ultimately realize a profit. But it also has some immediate benefits. People put their money into things that aren't secure, but this is something you can see, experience and enjoy. Plus, you can have a vacation without the airfare, or use it to host guests," she adds.

So what should you look for in a pied-á-terre? Location and amenities top the list. You want to be near the action and have as many extras as possible, from a doorman and concierge to workout facilities and parking. Those points make Nemerovski's one-bedroom, 1.5 bedroom listing at 950 N. Michigan, unit 2901, a standout for both the price and features. Look for 1,570 square feet, a great view, an updated kitchen with stainless-steel appliances, a spa-like master bath, two walk-in closets, a gym and pool in the building, valet parking, a 24-hour doorman and more for $479,000. Not to mention that it's positioned at the intersection of two top shopping streets: the Mag Mile and Oak Street.

Other smart options

Here are a few more downtown pads that would make perfect pied-á-terres, thanks to ample amenities, attractive price points and ideal locations.

- 600 N. Dearborn, unit 1602 (shown above), a one-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom condo with 925 square feet for $285,000. Contact Baird & Warner broker Lois Harb, (708) 359-1401, lois.harb@bairdwarner.com.

- 201 E. Chestnut, unit 24D, a sweeping duplex penthouse right behind Water Tower Place, has 18-foot-high windows and cathedral ceilings, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, 1,800 square feet and the most reasonably priced parking lot in the area for $469,000. Contact Prudential Rubloff broker Lanae Silvestri, (312) 268-2743, lsilvestri@rubloff.com.

- 680 N. Lake Shore, unit 208, a two-bedroom, 1.5 bathroom spot with 1,500 square feet for $399,000. Contact @properties broker Vicky Keene, (312) 919-0014, vickykeene@atproperties.com.

The unit at 950 N. Michigan features a beautiful view, and the building houses an expansive indoor pool.
Congratulations to Jennifer Aniston who is reportedly pregnant - for what, the hundredth time? Although Jen's rep denied that she has a bun in the oven, my sources say it's true. "She's pregnant," a source said. "She has cleared her schedule and backed out of a movie project."

If Jennifer is indeed pregnant her rep certainly isn't the first celebrity publicist to lie about a client's pregnancy. Some reps do it because their client has a lucrative deal arranged to announce the baby news through a publication or TV show. In other situations, the rep simply may not have the information. (Celebrities lie to their reps, too!) After all the cover stories I have done on Jen, there's one thing I know for sure: She is a huge control freak. So if and when she is pregnant, you better believe she will make sure it's announced her way and on her time.

Regardless, Jen has come a long way since her days with Brad Pitt. I will never forget the day her ex-husband's first child with Angelina Jolie was born. I was covering Jennifer in Chicago. She had her bodyguard go to the newspaper stand and pick up every publication that covered the birth of baby Shiloh. Later that day she exited The Peninsula Chicago hotel through the front door with a big smile and a wave.

It couldn't have been an easy day for America's sweetheart, but it looks like she's finally getting her own happy ending.

In other baby news ...

Fergie is not pregnant, but she's actively trying to have children. "I want to have a family," Fergie said recently at Voli Light Vodka's holiday party at Skybar in L.A. Now she has finally found the time to focus on making it happen.

"She just wrapped several projects," the source said. "Expect a pregnancy announcement in 2013."

The source said that both Fergie and hubby Josh Duhamel's crazy work schedules have limited the amount of time they've been able to spend together. Even though Fergie is 37, she insists that she doesn't want to go the in vitro fertilization route.

"I want to do it the traditional way," she said.

Demi Moore's meltdown — yesterday's news

Demi Moore has been exhibiting extremely bizarre behavior, but it's really nothing new. During a recent trip to Miami, Demi was photographed scantily clad and dancing provocatively.

She even brought a stray cat she found to a party at the Soho House. However, her immature behavior and hard partying is well documented. When Demi filmed "LOL" in Chicago two years ago with Miley Cyrus, she went clubbing all night long. Sources at the time said that when they first saw Demi out dancing the night away, they didn't believe it was the famous actress. She acted childlike and looked so youthful that they thought she was a teenager. Moral of the story: She should fire her therapist, and keep her plastic surgeon!

Happy Holidays

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Future forecast

When it comes to marriage, it's OK to wait 'til stars align

Dear Jenny:

I have a dilemma. I've been dating my boyfriend for nine months now. We get along incredibly and he treats me so well. From time to time we have discussed a future together, and I can definitely see myself marrying him. However, he has recently been discussing a proposal and at this point, I don't think I am quite ready for that yet. I want to be with him, of that I am certain. But I just feel that right now it's too soon. He is a bit sensitive and I don't know how to tell him that I'm not ready for an engagement without hurting his feelings — or possibly losing him altogether.

How should I handle the situation?

Please help!

- Andrea from Bensenville

Jenny says: Well, if you really want to make this easy, send me his email and I'll tell him for you — or have him read this column. I'm only half kidding!

First of all, you have been dating only nine months, so the fact that you want to wait a while to get engaged shows a lot of maturity on your part! (Sadly, I want to marry every guy I date within the first year of dating. I don't have your maturity even though I know you're right.) I can understand where your man is coming from, so let me tell you what is going on in his head: fear. He is so happy with you that he fears losing you, so he is probably under the delusion that getting married will make him feel more secure. He doesn't realize yet that marriage certificates do not come with guarantees.

My suggestions are these: First, be honest with him that you've always had a plan in place — the plan being that you would wait two years with a boyfriend before you actually decided to talk engagement. If that seems unrealistic to you or too difficult, try to make him feel a bit more secure about the relationship. Let him know that you are his girl and you are hopelessly devoted forever. Some guys need a bit more reassurance than others.

My other piece of advice might be a bit ridiculous but we can totally get away with it 'cause we're chicks. Tell him you went to a psychic and the psychic said, "When you turn (insert future age), the man you will spend the rest of your life with will propose to you."

That way, even if he doesn't believe in psychics, he won't want to run the risk of being the guy who proposes too early and doesn't spend the rest of his life with you.

It's kind of sneaky, but sometimes sneaky options work. Good luck!
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Mercedes-Benz marks the 60th anniversary of the iconic SL with an all-new "super and light" roadster. The SL550 is lighter, quicker and more agile than its predecessor as it enters its sixth generation.

From the point of entry, where the driver slides behind the three-spoke flat-bottom steering wheel and presses the start button, there is an immediate realization that this 2013 SL550 is no ordinary roadster. It is, after all, the Mercedes-Benz of sports cars.

It is loaded with technological developments and innovative ideas that enhance the experience of spirited motoring, plus the peace of mind of all-weather safety, comfort and convenience. There are no less than eight individual safety systems at work contributing to passengers' well-being.

During the national press launch, I was given the opportunity to pilot the new SL550 with a base price set at $105,500. The 2013 SL550 is gorgeous and well proportioned. This roadster shows strong and definitive character lines with a sculpted effect from the broad, athletic nose, over the strake hood and over the sharply raked windshield. The rear track is a few inches wider than the previous generation.

Acceleration is incredibly impressive, rocketing the car from 0-60 mph in 4.5 seconds with a top speed that is electronically limited to 130 mph. Push it hard into corners and it behaves with amazing and predictable stability.

The 2013 SL550 draws its irresistible force from a 4.6-liter, 32-valve twin-turbocharged and intercooled V-8 with direct injection that makes 429 horsepower at 5,250 rpm while generating 516 pound-feet of torque in a range from 1,800-3,500 rpm. The engine connects to a seven-speed automatic transmission with a manual shift mode that gears power to the rear wheels.

Among the improved fuel economy features — a 14 percent improvement over its predecessor — there's an eco-mode default setting that stops the engine when the SL550 is stopped to save fuel. The engine starts up again when pressing the accelerator. The added efficiency results in the elimination of the gas guzzler tax for the new SL550. The Environmental Protection Agency ratings on the V-8 are 16 mpg city and 24 mpg highway. The previous generation was rated at 14/21 mpg.

Nearly 89 percent of this lightweight roadster is made up of aluminum construction and features the largest single casting in a modern Mercedes production vehicle. It weighs in at 275 fewer pounds than its predecessor. The SL550 features a power retractable hardtop with the capability of lowering and rising in 18 seconds with the touch of a single switch.

The panoramic roof is made from polycarbonate material. The available Magic Sky Roof filters out both the UV and infrared rays of the sun. Even the interior leather surfaces are coated with a sun reflective treatment.

