Regina Mundt leads a Zumba class at the Niles Family Fitness Center. The center hopes to meet the needs of members resolving to work out more in the new year. 

Read the full story [Page 5]
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Fitness centers resolve to meet new members’ needs

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES

Each year as people celebrate together and ring in a new year, many also make New Year’s resolutions.

A popular one is to start working out and eating healthier.

“Generally, if they make it through the first month, they’re going to be successful,” said Carl Maniscalco, director of the Niles Family Fitness Center that is located at 987 Civic Center Dr.

Maniscalco said that in January the number of members increases because there is a new wave of people who want to kick-off the new year by getting physically active.

To meet their needs, the Niles Family Fitness Center is starting a new program in January to try to encourage new members to interact more with the staff and ask them questions about how to become more fit in 2013.

The new Passport to Fitness program will encourage members to ask six different staff members questions about how to lose weight, eat healthier, etc. The goal of the program is to have members get connected with the fitness center staff and the program also features a drawing and prizes.

The current membership at the Niles Fitness Center is about 2,600 and Maniscalco said that number has been pretty stable over the past few years.

Maniscalco added that the center has created a private Pilates room and now holds popular aerobics classes, such as Zumba, in the gymnasium. Spinning, yoga and Pilates are also popular fitness classes offered at the center.

“We're continuing to find space for our growing programs,” Maniscalco said.

The Niles Family Fitness Center is a 70,000 square-foot facility that opened in December 1998. The center offers a gymnasium, cardio equipment, an indoor track, indoor aquatic center, an 1,800 square-foot fitness studio and more.

In December the center offered one extra month for new members and one extra month for those who are members and refer someone new to the center.

XSport Fitness, 9210 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Niles, also offered a special membership deal. Those who purchased one year of membership received another year free.

“Every club sees an increase in people in January,” said Zach Ford, fitness manager at XSport.

Ford said that if new customers start working with a personal trainer one on one they typically continue to work out about three times longer than if they did not have a trainer.

Without a trainer, the number of people who join a fitness center in January starts to drop off after about eight weeks, he said.

“Anytime where you have somebody helping you it’s really going to increase your chances of succeeding,” Ford noted.

According to the XSport Fitness website, personal training helps with goal setting, nutritional guidance, accountability, consistency, motivation, proper technique and creating a personal program design.

Ford said people also make New Year’s resolutions to eat healthier and XSport staff will help them reach that goal also, by using food logs, creating meal plans and recipes.

“Nutrition is 80 percent of your results,” Ford said.
Dist. 207 School Board votes to fire coach

BY BECKY SCHLIERMAN AND JON SEIDEL

The Maine Township High School District 207 Board of Education voted Dec. 19 to fire one of the soccer coaches at the center of a hazing scandal at Maine West High School in Des Plaines.

Board President Sean Sullivan said varsity soccer coach Michael Divincenzo violated the district’s policy "by failing to adequately prevent, recognize, report and punish student hazing."

Divincenzo is suspended without pay while the dismissal process plays out.

The board’s resolution said Divincenzo damaged his reputation and the school district’s, caused harm to staff and students and failed to serve as a role model.

Sullivan said the board no longer believes it needs to wait for other agencies to complete investigations into claims of hazing at the high school.

Those claims are now the focus of a “top-to-bottom” review by the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. That came after a lawsuit was filed accusing the coach of sanctioning hazing rituals that led to the alleged sexual assault of multiple soccer players and a baseball player.

But Sullivan cautioned, “The school district is not conceding the accuracy of the allegations made in the lawsuit now pending against the district over the hazing controversy.”

The board also cited a previously undisclosed allegation against Divincenzo in its resolution, accusing him of letting varsity soccer players dunk “less senior” players’ heads and grab their genitals in a hot tub at a training camp in Wisconsin.

The School Board’s decision stunned a room full of former students who pleaded with the Maine Township High School District 207 board earlier in the night not to fire Divincenzo or Emilio Rodriguez, the freshman soccer coach. Both men are targets of the lawsuit.

Their supporters waited about three hours while the board met in closed session. They left in a hurry after the vote, clearly upset by the board’s decision.