As an innovative convenience, there's a foot-operated trunk open-and-close feature where simply passing your foot beneath the sensor allows for hands-free operation. A brake hold feature is activated by tapping the brake a second time. Active body control and spring preload ensure consistency in ride quality and comfort.

Other SL models are in the pipeline to appear in the near future for those who desire higher levels of performance, but those models will come with an even higher price tag.

I had but one complaint with the SL 550: the exhaust note. It was pleasing, but for my taste, it could use a more raucous and melodic V-8 rumble. Regardless, it comes across as a stellar two-seater.
# Chevrolet Exchange

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### 2012 Chevrolet Traverse

**Closeout Price:** $29,985

### 2012 Chevrolet Malibu

**Closeout Price:** $21,995

## We're Overstocked On Pre-Driven & Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles! Over 150 Available!

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## Pre-Driven & Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles

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<tr>
<td>11 Chevy HHR LT w/1LT Automatic</td>
<td>$13,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Mazda3 i Touring Automatic</td>
<td>$13,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Mazda5 i Sport Automatic</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Nissan Sentra 2.0 S Continuously Variable</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Chevy Impala LT Fleet Automatic</td>
<td>$14,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 Chrysler Pacifica Limited Automatic</td>
<td>$14,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Mazda CX-9 Sport Automatic</td>
<td>$14,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Mazda 3 Sport Automatic</td>
<td>$14,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Mazda i Sport Automatic</td>
<td>$14,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Honda Odyssey EX-L Automatic</td>
<td>$14,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Mazda5 Sport Automatic</td>
<td>$15,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Hyundai Santa Fe GLS Automatic</td>
<td>$15,980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? NO PROBLEM!**

*All prices plus tax, title, license, DOC Fee. See dealer for details. With approved credit. Vehicles available at time of printing. Photos for illustration purposes.

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- Legacy GT
- Legacy GT

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2013 Honda Accord LX
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$160 Lease Per Month For 30 mos.
Total due at lease inception $1,949, Includes 1st payment, Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

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$219 Lease Per Month For 30 mos.
Total due at lease inception $2,939, Includes 1st payment, Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

2013 Honda Pilot 4WD EX-L
Model # YF4H5DJJW, Stk # 28652
$298 Lease Per Month For 36 mos.
Total due at lease inception $4,460, Includes 1st payment, Plus tax, title, license and doc fee.

*Plus tax, title, license and doc fee. All rebates and incentives applied. Based on closed end leases. To qualified buyers with approved credit. 12,000 allowable miles per year, 15¢ for each additional mile (13 Pilot 20¢ for each additional mile). '12 Civic: Residual: $12,345, '13 Accord: Residual $15,591, '13 CR-V: Residual $18,275, '13 Pilot: Residual: $20,916, Additional options extra. Lessee is responsible for excess wear/tear, maintenance and insurance. Subject to early termination penalty. Valid three days from date of publication. Dealer will not honor errors in this advertisement. Not available with any previous offers. *0.9% APR Financing to qualified buyers with approved credit.
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lincoln 2010 mkx
dual moonroof, heated mirrors, huge savings off new! #33842 $31,995

nissan 2003 pathfinder le
super low miles, leather, moonroof, premium sound, must see! #26610a $11,995

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low miles, power options, in great shape! #4713pb $7,995

mercedes 2009 c300 4matic
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ponsaic 2006 g6 gt
sean & sexy w/ super low miles! #34289 $11,495

lexus 2004 gx 470 sport utility
low miles, navigation, leather, 3rd row seat. move the family in style! #4627pb $18,995

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chevy 1995 corvette 5.7l
ultra low miles, glass top, leather, power options. this won't last! #c13140a $14,995

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cd/mp3, showroom condition! #s137402a $9,983

acura 2006 mdx 3.5l touring
low miles, leather interior, mooreof, 3rd row seat. move the family in style! #5137402a $15,928

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super low miles, sunroof, leather, certified. class a! #33507 $19,000

volkswagen 2013 beetle convertible
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extra clean; good mileage, great value! #33212 $16,995

mercedes 2009 c300 4matic
beautiful car! awd! huge price! #34248 $35,995

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sean & sexy w/ super low miles! #34289 $11,495

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Our picks for the week’s best entertainment.

Children can enjoy an Itty Bitty New Year.

What your calendar for this week and beyond.

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

British actress puts the spotlight on 23 female Dickens characters in one-woman show.

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Made in Chicago:
Ideas for local, last-minute gifts

BY LEAH A. ZELDES | Contributor

Need some last-minute gifts? Think local this holiday season, and give a gift that says Chicago.

GOODIES

Chicago remains a candy-making center. Pack up a basket of kid-friendly favorites such as Wonka Bars and Everlasting Gobstoppers from Itasca's Willy Wonka Candy Factory; Atomic Fire Balls, Lemonheads and Red Hots from Ferrara Pan Candy Co. in Forest Park; or gourmet treats such as Jelly Belly jelly beans, made in North Chicago. • Affy Tapple was the very first caramel apple, and Chicagoans have loved them since Edna Kastrup created the confection in Chicago back in 1948. Choose from plain caramel-dipped or apples embellished with nuts or candies. • You can't exactly put a cheesecake under the Christmas tree, but Eli's Cheesecake still makes a great gift. Most local supermarkets carry a limited selection, or head out to the factory store to see the whole line, from original plain to chocolate-chocolate. • Whether the oddly addictive Chicago Mix or the special holiday Gingerbread CaramelCrisp, tins of Garrett Popcorn have been a Chicago holiday essential since the 1940s. • Baked goods and sweets from the Hearts & Flower Bakery at Misericordia and the bakery at Lambs Farm support their work providing homes and occupations for people with developmental disabilities, who mix, bake and package the goodies. Find cookies, Irish soda breads, whiskey cake, peppermint bark, fudge and more at Misericordia. • Lambs Farm's butter cookies are a local favorite, but they also offer many other cookies, chocolates and preserves.

LIBATIONS

Local beers always make a fun gift, and Chicago has loads of them, from venerable Goose Island to newcomer Finch's, but we have stronger choices, too. Illinois law changed in 2010 to make it easier for small-volume "craft" distillers to open, and the Chicago area now boasts four of them, offering unique spirits that would add to anyone's holiday cheer. • Koval Distillery's line starts with five single-grain, unaged white whiskeys — rye, oat, wheat, rye and spelt — and crafts them into European- and American-style single-barrel whiskeys and liqueur. Find Koval's products at the distillery, as well as local liquor stores. • Temperance ended once and for all in 1933, the pioneer of local boutique distilleries, launched in 2004. North Shore Distillery, makes a number of unique gins; vodka; Sol, a vodka flavored with citrus, chamomile and spices; absinthe; aquavit, one of a very few made in the United States; and special single-batch spirits, released annually. This year's is Silver Lining, a German-style herbal liqueur, produced in a limited run of just 860 hand-numbered bottles. North Shore spirits are sold at the distillery and widely around Chicago.

Shopping stops:

EATS:
Willy Wonka Candy Factory, www.wonka.com
Ferrara Pan Candy Co., www.ferrarapan.com
Jelly Belly jelly beans, www.jellybelly.com
Affy Tapple factory store, 6300 Gross Point Road, Niles, (847) 588-2900, www.affytapple.com
Eli's Cheesecake, 6701 W. Forest Preserve Drive, Chicago, (773) 205-3800, www.elischeesecake.com
Garrett Popcorn, www.garrettspopcorn.com
Lambs Farm, 74245 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville, (847) 362-4636, shop.lambsfarm.org

DRINKS:
Goose Island Beer Co., www.gooseisland.com
Finch's Beer Co., www.finchbeer.com
Few Spirits, 918 Chicago Ave., Evanston, (847) 920-8628, www.fewspirits.com
North Shore Distillery, 28913 Herky Drive, Unit 108, Lake Bluff, (847) 574-2499, www.northshoredistillery.com
Quincy Street Distillery, 39 E. Quincy St., Riverside, (708) 870-5987, www.quincystreetdistillery.com

Shopping stops:

EATS:
Willy Wonka Candy Factory, www.wonka.com
Ferrara Pan Candy Co., www.ferrarapan.com
Jelly Belly jelly beans, www.jellybelly.com
Affy Tapple factory store, 6300 Gross Point Road, Niles, (847) 588-2900, www.affytapple.com
Eli's Cheesecake, 6701 W. Forest Preserve Drive, Chicago, (773) 205-3800, www.elischeesecake.com
Garrett Popcorn, www.garrettspopcorn.com
Lambs Farm, 74245 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville, (847) 362-4636, shop.lambsfarm.org

DRINKS:
Goose Island Beer Co., www.gooseisland.com
Finch's Beer Co., www.finchbeer.com
Few Spirits, 918 Chicago Ave., Evanston, (847) 920-8628, www.fewspirits.com
North Shore Distillery, 28913 Herky Drive, Unit 108, Lake Bluff, (847) 574-2499, www.northshoredistillery.com
Quincy Street Distillery, 39 E. Quincy St., Riverside, (708) 870-5987, www.quincystreetdistillery.com

Shopping stops:

EATS:
Willy Wonka Candy Factory, www.wonka.com
Ferrara Pan Candy Co., www.ferrarapan.com
Jelly Belly jelly beans, www.jellybelly.com
Affy Tapple factory store, 6300 Gross Point Road, Niles, (847) 588-2900, www.affytapple.com
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Managing Editor Jennifer Thomas' entertainment picks for this week

Holiday Evening Lamplight Tours of the decorated Dawes House, 225 Greenwood, Evanston, take place at 7 p.m. Dec. 20 and 27. See evanston-historycenter.org for reservations.

Holiday Magic lights festival at Brookfield Zoo (above) takes place 4-9 p.m. Dec. 22-23 and Dec. 26-31. Visit CZS.org/events or call (708) 688-8000.

Second City Brass performs Christmas music at 7:30 p.m Dec. 22 at St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge. Call (847) 825-7605.

'A Klingon Christmas Carol' is on stage through Dec. 30 at Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St., Chicago. Visit CBTheatre.org or call (800) 838-3006.

The best and the worst of holiday movies

For many people, there are certain holiday films and TV programs that they absolutely have to watch every year.

Then there are those that just grate on the nerves. We asked our staff: Which holiday TV special or film is your favorite? And which ones would you rather skip?

It was a tradition to spend a night watching "A Flintstones Christmas Carol" on TV growing up, but then the network stopped showing it. I tracked down the DVD and now I make sure to watch it every year. I love Bedrock's twist on Scrooge's classic tale. I refuse to watch "A Christmas Story" anymore. We would watch it every year in grade school and now I just hate it. I cringe whenever I hear anything about lamps shaped like a lady's leg, "fra-gi-le," bunny pajamas, shooting your eye out or Red Ryder BB guns. - Heather Leszczewicz, News Editor: Digital and Features

"It's a Wonderful Life" was nice for the first 15 years, but I am over it even though I love Jimmy Stewart! Although sad, I like "A Charlie Brown Christmas"... I seem to remember, I had a Christmas tree like that once. (sigh) Overall, I dislike the sadness in most Christmas movies. For my favorite, however, I am going to go with "The Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," which also has a sad moment, but the overall message was wonderful in true C. S. Lewis manner. I found the winter scenes absolutely beautiful! - Joan Molitor, Editorial Assistant

The forgotten Capra holiday classic is "Meet John Doe." My favorite films are the ones that make me cry no matter how many times I see them, and "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Meet John Doe" are the Christmas double whammy. The best scene is when journalist Barbara Stanwyck struggles with writing a speech and her mom (radiant Spring Byington) gives her the private journal of her late father for some ideas. Cut to Gary Cooper's John Willoughby hitting it out of the park with an amazing speech. Cut to Stanwyck's Ann Mitchell looking on, listening to her father's words coming out of Cooper's mouth, falling in love with Willoughby, John Doe, dreams of happiness and many more doses of Capracorn. - George M. Wilcox, Sports Writer

Chicago-area children of the 1960s were treated to a pair of primitive stop-motion animated short films every Christmas season, courtesy of WGN-TV's "Garfield Goose and Friends" show. "Hardrock, Coco and Joe: The Three Little Dwarfs" was a charming, albeit odd, little romp about Santa and a trio of elves that inoculated us all with an earworm of a ditty that has lasted for decades. Just try saying "Oh lee oh laydee, oh laydee i oh" to any middle-aged Chicagoan, and they're sure to pick it up from there. "Suzy Snowflake," on the other hand, irritated me to no end. She was just so twee, twirling and twirling in the air to a saccharine song. Suzy had a dark side as well. She carried a wand, and while drifting above an eerie, deserted landscape of pine trees and curiously empty village streets, she made a creepy threat to "tap, tap, tap" on my windowpane. - Susan Kane-Parker, Copy Editor: Features

One of my favorite Christmas specials is "A Charlie Brown Christmas." It makes me smile every time when Charlie Brown picks the scraggly Christmas tree because it has character. I've always felt all you need to know in life you can learn from the Peanuts. My new favorite Christmas movie is "Arthur Christmas" by the creators of Wallace & Gromit. Santa's
youngest son refuses to give in to the stress of the holiday and finds every child in the world special. — Jennifer Kranz, Page Layout Coordinator

Growing up, my family was a traditional, "A Christmas Story," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" house, but all that changed in 2003. That year my brother, father and I decided to see "Bad Santa" at the Crestwood movie theaters. We went in with low expectations, but laughed pretty much the entire film at Billy Bob Thornton and his co-stars. It has so many memorable scenes and quotes, many can't be printed in this paper. Now every Schering Christmas party usually has the unrated DVD playing in the background. — Steve Schering, Staff Writer

When my family came to Glenview to help me move this fall, the first thing we did after unloading the rental truck and painting the walls was visit the "Home Alone" house in Winnetka. The 1990 film is not only a family favorite, it is one of my favorite movies of all time. It's the only film I can recite lines from and have watched more than a few times. My sister even gave me a miniature "Home Alone" movie poster for Christmas a few years ago. — Ryan Nilsson, Managing Editor/Sports

My favorite Christmas movie would have to be "The Muppet Christmas Carol." The performances, the sets, the music are really wonderful and how could you not love Michael Caine as Scrooge. As a fan of the British series "The Blackadder," I also enjoyed "Blackadder's Christmas Carol," though that has a slightly twisted take on the classic story. One holiday tradition I try to keep is to watch the "Mystery Science Theater 3000" take on "The Santa Claus," a Mexican children's movie from the 1960s, which I found so funny at first viewing that, during one scene, I nearly asphyxiated from laughing. — Laura Enright, Editorial Assistant

"The House Without a Christmas Tree" is a quaint, kitschy little movie set in 1946 about a girl whose father refuses to allow a Christmas tree in their home. Watching this simple, low-budget film each year brings me back to being a kid, when I searched the TV listings to be sure I wouldn't miss my one chance to see the story of Addie and how she brings Christmas to her curmudgeonly dad. It was never a blockbuster, but this movie was and is an important part of Christmas for me. — Sandy Illian Bosch, Staff Writer

My favorite Christmas flick is 1955's "We're No Angels" with Humphrey Bogart, Aldo Ray and Peter Ustinov. It's the heartwarming holiday tale of three prison escapees who plot to murder a shopkeeper and his family with a venomous pet snake. Actually, they take a shine to the family and the snake ends up dispatching the deservingly evil Basil Rathbone instead. Did I mention it's a comedy? If nothing else, it's worth the watch just to see Bogey don an apron to do dishes and sing Christmas carols. — Richard Bird, News Editor

My favorite holiday movie is the 1984 version of "A Christmas Carol" with George C. Scott as Ebenezer Scrooge. My husband and I watch it every year. Scott's portrayal of Scrooge is very real, I think, and I love the ending when he wakes up and finds out it is still Christmas Day. — Deborah Hoppe, Editorial Assistant
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Children can count down holiday to noon

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Your preschoolers will sharpen their math skills counting down to noon at Itty Bitty New Year, 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 27 at the Exploritorium, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie. Older siblings are welcome, too. "From 10 to 11:30 a.m., we have games, multiple crafts, free popcorn and free fruit snacks," said Mary Grear, Exploritorium and events supervisor. "We've got two balloon artists in our multipurpose room where the kids can play endless games and win noisemaker and candy prizes. There's going to be face painting as well."

Children can also play in the Exploritorium. At 11:30 a.m., a comedic juggler will perform a half-hour show. The event concludes with that early countdown to the New Year. "We have a 5,000 balloon drop and we ring in the New Year at noon on the 27th," Grear said. Kids can take balloons home.