“He gave his life to this sport,” former student Cara Franke said after the meeting. “Every second I saw him he was talking about soccer...He really cares about his team more than anything else. Now that’s the one thing in life that he’s lost.”

Divincenzo did not return a call for comment and he has ignored several earlier calls from the Chicago Sun-Times. Rodriguez declined to comment when reached by phone after the board’s unanimous vote.

Both coaches have denied having any knowledge of hazing on the teams to Des Plaines Police, according to police reports. Those reports show that police and a prosecutor determined no charges could be filed after the coaches’ interviews.

That was before State’s Attorney’s review began.

Tony Romanucci, the Chicago lawyer who filed the lawsuit against the district and coaches over the hazing allegations, said the board acted appropriately. He also renewed a call Wednesday night for the board to fire Maine West’s principal.

Divincenzo has 17 days to ask for a hearing. If he does, the process could take a year or more.

The board’s resolution also cites previously reported allegations that he let older members of the soccer team haze younger members in September and July and knew of an assault on the baseball team in 2008.

PARK RIDGE

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Free Town Hall Meeting
Callero not seeking another mayoral term

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES
After dedicating many years of service to the village of Niles, most recently as village president, Robert Callero has confirmed he will not be seeking re-election in the April mayoral race.

Appointed village president in 2008 and elected to the seat in 2009, Callero issued a formal statement on Dec. 26, saying he will not run for another four-year term. Callero told the Nile Herald-Spectator he would have run for re-election if he did not believe there were any other qualified candidates who could do the job.

"It was a hard decision," Callero acknowledged. "I would not leave the village in unwelcome hands."

Callero said he is strongly supporting Trustee Andrew Przybylo in his mayoral bid. Also running for the seat is Trustee Chris Hanusiak.

A resident of Niles for more than 50 years, Callero joined the Pension and Fire Board in 1975. He was appointed trustee in 1995 and elected to the seat in 1997. The Village Board appointed him village president after the resignation of Nicholas Blase who led the village for over four decades.

At 75 years old, Callero said he is looking forward to spending time with his family and playing some golf.

"I'll miss the people in administration," he said. "People don't realize how much these (employees) love Niles."

Callero commended the employees of the village who dedicate much time and hard work to Niles' success.

"With the help of our Niles employees we were able to bring new businesses into Niles, increasing our sales-tax receipts and enabling us to keep our real-estate taxes as one of the lowest in the surrounding communities," Callero said in his statement.

He also stated that during his mayoral tenure the village began a beautification program for Milwaukee Avenue, initiated a program to help control flooding, formed an Ethics Committee and ethics plan, formed a comprehensive plan guiding the village through 2030 and was named the Best Place in the U.S. to Raise Kids by Bloomberg's Businessweek.

"I trust our next mayor will continue these and other programs," Callero said.
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IN PROFILE

Mary Swanson turns seniors into MaineStreamers

BY NATASHA WASINSKI | Contributor

Mary Swanson has worked in senior services for more than three decades, including the past 12 years as the director of MaineStreamers, a social group for residents aged 55 and up. Prior to her post with Maine Township she served as program coordinator at the village of Niles Senior Center. Through MaineStreamers, Swanson organizes educational programs and recreational activities that encourage socialization, learning, and independence among elderly residents.

Q: What inspired you to pursue work in senior services?
A: My whole life I have been helping seniors. As a young child I would help my elderly neighbors. I believe it's been just something I always liked to do. While in college, I took classes in gerontology and the rest is history.

Q: What do you like the most about your job?
A: It's extremely rewarding to offer trips, classes and programs to make people's retirement years both fun and challenging. Last year I offered a Danube River tour. I had seniors say it was a lifelong dream fulfilled. I also appreciate my wonderful staff and the elected township officials who fully support the MaineStreamers program in many ways.

Q: What are the biggest issues affecting seniors today?
A: There are always the worries of health issues and money problems. But I believe it is those seniors who no longer have family nearby who occasionally need our help. Nowadays people move for various reasons such as job relocation. This might cause a senior to become isolated and that is why I think programs such as the MaineStreamers are a blessing.