The cost is $10 for resident children, ages 2-15, $12 for nonresident children, $1 for adults.

For details, call (847) 674-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.

WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION

Children will help Kidworks Touring Theatre take the audience on a virtual tour of Holidays Around the World, 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The program is best for ages 3 and older with a parent. Pick up free tickets at 6:30 p.m. that evening.

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

ON TARGET

Merida is better at using a bow and arrow than preparing for her role as princess in "Brave." The animated 103-minute G-rated movie will be shown at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. A treat will be served during this drop-in family event.

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

TEN, NINE, EIGHT...

An early countdown is planned for a New Year's Eve Skate, noon to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31 at IceLand, 8435 Ballard Road, Niles. The party atmosphere will include music, hats, noisemakers and games for kids. The cost is $5 for skating, $3 for skate rental.

For details, call (847) 967-6633 or go to www.niles-parks.org.
People to watch

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Stage orphan: Marieclaire Popernik, 7, of La Grange, is working hard in her debut as one of the lively orphans in "Annie" at the Paramount Theatre, 23 Galena Blvd., Aurora. The young actress has also performed at Drury Lane Oakbrook, and recently appeared as a guest star on television in the role of Ruby Kelton in "The Mob Doctor." "Annie" continues through Dec. 30. For tickets and information, visit ParamountAurora.com or call (630) 896-6666.

ConGRADulations: It takes talent to graduate from the Theatre of Western Springs' Studio class but those who complete the program become active members of the company. The latest actors to make the grade include Michael Bolton and Carrie Cerri of La Grange, Marta Carlson and Drew Halliday of Hinsdale, Tim Gannon of Western Springs. The next Studio class will be offered in June.

A laughing matter: Glenview resident Daniel Reinisch was co-director of "A Royal Pain," which won the Best Student Film Award for his Calvin College team at the Chicago Comedy Film Festival. Reinisch's current projects include creating promotional videos for a Glenview-based social innovation company.

A great buy: The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest benefits every time you purchase one of two posters created for the organization by Oak Park graphic artist and cartoonist Chris Ware. Ware is the creator of the graphic novel, "Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth" and of cover art for the New Yorker. To view and order a poster, visit www.oprfhistory.org.

Dirty dancing did it: In 1988, Barrington resident Ellen Werksman and her then partner Lou Brockman won the Oprah Winfrey National Dirty Dancing Contest. Brockman was already a successful dancer and choreographer, directing Dancewerks Dance Productions and performing with Chicago Dance Medium, but her career really took off after that program aired. Werksman got to relive those moments recently when her segment was replayed on Winfrey's OWN Network as part of a "Favorite Shows" program.


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Landscapes that stir emotions

Show Highland Park artist Nina Weiss a drainage ditch, and she'll paint an exquisite, imaginative image of its water.

"I love to paint water and reflections, so when you see it, you would never know that (the drainage ditch) was off Lake Cook Road," said Weiss. Her large, expressionistic landscapes will be part of the two-artist show, "Nuances of Landscape: Paintings by Mary Porterfield and Nina Weiss," running through Jan. 25 at the Koehnline Museum of Art at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

Weiss' work is paired with that of Mary Porterfield, a Chicago artist and occupational therapist, who also paints landscapes. They share a basic concept, said Weiss. "I think that the pairing is we both take landscape, but do something unusual with it that leaves you with an emotion."

Yet, said Weiss, her work differs from Porterfield in that Porterfield's incorporates imaginary creatures in scenes that suggest the supernatural, possibly heaven and hell.

In addition to her art practice, Weiss teaches at Columbia College, the Evanston Art Center and the Chicago Botanic Garden. Every summer she travels to Italy and Ireland to lead workshops on painting and drawing.

Some people have described her paintings as "moody." Others refer to them as "glamorous Hollywood," she said. She describes them as "lush and dramatic."

"I think it's more about my relationship to the landscape and my reaction to the landscape," Weiss said. "I mean, you definitely get there's some kind of emotion happening when you look at them, I think."

Porterfield explained that her art sometimes results from situations she's faced in her therapy work.

"I set high expectations for myself to make a positive difference in all situations. It's often difficult to accept that there are circumstances that I can't affect. In painting, I reference overpowering acts of nature to symbolize these circumstances that are beyond my control, both literally and figuratively."

Those "overpowering acts of nature" could be geysers, storm clouds, and volcanoes. Specifically, Porterfield continued, it's her work with Alzheimer's patients that's impacted her art. As an occupational therapist, her job includes developing safe discharge plans for patients. Sometimes that means the patients must go into nursing homes.

It's very hard thing to have to do, something she dislikes doing, said Porterfield. "I used painting as a means to cope with that remorse." She added that she'd like visitors to the exhibit to notice how a painting can tell two stories: "one from a distance and one from up close. In working in a dichotomous manner, I hope my work raises more questions than it answers, while showing all is often not what it seems."
Behind every great man there's a great woman. In the case of Charles Dickens, there were quite a few.

Acclaimed British actress Miriam Margolyes, perhaps more familiar to American audiences as Professor Pomona Sprout in the "Harry Potter" film series, is putting the spotlight on 23 of Dickens' most famous (and some less so) female characters (and the real-life women on which they were based) in her aptly named "Dickens' Women." It plays through Dec. 22 at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, as part of an international celebration of the centennial of the author's birth.

Q. What's the most fascinating aspect of Dickens that you've uncovered in all your study and research and performance?

MM: It isn't that I discovered it, but the most fascinating aspect is the difference between the two Dickens - the Dickens that we all know and imagine with Christmas and fellowship, and the real Dickens that was not like that. That was this show is about. It's that discovery.

Q. How did you choose the roster of Dickens' women for the show, which boasts Miss Havisham (from "Great Expectations"), Mrs. Micawber (from "David Copperfield"), Miss Flite (from "Bleak House") and Mrs. Jarley (from "The Old Curiosity Shop") among others?

MM: I use the women who were based on the real women in his life and would bring a voice to the biography of the man. Dickens created over 2,000 characters, probably more than any other writer, and many of them are women, and many of those women are wonderful and gripping. So I made a list of all the women I wanted to do and then cut it down to the women who had relevance in his life.

Q. Which character is the closest to your heart?

MM: Don't know if it's the closest to me, but I have three favorites out of the gallery that I present. Mrs. Gamp (from "The Life and Adventures of Martin
Chuzzlewit”). She is a drunken midwife, and in Victorian times, midwives laid out babies and laid out coffins. So when she was called to someone’s home she never knew which job she had to perform. My second favorite is Miss Havisham, and I don’t have to explain why. She is the iconic character who seizes your imagination and never leaves it. One never forgets Miss Havisham, because of her sadness, her malice, her warped nature, the tragedy of disappointment.

Q. Switching gears, how marvelous is it to be part of the “Harry Potter” legacy through your portrayal of Professor Sprout?

MM: It was a very happy experience. It was nice to be offered the part, albeit a small part, in something that turned out to be an engine of the British film industry. I was only in two of the films, No. 2 and No. 8. I wish I had been in more. I did not read the books. I read Dickens. In a sense I don’t need to read J.K. Rowling or anyone else at all.

The third one is my favorite because, in a sense, I have discovered it. It’s the lesbian Miss Wade from “Little Dorrit.” The word lesbian never comes in to the dialogue, of course, because it was never part of Victorian times. I’m a gay woman myself, and I don’t like Miss Wade; you’re not meant to like her. But there is an incredible poignancy and truth in the depiction of this character.

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Rated
PG-13 for language and some risqué material
Stars
Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand
A young inventor (Rogen) planning a cross-country fundraising trip feels cursed when his mother (Streisand) insists on going with him.

THE IMPOSSIBLE

Rated
PG-13 for intense realistic disaster sequences, including disturbing injury images, and brief nudity
Stars
Naomi Watts, Ewan McGregor, Geraldine Chaplin
The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which claimed the lives of 300,000 people, is re-enacted through the experiences of an English family vacationing in Thailand.

JACK REACHER

★★½
Rated
PG-13 for violence, language and some drug material
Stars
Tom Cruise, Robert Duvall, Werner Herzog, Rosamund Pike
A war hero and former military police super-cop (Cruise) exposes a conspiracy after becoming the lead investigator for a beautiful attorney (Pike) who's defending a man he initially believes to be guilty.

ROUST AND BONE

Rated
R for strong sexual content, brief graphic nudity, some violence and language
Stars
Marion Cotillard, Matthias Schoenaerts
A young father (Schoenaerts) falls in love with a killer-whale trainer (Cotillard), who suffers a tragic accident. In French with subtitles.

THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

★★★
Rated
PG-13 for extended sequences of intense fantasy action violence and frightening images
Stars
Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
After a long, slow, at times even tedious buildup, this first installment in director Peter Jackson's three-film adaptation of Tolkien's precursor to the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy does come fully to life — just in time for a flashy finish. Nevertheless, Jackson's determination to stretch out "The Hobbit" over nine hours like his truly epic "LOTR" trilogy results in a clutter of unnecessary detail and an overdose of walking, talking and exposition. Things eventually do pick up when the great wizard Gandalf (McKellen) accompanies the dwarfs on their way to reclaim their ancestral home from the evil dragon Smaug; and young Bilbo Baggins (Freeman) first makes the acquaintance of Gollum. One word of advice, though: pass up the disconcertingly hyper-realistic "High Frame Rate 3D" version of the film in favor of the normal 24-frames-per-second prints, unless you like your fantasy adventures to look starkly un-magical.

PLAYING FOR KEEPS

★★
Rated
PG-13 for some sexual situations, language and a brief, intense image
Stars
Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Dennis Quaid, Uma Thurman
This might look like a light-hearted romcom, but it's really more of a surprisingly painful family melodrama crossed with tawdry sex-farce. Only without the farce. Gerard Butler plays George, a former soccer star who's broke and down on his luck after an injury forced him out of the game. Previously a philandering husband and absent dad, George decides the time is right to patch things up with his wife (Biel) and 10-year-old son — a project he gets under way by taking over as coach for the boy's soccer team. The kids quickly become an afterthought while George tries to avoid an onslaught of desperate, needy and manipulative soccer moms eager to get him into bed.

KILLING THEM SOFTLY

★★★
Rated
R for violence, sexual references, pervasive language and some drug use
Stars
Brad Pitt, James Gandolfini, Richard Jenkins, Ray Liotta
The standard moral that crime doesn't pay certainly applies to this ultra-stylish, ultra-savage, utterly downbeat crime drama, but director Andrew Dominik ("The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford") stretches out to suggest that nothing else pays either — and to draw a fairly strained comparison between life in the underworld and America in general. Against a backdrop of woe-filled news reports about the economic meltdown in 2008 and ironic sound bites from the Obama/McCain election, amiable yet entirely ruthless hit man Jackie Cogan (Pitt) quietly goes about his business, whacking all the participants in a heist of a mob-controlled card game in Philadelphia. Dominik makes a show of several flashy set pieces involving exceedingly brutal violence, but it's Pitt who provides the dramatic ballast that makes it work as well as it does.
'40' does a number on wholesome family comedy

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

'This is 40'

Writer/director Judd Apatow has been gradually distancing himself from the raunchy comedy that made his reputation and edging, bit by bit, toward more observational, emotionally mature films with comic trappings.

Following "The 40 Year Old Virgin," "Knocked Up" and "Funny People," "This is 40" appears to be an attempt to examine marriage and family with a Woody Allen-like sensibility. Ironically, "Knocked Up," a surprise hit that made rude and crude de rigueur for recent movie comedies, appears now to have achieved the best balance. By contrast, the 50/50 mix in "This is 40" basically makes the film tug equally hard in opposite directions and end up somewhere strangely betwixt and between.

That doesn't mean it's a bad film; there's too much smart, heartfelt material in it for that. It does have a confusingly split personality, though, with its old-school family-comedy template being invaded by raunchy sex, off-the-charts profanity and other unwholesome behaviors.

"This is 40" picks up the post-"Knocked Up" lives of supporting characters Pete and Debbie (Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann, both excellent). Pete and Debbie's marriage was already a little rocky in that film, but now the conflict quotient has been upped considerably, to the point where they are perpetually annoyed with each other. Set in the one-week period during which they will both turn 40, the film sets aside the traditional story arc in favor of a meandering exploration of one crisis after another. Ben's retro record label is near bankruptcy, Debbie's boutique is losing money (possibly because employees Megan Fox and Charlyne Yi are stealing from her), they're on the verge of losing their posh L.A. home, Debbie verbally assaults a 13-year-old boy for posting insulting comments on her daughter's Facebook page, and by the end of the week, though they obviously still love each other, it looks like divorce is looming.

In short, Pete and Debbie are not an ideal couple and they're also not ideal parents. There's virtue in that, though, because Apatow is going to extremes to point out that no one is. Though you may find those extremes a bit off-putting, it's also likely that you'll find moments of truth here and there about the way people misunderstand each other, even when they have the best of intentions.
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(847) 674-0184
www.regmovies.com

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(888) AMC-4FUN
www.amctheatres.com

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Wilmette
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Bill Murray portrays Franklin Delano Roosevelt in “Hyde Park on Hudson.”

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STARRING

Bill Murray portrays Franklin Delano Roosevelt in “Hyde Park on Hudson.”

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Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond

Every Thursday

I THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2012 N I L
This Weekend and Beyond | Get out and enjoy your community

THIS WEEKEND & BEYOND

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

HOLIDAY

“Bah, Humbug!”

Piccolo Theatre’s annual holiday Panto presents Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” in a whole new way, with music, jokes and magic, at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21 and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22 at 600 Main St, Evanston. $25; $22 seniors; $15 students; $10 children 9 and younger; $65 family. Visit www.piccolotheatre.com.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Starring The Rockettes, through Dec. 30 at the Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. $47.70-$102.55. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.rosemonttheatre.com.

“Merry Kwanzaa”

At 3 p.m. Dec. 26 at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster St., Evanston. Admission is free. Call (847) 448-8254.

New Year’s Eve Runway Ball

Held 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Dec. 31 at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont. The event features live music by bands Dot Dot Dot and 7th Heaven; entry to the Dance Club featuring DJ-SPIN; and access to Red Bar, where Tony Ocean performs Frank Sinatra covers and more. $79. For tickets, visit http://riverunwayball-PR.eventbrite.com.

STAGE

Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre


“Little Shop of Horrors”

Presented by the Teen Ensemble Jan. 13-21 at Youth Company Chicago Studios, 5340 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. $17; $12 ages 17 and under. Call (312) 324-3700 or visit www.youthcompanychicago.org.

“Oliver!”

Presented by Light Opera Works with a full 26-piece orchestra, Dec. 22-31 at Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Performances at 8 p.m. Dec. 22, 28, 29 and 31 and 2 p.m. Dec. 23, 26, 27, 29 and 30. $32-$59; $34-$54 New Year’s Eve, ages 21 and younger half-price for Family Matinees on Dec. 26, 27 and 29 (meet the cast after the show). Call (847) 920-5360 or visit www.lightopera-works.com.

“Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter”

Presented by Next Theatre Company through Dec. 23 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston.
What to Do

Continued from page 63

Curtain at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday;
4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday;
and 2 p.m. Sunday.
$30-$40; half-price for young adults (age 25 or younger). Call (847) 475-1875 or visit www.nexttheatre.org.

“The Whipping Man”

Presented by Northlight Theatre Jan. 18-Feb. 24 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Three men reunite in the aftermath of the Civil War — a Jewish Confederate soldier and two former slaves who were raised in his household. $25-$72; $25-$54 for previews, Jan. 18-24. Student tickets $15, subject to availability. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org.

Baroque Band

The period instrument orchestra performs at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. The program features recorder soloist Piers Adams in works by Vivaldi, Albinoni and Telemann. $35; $30 seniors; $15 students. Visit www.baroqueband.org.

Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra

Performs Brahms’ Second Symphony and other works, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at Northside College Preparatory High School, 5501 N. Kedzie Ave., Chicago. $20; $15 seniors and students. Call (312) 409-5670 or visit www.lssco.org.

Music of the Baroque

“Mozart Celebration,” with Jane Glover, conductor, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $27-$75. Call (312) 551-1414 or visit www.baroque.org.

The Newberry Consort

Presenting “My Heart’s in the Highlands: Songs & Poems of Robbie Burns,” 3 p.m. Jan. 27 at Northwestern University’s Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, Evanston. $32 in advance; $35 at the door. Visit www.newberryconsort.org or call (773) 669-7335.