Q: How do you encourage seniors to stay active and social?
A: First of all, my wonderful staff and I try to make sure everyone feel welcome by encouraging them to participate in different activities. I also feel that the MaineStreamers are never alone because they are with us. We offer a variety of programs that a MaineStreamer can choose from so we just have to encourage them to try something new and they often do.

Q: What is your favorite MaineStreamer event?
A: I would have to say the 90-Plus Birthday Party. I have been doing this type of program throughout my career. Maine Township invites residents that are 90 years of age or older to an event held during May in honor of Older Americans Month. Each attendee gets a certificate, a corsage/flower and a nice lunch. They are also recognized by the Maine Township elected officials. Last year we had over 80 residents celebrate their 90-plus years with two of them being over the age 100.

Q: What are the benefits to staying active later in life?
A: I believe being connected with others helps seniors remain active and by being active they maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Q: How do you support the MaineStreamers program in many ways?
A: There are so many ways that I believe we enhance their lives. They appreciate all the opportunities we offer to keep them involved and enjoying life. Most importantly, I believe it's the relationships they establish. I have seniors who have lost a spouse, so many of the MaineStreamers take it upon themselves to watch over each other.
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**

Ruben Perez, 30, of 1362 Jefferson St., Des Plaines, was charged with retail theft Dec. 18 on the 8900 block of Milwaukee Ave. Police said Perez concealed two bags of fish with a value of $20 and left the store without paying for the items. He also had two active warrants for driving under the influence, police said. He has a Jan. 16 court date.

**DUI**

Michael Ochonicki, 32, of 9242 N. Normandy Ave., Morton Grove, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Dec. 22 on the 7200 block of Dempster Street. He has a Jan. 16 court date.

**BURGLARY**

A home on the 8300 block of Olcott Avenue was reported burglarized between Dec. 17 and Dec. 18. An investigation was pending.

An 84-year-old man from Niles told police his home was burglarized Dec. 19 on the 7600 block of Harlem Avenue. An investigation was pending.

**HARASSMENT**

A 28-year-old woman from Niles told police that a 29-year-old woman from Niles called her between Dec. 18 and Dec. 19, threatening her in Spanish. Police said the woman reported that she works with the suspect’s husband at a Niles restaurant.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

A 51-year-old woman from Naperville told police that someone shattered the front passenger side window of her 2005 Toyota Camry between Dec. 17 and Dec. 19 on the 9700 block of Fox Glen Drive.

**BATTERY**

A 33-year-old man told police that he was punched in the face several times on Dec. 16 by someone he knows at a bar on the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

**ATTEMPTED THEFT**

A man in his 20s was reportedly seen removing a television from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center on Dec. 18. The value of the television is about $500, police said. When a loss prevention agent confronted the suspect he dropped the television and ran away, according to police.

**PARK RIDGE**

Park Ridge Police are releasing little information about a Dec. 22 one-vehicle crash that left three people hospitalized.

According to the Park Ridge Fire Department the accident occurred at 3:20 a.m. on Cedar Street between Wisner and Elmore Streets and involved a Jeep Wrangler that struck a tree. Two of the adults of the Jeep were transported to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge with multiple non-life threatening injuries, according to Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Sorensen. A third individual was taken to Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago.

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Dry summer meant tough break for water mains

By Tracy Gruen | Contributor

Local public works directors agree that 2012 was a tough one in terms of water main breaks.

"This summer was so bad," said Niles Public Works Director Scott Jochim about the ruptures.

Hot and dry weather conditions this summer have been blamed for causing a higher than normal number of main breaks across the area. Water mains are underground pipelines that deliver lake water to residents, businesses and other users.

Breaks occur when holes or cracks develop in the underground pipes that transport the water. The temperature, ground settlement (which can occur during dry spells) or the type of material used in the pipe can cause breaks.

Between January and December there were 180 water main breaks throughout the village of Niles. Though he did not have specific numbers available, Jochim said the amount of breaks was higher than in past years.

"I know we're over budget," Jochim said, referring to the amount of money spent on overtime to pay workers to fix the main breaks this year. In 2012 there were about 10 water main breaks on Monroe Street alone. Jochim said that when there are too many water main breaks in one area the village replaces pipelines instead of just repairing them.

"We don't want businesses or residents to be out of water," Jochim said. He explained that main breaks can sometimes take six or more hours to repair.

In Park Ridge, the situation was very similar this year. From May 1 through December Park Ridge experienced 65 water main breaks — and the city usually averages 50 or 55 for the entire year, explained Park Ridge Public Works Director Wayne Zingsheim.

"The ground was so dry," Zingsheim acknowledged. Park Ridge also had 22 water service leaks in 2012.

"We haven't even hit the hardest part of the year," Zingsheim added, explaining that most breaks tend to occur during cold-weather months.

Zingsheim said his department went over the city's $50,000 budget for overtime pay this year and will likely transfer money from the construction fund in order to have funds in the budget for all future water main breaks.

"A main break is something you can't let run," Zingsheim said. "People need to have water so whenever they occur we need to fix them. Unfortunately, a lot of times they seem to happen on a weekend or at night."

The city is also working to replace pipe that is not so durable, though the process has been slow due to the cost involved.

In Morton Grove the increase in main breaks was not as significant as in Niles and Park Ridge, though there were more in 2012. The village had 67 water main breaks this year compared to the 64 that they had in 2011.

Joe Dahm, division superintendent of Public Works for the village of Morton Grove, said materials used in the water mains during the late 1950s were not as good as the materials used in the 1920s and 1930s. He said the part of town that is on the west side of the north branch of the Chicago River has more annual water main breaks than the east side does because the materials on the west side deteriorate faster.

For the severe water main breaks, Dahm said the village pays workers overtime so they can be repaired.

"We take care of it right away," said Dahm. "You don't want to let ice build up on the street."

—Jennifer Johnson contributed to this story
Election filings show several contested Niles races

BY TRACY GRUEN AND JENNIFER JOHNSON

NILES

Niles voters are expected to see several contested races when they hit the polls this April, from the Village Board to the Library Board.

Dec. 26 was the last day to file nominating petitions for the April 9 election. The period for filing objections to any petitions is taking place this week.

Seats up for election on the Niles Village Board of Trustees are currently held by Louella Preston, Jim Hynes and Andrew Przybylo.

Przybylo is running for village president, leading a slate called the New Niles Village Board of Trustees that includes trustee candidates George Alpogianis, Danette Matyas and John Jekot.

Trustee Chris Hanusiak is also running for village president with the Responsible Leadership for Niles Party. Trustee candidates within that party include incumbents Preston and Hynes, as well as Mary Marusek who ran for trustee in 2011.

On the Niles Library Board, with two seats up for election, Karen Dimond has filed to retain her seat and newcomers Billy VanCannon and Carolyn Drblik have also filed.

Current East Maine School District 63 board members with terms up are President Jane Wojtkiewicz, Walter Gluzkin, Krystal Zec and Sheila Urban. Gluzkin, Zec and Urban have filed petitions today for re-election and new candidates Zeev Walny and Alexandra Brook also filed petitions.

In Park Ridge-Niles School District 64, six candidates are vying for four open seats. They are incumbent Scott Zimmerman and newcomers Terry Cameron, Rick Van Roejen, Vicki Lee, Benjamin Seib and Dathan Paterno.

Not running for re-election are District 64 board members Pat Fioretto, Sharon Lawson and Eric Uhlig. All three were first elected to the board in 2009.

In Maine Township High School District 207 there is a crowded field of candidates vying for five open seats. The candidates include incumbents Eldon Burk, Eric Leys, Margaret McGrath and Carla Owen, and newcomers Mary Childers, Jin Lee, Jeffrey Spero and Sean Story.

Childers and Leys have filed for both a four-year term and the one two-year term that exists. They will need to withdraw from one of those races, according to district spokesman David Beery. Not running for re-election in District 207 is Edward Mueller.

New faces are squaring off against longtime board members for three open seats on the Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education. The candidates include incumbents Robert Silverman, Ruth Klint and Lynda Smith, and newcomers Orrin Joffe and Mitchell Steinberg.

There will also be a contested race for four trustee positions and the office of clerk on the Maine Township Town Board.

The board's current incumbents have filed for re-election as a Republican slate. They include Carol Teschky for supervisor, Gary Warner for Clerk, Tom Rueckert for assessor, Robert Provenzano for highway commissioner and trustees Walter Kazmierzak, Susan Moylan-Krey, Laura Morask and Peter Gialamas.