Winter Chamber Music Festival


Baroque Band

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Winter Chamber Music Festival

Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular. $20.50, $37, $51.

S.P.A.C.E.

AUDITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES
Teen casting call
Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie, will hold auditions for 12- to 17-year-old actors for its April production of “Fame,” 6-8 p.m. Jan. 8 and 4:30-6:30 p.m. Jan. 11. For more information, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2400.

Call for artists
Amur Productions, an art festival production company, has issued its annual call for artists. Artists can apply online at www.amdurproductions.com. All applications must be received by midnight Jan. 11; late applications will be accepted through Jan. 18 for an additional processing fee. Festivals include: Barrington Art Festival, May 25-26; Promenade of Art Arlington Heights, June 8-9; The Art Center’s Festival of Fine Craft, Highland Park, June 22-23; Chicago Botanic Garden Art Festival, Glencoe, July 5-7; Buffalo Grove Invitational Art Festival, July 13-14; North Shore Festival of Art, Skokie, July 27-28; Glencoe Festival of Art, Aug. 3-4; Art at the Glen Town Center, Glenview, Aug. 10-11; Lincolnshire Art Festival, Aug. 17-18; Port Clinton Art Festival, Highland Park, Aug. 24-25; Downtown Downers Grove Art Festival, Sept. 7-8; Highwood Last Call Starving Artist Art Fair, Sept. 21-22; The Inside Show, Highland Park, Nov. 22-24.

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ART GALLERIES
DoubleTree Hotel
9599 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Through
What to Do
Continued from page 65

BOOKS & POETRY

Author appearance

Lois Leveen, author of The Secrets of Mary Bowser, speaks on "Race, Social Justice, 'Choseness' and Jewish American Literature" at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. $5 suggested donation. Books will be available for purchase and autographs. For information, call (847) 675-0951 or visit www.tbiskokie.org.

Book signing

Author Bruce Scivally will sign copies of his book, Billion Dollar Batman and Superman on Film, Television, Radio and Broadway, 4-6 p.m. Dec. 21-22 at Curt's Cafe, 2922 Central St., Evanston. Visit www.brucescivally.com.

Lincolnwood Public Library


Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. www.northshorecenter.org. (847) 673-6300. Jan. 24-27: The Capitol Steps present political satire. Performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. $45.50-$49.50.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts


Movie Series features "Brave," rated PG.

Allstate Arena

6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m.: Standup comedian Jeff Dunham — "Disorderly Conduct" World Tour. $46.50.

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre


Zanies Comedy Club


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DANCE

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

Jan. 4-25, 7:30 p.m. Fridays: "TapMan: Origin," featuring Chicago tap dancer Tristan Bruns in a stage adaptation of his TapMan variety character. $15.

Leikarringen Heimhug Norwegian Folk Dancers

Meet weekly, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Norwood Crossing, 6016 N. Nina, Chicago. New members, age 16 and older, welcome. No dance experience needed, just interest in Scandinavian folk dance. Call (847) 623-7596 or e-mail kronmo815@gmail.com; or (847) 692-6616 or karlp57@aol.com.

FILM

Lincolnwood Public Library

Dec. 21, 1 p.m.: "The Bourne Legacy," Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m.: "The Odd Life of Timothy Green.
Dec. 27, 1 p.m.: "Holiday." Dec. 28, 1 p.m.: "Hope Springs." Jan. 3, 10:30 a.m.: "Lawless." Jan. 3, 1 p.m.: "The Searchers." Jan. 4, 1 p.m.: "Total Recall."

 Northwest Chicago Film Society

Classic Film Series is held at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, unless otherwise noted, at the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. Admission is $5. Visit www.northwestchicagofilmfestival.org.

LECTURES

Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre

Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m.: Charles Troy presents "The Creation of 'The Wizard of Oz.'" $12 in advance; $14 at the door.

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

Skokie Art Guild

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.

ET CETERA

Allstate Arena

6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or (800) 745-3000. For information, visit www.allstatearena.com. Parking is $20, cash only.
March 8, 7:30 p.m.: Stars on Ice "Now & Then" Tour, with Dorothy Hamill, Kurt Browning, Ekaterina Gordeeva and others. $25-$85.

MUSEUMS

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center


Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

3001 Central St., Evanston. (847) 475-1030. www.mitchellmuseum.org. Admission is $5; $3 for senior citizens, students and children. Free admission for Mitchell Museum members and tribal members; and on the first Friday of every month. Admission includes all exhibits and events, unless stated otherwise.


Skokie Heritage Museum


Aaron Neville

April 16, 2013 at 7:30 pm

The legendary Grammy-winning singer revisits the classic doo-wop music he grew up with—and adds a few new spins along the way!

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BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER YOU IN?
Social Nation: Harness the Power of Social Media to Drive Engagement

By: Barry Libert

Success in today’s connected world of social media is increasingly tied to more modern, collaborative business approaches—such as crowd sourcing, open sourcing, and word of mouth marketing—platforms that elude characteristics of ‘connectedness’ more than ‘management’.

As a leading social media company, our experience in building and managing online communities indicate that there are seven principles for success to transform your organization into one that highly engages its customers and creates dedicated, long-term investors. Here are seven principles to enable these entities to be more fulfilled as they achieve their full potential:

Rule 1: Develop Your Social Skills: Leaders in today’s socially networked world are expected to follow as much as they lead, while still providing structure and support.
Example: Ducati realized that by creating both on and offline communities of its enthusiasts they could spread the Ducati brand. They also let people create their own modifications and add-ons and display them. In so doing, they essentially let their community of owners, dealers and prospective buyers reshape Ducati’s image.

Rule 2: Let Company Culture Lead Your Way: When building a social organization, remember that company culture is very important.
Example: Tony Hsieh created his firm based on a simple notion—that achieving happiness is a universal principle and is applicable both at work and home. The result: he built two highly successful companies, most recently Zappos, which he sold to Amazon.

Rule 3: Mind Your Online and Offline Manners: How you say something—online or off—is as important as what you say, and can help make the difference in gaining fans, friends and followers.
Example: Emily Post was the keeper of etiquette of a time that has long passed us by. However, her grandson Peter keeps her thoughts alive for our Internet lives. His message of Netiquette is the same as his grandmothers; it’s not only what you say, but how you say it.

Rule 4: Listen, Learn, and Adopt: Social intelligence enables your company to benefit from all that is happening around you so you can adapt what you do and how you do it to better meet the needs of your customers, employees and market demands.
Example: Webkinz and its founder, Samuel Ganz, understands that what happens offline to build a great business is based on customer feedback and the ability to act on their recommendations.

Rule 5: Include Others in Everything You Do: As an organization seeking to benefit from a broad range of communities that go beyond your employee base, relying on others in every part of your company is the only way to adapt what you do and how you do it to stay competitive.
Example: Mountain Dew has major competitors including Coke. So in order to compete, they turned to their passionate customers for new flavors and brand concepts. They called this nation of devoted fans Dewmocracy. Each year, they pick the top three new formulas and brand positioning based on customer input.

Rule 6: Rely on Others for Growth and Innovation: Friends, fans and followers are crucial in achieving growth in today’s connected world. This means you need to engage people on their terms.
Example: General Electric (GE) is proving this really works with their Ecomagination initiatives. This initiative has received thousands of proposals for new and alternative energy efficient technologies.

Rule 7: Reward Others and You Will Be Rewarded Too: As organizations focus more and more on social connections, interactions and relationships, they want to be rewarded emotionally as well as financially. Successful businesses will have to meet both needs.
Example: Apple has mastered this technique. The iPad is one of the fastest adopted technologies of all times. Plus they have built and rewarded a community of developers that don’t work for them to create hundreds of thousands of applications.

Imagine one day your company with friends, followers, fans and company advocates buying your products, but also developing your next technology. In Apple’s case 70% of the revenues derived from the app exchange go to the developers and 30% to Apple. Think about crowd or open-sourcing your next product or service offering and putting in place a revenue sharing mechanism of 70% to your partners, 30% to your organization and watch the community grow.
LOST, Orange & white Tabby Cal not declawed, has micro-chip, last seen 11/19/12 in Morion Grove. Miss him. Please call 773-712-8985.


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The Mortgagee of the above described mortgage and the holder of the note or evidences of debt secured by the same, or the successor in interest, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on Friday, March 15, 2013, between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon, at the Cook County Building, 5th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602, the following described real estate:

The real estate is a residential real estate consisting of a one-family dwelling located in the Town of Morton Grove, County of Cook, State of Illinois, more particularly described as follows:

{Description of the property as per the legal document.}

The抵押权人 of the above mortgage and the holder of the note or evidence of debt secured by the same, or the successor in interest, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on March 15, 2013, between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon, at the Cook County Building, 5th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602, the following described real estate:

The real estate is a residential real estate consisting of a one-family dwelling located in the Town of Morton Grove, County of Cook, State of Illinois, more particularly described as follows:

{Description of the property as per the legal document.}

All persons interested in the subject property are advised to inspect the property and to appear at the sale. The sale is subject to confirmation by the court, and the property is subject to any rights of redemption. All persons interested in the subject property are advised to inspect the property and to appear at the sale. The sale is subject to confirmation by the court, and the property is subject to any rights of redemption.

The sale is subject to any rights of redemption and to any remaining lien or interest in the property. The sale is subject to any rights of redemption and to any remaining lien or interest in the property. The sale is subject to any rights of redemption and to any remaining lien or interest in the property. The sale is subject to any rights of redemption and to any remaining lien or interest in the property.

If the sale is confirmed, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Title that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. If the sale is confirmed, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Title that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. If the sale is confirmed, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Title that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. If the sale is confirmed, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Title that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

For further information, contact the Plaintiff's Attorney, at 773-263-2121 or visit the website at www.tjsc.com. For further information, contact the Plaintiff's Attorney, at 773-263-2121 or visit the website at www.tjsc.com. For further information, contact the Plaintiff's Attorney, at 773-263-2121 or visit the website at www.tjsc.com. For further information, contact the Plaintiff's Attorney, at 773-263-2121 or visit the website at www.tjsc.com.

JUDICIAL SALES-REAL ESTATE

711 East Wacker Drive, Suite 3500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 263-2121

attorney@tjsc.com

www.tjsc.com
ACQUISITIONS LLC, are advised that Plaintiffs attorney (630) 794-9876 Attorney File No. 15W030, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, hereby notified of pending sales. CODILIS & LINDER are notified that the following properties are subject to the following sales.

The Judicial Sales Corporation at 120 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606-4050, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, 24th Floor, 15West030, 120 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606-4050, will receive the assessments required by the law, which may include special assessments, or special assessments and the legal fees required for the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special assessments and the legal fees required for the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special assessments and the legal fees required for the sale.

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NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISED STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET SEQ.

Notice is hereby given that on January 8th, 2013, U-Haul Auctioneer, Executive Administrator for U-Haul Co. of Northwest Chicago Suburban, will be holding a sale under the Judicial Sales Act, by public auction, the following storage units.

The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be made only. U-Haul Co. of Northwest Chicago Suburban reserves the right to refuse all bids. The sale will be held at the following locations:

1. 2733 Pembroke Ave., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
2. 1340 W. Sturbridge, Hoffman Estates, IL 60199
3. 49 W. Mundhank Road, South Barrington, IL 60010
4. 2951 W. Kenosha Ave., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
5. 5150 S. Galmet Ave., Chicago, IL 60615
6. 847-998-3400

Heard by day until all units are sold. The sales will be at or after 8:00 a.m. and continue day by day until all units are sold. Time and place of sale are subject to change. Written bids must be received no later than 8:00 a.m. on the business day prior to the public hearing and may be submitted orally or in writing. Appearance forms are available in the Community Development Department of the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

Notice is hereby given that on January 9, 2013, at 7:00PM, a public hearing will be held by the Plan Commission of the Village of Lincolnwood, Cook County, Illinois, in the Council Chambers Room of Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois, for the purpose of considering the following:

Applicant: Village of Lincolnwood
Nature of Request: Text Amendments to various sections of the Village Zoning Ordinance, including, without limitation, amendments to sections related to: (1) definitions of Green Floor Area, Lot Coverage, and Development Site, (2) average front setback for principal structures, (3) the Land Use Table and Footnote References, (4) Additional Standards for the Lincoln Avenue Corridor, (5) bulk requirements in the R-4 District, (6) notice requirements for public hearings, (7) the number of permitted wall signs, and (8) requirements for A-frame signs, sandwich board signs, and other similar signs.

At the public hearing, the Plan Commission will accept and consider all testimony and evidence pertaining to the application, and will consider any zoning actions or relief that may be necessary or convenient related to this request. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Plan Commission will make a recommendation to the Lincolnwood Village Board of Trustees based on the information presented. The Village Board will consider that recommendation at a subsequent public meeting. The election of the Village Board will be the final decision of the Village regarding this application.

Information concerning this application is available for inspection in the Community Development Department of the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois. This public hearing may be adjourned to another date by the Plan Commission of the Village without further notice, other than a notice entered upon the minutes of said meeting, fixing the time and place of its reconvening.

At persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding this application. Any person who so desires to appear as an "interested party" with the right to cross-examine others at the public hearing, must file an appearance form with the Village of Lincolnwood no later than 5 p.m. on the business day prior to the commencement of the public hearing. Appearance forms are available in the Community Development Department of the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

This is not a "notice to appear." It is an invitation to all interested persons to submit oral or written comments concerning this application. Written comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the business day prior to the public hearing and may be sent to the attention of the Village Zoning Officer at the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois. Persons having questions regarding this matter may call the Village Community Development Department at 847-673-2402.

The decision of the Village Board will be the final decision of the Village Board, and all persons in attendance at the hearing shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding this application. Any person who so desires to appear as an "interested party" with the right to cross-examine others at the public hearing, must file an appearance form with the Village of Lincolnwood no later than 5 p.m. on the business day prior to the public hearing. Appearance forms are available in the Community Development Department of the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY SUN-TIMES MEDIA
Chokshi displays confidence

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

DEERFIELD

Urchit Chokshi has seen his role on Maine East's boys basketball team blossom from sparsely-used guard to hero in the last 12 months, and the driving force behind Chokshi's evolution has centered around one thing: confidence.

Confidence is a buzzword when talking about Chokshi, largely because it's something he's struggled to possess in previous seasons. But by diligently working on his shot at Maine East's summer camp, Chokshi was confident enough to attempt — and make — the biggest shot of his career in the program's first CSL North victory in four years.

"He put a lot of time, skill-wise, into his game," Maine East coach Dave Genis said. "You can really see it. He's a much better shooter this year than he ever was. ... I think his development from last year through the summer and in the fall, the confidence has just grown."

Chokshi played the role of hero in Maine East's 48-45 victory over Maine West on Dec. 7. The senior sent the game to overtime by draining a game-tying 3-pointer with 10 seconds remaining in regulation. Chokshi then scored four points in overtime to lead the Blue Demons to victory.

While Maine East's next game in the CSL North — a 58-40 loss Friday to Deerfield — unfolded much differently, Chokshi could still feel the effect of his performance against Maine West.

The senior didn't hesitate when presented with his first open look from behind the arc. He took — and made — an open 3-pointer in the first minute of the game, displaying a level of confidence he's rarely had as a high school player.

"I did feel more confident," Chokshi said after the Deerfield game. "I haven't been shooting well lately and, if I get cold, I really get cold. It hasn't gone well, but after the Maine West game (my confidence) just rose and I feel like I can shoot more and make them."

Chokshi's confidence isn't the only thing to be affected by Maine East's win against Maine West. Opposing teams, as Deerfield senior Tony Shapiro said Friday, now have a different perception of the Blue Demons.

"Maine West beat us the game before and Maine West, we were thinking, probably took them lightly," Shapiro said. "We were saying that there's no way we were going to do that. We're going to treat them like any other team. Before the game, in the locker room, we said, 'Treat this game like (CSL North power Glenbrook North) last Friday.'"
Don't Miss

Saturday
Wrestling: Notre Dame at Dvorak Tournament, 9:30 a.m.
The Dons easily dismissed conference rivals Carmel and St. Patrick in a pair of dual meets on Dec. 13 — Notre Dame beat Carmel 53-12 and St. Patrick 51-16 — before finishing second in a tournament at Glenbrook South.

Wednesday
Boys Basketball: Notre Dame vs. Alcott at Wheeling Tournament, 7:15 p.m.
The Dons return to the court in Wheeling following an 11-day layoff. Notre Dame (9-1) is currently ranked No. 8 by the Sun-Times after dominating Leo 54-37 at the CCL/ESCC challenge Saturday.

Young Ice Dons making strides

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

NILES
The Notre Dame boys hockey team underwent a drastic transformation before the current season when all but three of the team's upperclassmen decided not to play hockey for the Ice Dons.

The mass exodus occurred after a coaching change was made in the offseason and it left two sophomores — Brendan Golden and Nick Yzaguirre — and first-year coach Bart Czachor to lead the inexperienced Ice Dons.

“They switched up the coaching staff last year,” Golden said. “A lot of the juniors and seniors either went to play somewhere else, stopped playing hockey or are focusing on other sports. It was kind of last second, and we didn’t have a fully-organized team at the beginning. We’re still trying to work off what we have.”

What Notre Dame has is a 17-person roster comprised of six freshmen and eight sophomores. The group has shown vast improvement over the course of the season — especially in practice, according to Czachor — but the Ice Dons can be dominated physically by stronger, faster teams.

More than that, the lack of team-wide experience has the tendency to lead to breakdowns.

As somebody who said he finds it difficult to be patient, Czachor has had to adopt a more patient approach than he had as the coach of his previous youth teams in Park Ridge. Czachor, who replaced Claude Desgagne, also has had to trust in the process of building a team and believe that the things he’s teaching Notre Dame’s hockey team will establish a solid foundation that the team is able to build upon next year.

“We’ve improved tremendously (from) the beginning of the year to (now),” Czachor said of the Ice Dons, who fell to 8-15-1 this season with a 7-0 loss to Maine on Dec. 13. “It’s a process (and) you have to be patient. Sometimes you don’t want to be patient. I walk out of here sometimes and I don’t know what to say. Do you go vocal? Do you just back off? It’s just a constant struggle because we’re so young.”

Czachor has relied heavily upon Golden and Yzaguirre this season.

The two sophomores currently lead the team in points — they have four goals and five assists apiece in the CCHL, according to the team’s website.

Notre Dame goalie Nick Brinskelle makes a save on a shot by Maine’s Ethan Flynn during the Dec. 13 game in Niles. Visit niles.suntimes.com/sports to view a photo gallery from the game. | JERRY DALIEGEL for Sun-Times Media
Don't Miss

Boys swimming: Niles North at Maine East, 5 p.m.
Niles North won just one event in its 126-59 loss to the state's best team — senior Karol Mlynarski (1 minute, 44.43 seconds) beat New Trier's Brian Walsh in the 200-yard freestyle — on Friday against the Trevians.

Girls gymnastics: Niles North at New Trier Invitational, noon
The Vikings edged New Trier 57.85-57.70 at Niles West's A Star Is Born Invitational on Dec. 13 behind Chinonso Ukeje's third-place finish on uneven bars (6.9) and Lily Wong's sixth-place finish on beam (7.7).

Defensive intensity behind success

BY MARK PERLMAN | Contributor | @markdavidperm

SKOKIE
When watching the Niles North boys basketball team play, one can get fixated on the offensive side of the ball.

Sure, the Vikings are averaging over 63 points a game with offensive stars such as MalaChi Nix and BJ Beckford forming one of the best guard tandem around.

But a lot of the offense generated by Niles North's cadre of athletes is predicated on team defense.

“We want a fast pace to the game,” Nix said. “Our defense allows us to dictate the speed of the game and then score. It takes a lot of hustle and heart.”

It also takes countless hours of practice.

“We work real hard in practice (on defense). It’s not fun,” said Vikings coach Glenn Olson, who won his 100th career game last weekend.

“We try to have constant ball pressure. Always swarming to the ball.”

“We work a lot on disadvantage defense (practices),” Nix said. “It’s five on four and you have to do a good job with all the defensive principles. Recovering, helping, help side, showing over the top. It helps us use our speed. And, we play like we practice.”

In a 60-47 victory over Maine West on Friday, Niles North forced 24 Warriors turnovers while limiting them to 13-of-35 shooting (37 percent).

“Their (Vikings) defense is very strong,” Maine West coach Erik McNeill said. “We rushed our offense. Their defense does that to you.”

McNeill added: “We thought we had a chance going into the second half (trailing 29-20), but then they forced turnovers on our first three possessions.”

Two steals by the Vikings’ JJ Myles opening the third quarter was followed by Nix forcing an errant pass, while overplaying his man.

“Our goal is to make teams uncomfortable,” Myles said.

“We’re all trying to give that
"JJ is real quick. His defensive base is as good as I've coached," Olson said. "Malachi dives all over the floor for loose balls and plays hard all of the time."

There is one facet of the Vikings' defensive pressure that has to be fine-tuned: Too much intensity leads to fouls. Maine West was 18-for-22 from the foul line, which kept the Warriors in the game.

"Sometimes we lost our discipline on the ball with our hands," Olson said. "We bailed guys out (fouls). But that's fixable."

A night after the Maine West victory, the Vikings clamped down on Sullivan in an 81-35 victory.

After allowing 58 points per game in their first five contests, Niles North is limiting opponents to just 43 over its last four games (all victories).

"We're improving," Olson said. "It's not like we're pitching a shutout, but we're getting better on defense every game."
Reserves come up big for Wolves

Evanston

Trailing by nine points before most of the fans had even taken their seats, Niles West boys basketball head coach Bob Williams was in a bind.

Facing rival Evanston on Friday, his team was depleted by injuries and seeing an important conference game slip away. Williams, knowing his team needed a spark, looked to his bench and found exactly what he needed.

Though the Wolves wound up losing the game 55-52, it was the team's backups that allowed Niles West to not only rally from the nine-point deficit it faced early on, but also take the lead for much of the second half.

It's plausible that Niles West never would have even been close on the scoreboard were it not for the contributions of some important reserves. Led by juniors Romeo Magloire and Dwayne Smith, the Niles West bench played a key role in the game.

"We had a bunch of kids that came in and did a great job for us," Williams said of his bench following the loss to the Wildkits. "I am very happy with our effort."

The biggest contributor among the Niles West reserves came from Magloire, a 6-foot-1 forward who picked up the scoring load when his team needed it most. He dropped in 11 points and grabbed three rebounds, which included a coast-to-coast layup and a key field goal at the end of the second quarter that helped the Wolves enter halftime tied at 25.

The junior was optimistic that his performance — and the play of his fellow bench mates — would help Niles West in the long run.

"We had a lot of energy coming off the bench," Magloire said. "We take pride in our energy. (As a bench unit) we work hard in practice — everyone works hard — and we just got it going during the game, just trying to pick up the lead and put the game away."
This Week
Niles West

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday (12/27)
At Pontiac (Twp.) Holiday Tourn., TBD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Wednesday
At Mundelein Tourn. vs. Streamwood, 5 p.m.
Thursday (12/27)
At Mundelein Tourn., TBD

GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Today
Hosts New Trier, 5:30 p.m.

ICE HOCKEY
Today
At Twin Rinks vs. Deerfield, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE
Friday
Hosts Glenbrook South, 5:30 p.m.

WRESTLING
Friday
At Waukegan, 6 p.m.
Saturday
At Naperville Central Quad, 10 a.m.
Thursday (12/27)
At Lincoln Comm., 11 a.m.

Smith, a 5-7 guard, brought instant energy and speed with him off the bench as he filled in for injured starter Ahmad Gibson.

He scored six of his eight points — and tallied two steals and a pair of assists — in the second quarter, sparking a big run for the Wolves. Using his quick feet and even faster hands, Smith's pressure defense caused several miscues from the Evanston offense, and his ability to push the ball up the court quickly had Wildkit defenders on their heels all evening.

“When Gibson went down with the injury, there was a period of time where we stepped it up and put a little lead on them,” Evanston coach Mike Ellis said. “But then their bench came in and did a nice job. Not only did they not let the lead expand, but they cut it. Their bench played well.”

With Gibson expected to return soon, the improved depth should serve Niles West well the rest of the season. Still looking for their first victory in the Central Suburban South, the Wolves are expected to benefit from having a strong bench.

“We had some injuries, but hopefully as we get healthy, our depth really helps us out,” Williams said.
Maine West's Jamal Sherman (left) and Niles North's Will Donado fight for a loose ball in Skokie on Friday. | JON DURR—for Sun-Times Media

Lockdown defense
Niles North thriving thanks to constant ball pressure

Read the full story [Page 84]