On the Democrat side, Laura O'Donovan will face Warner in the clerk's race. Trustee candidates include Judith Foster, Abraham Lee, Carol Sue Walker and James Wozny.

Uncontested races are on the Niles School District 71 Board of Education, the Niles Park Board and the Niles Township Town Board.

In District 71 the terms for President Patrick Byrne, Secretary Mary Krueger and members Matthew Holbrook and John Zuckerman are up this spring. Two petitions were filed on the first day, which were from Holbrook and new candidate Jill Astbury-Brocar. Matt Glancy also filed for a spot on the District 71 board of education, leaving one open seat.

Terms expiring on the Niles Park District Board are currently held by Bill Ternpinas, Dennis O'Donovan and Julie Genua. Each has filed to seek re-election.

On the Niles Township Board incumbents Lee Tamraz, supervisor; Scott Bagnall, assessor; Charles Levy, clerk; and trustees Marilyn Glazer, Mark Collins and Donald Gelfund are all running for re-election. In addition, newcomer Anthony Lundin is running for the fourth trustee seat.

Information on the Golf-Maine Park District Board race and filings for the Golf School District 67 Board of Education were not immediately available.
Davlin, James A.
October 20, 1929 - December 25, 2012. James A. Davlin, 83, residing in Granger and formerly a longtime resident of Park Ridge, IL, passed away Tuesday, December 25, 2012 in St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka, IN. He was born October 20, 1929 in Springfield, IL to the late Marcus & Gertrude (Staab) Davlin.

On November 10, 1951 in Blessed Sacrament Church, Springfield, IL, James married the former Phyllis Marie Black. In addition to his loving wife, Phyllis, of Granger, he is survived by daughters, Katy (Dennis) Rosowskcy and Karen (Jim) Seida; son, Jim (Jane) Davlin; grandchildren, Anna Davlin and Tim, Matt, John, Annie, Mary and Caroline Seida; as well as many nephews, nieces and cousins. James was preceded in death by a daughter, Patti Davlin; and siblings, Robert (Norene) Davlin and Virginia (Ed) O'Brien.

James graduated from the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana with a degree in Accounting. Following college graduation, he joined Walgreens, and his distinguished finance career spanned 31 years, rising up to become the treasurer and play a key role in Walgreens' growth.

James was active in the Park Ridge Jaycees, serving as president in 1962. The service project, of which he was most proud, was successfully overcoming all the obstacles to get children vaccinated for polio and raise a record $25,000 for local hospitals. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and Our Lady of Hope Church and volunteered for the Park Ridge Senior Center. James enjoyed a lifelong love of baseball, fishing, music, Ireland, lilini football, mathematics and reading.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, December 27, 2012 in St. Pius X Catholic Church, 52593 1st Road, Granger, IN. Graveside service followed at All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines.

Expressions of sympathy on behalf of James may be offered to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 (www.stjude.org) or Boys Town, PO Box 8000, Boys Town, NE 68010 (www.boystown.org). Online condolences may be left for the Davlin family at www.palmerfuneralhomes.com.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

Matousek, Jeannette "Jean"
91, of Lake Geneva died Tuesday, December 18, 2012. Wife of the late Miles Matousek. Teacher most of her life. Loving mother of Rosalynne (Vincent) DIVincento, Barrington, IL and Rea Barrett West Palm Beach, FL; grandmother of Kristan, Keri Ann, Vincent Jr., Paul and Ryan; great-grandmother of Marlowe, Macklin, Alexandra and Lazzaro.

Services 1:00 P.M. Friday, December 28th at the Bohemian Nat. Cemetery Chapel. Visitation 12:30 P.M. to time of services. Memorials maybe made to the American Cancer Society. Stelake Funeral Home, 515 Center St. Lake Geneva. WI in assisting the family with the arrangements. 1-262-248-2320.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

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

Senators voted, 73-23, to renew the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act through 2017. The law authorizes the National Security Agency to conduct surveillance without specific warrants on phone calls, emails and other contacts between foreigners that pass through telecommunications switching points in the U.S. Additionally, the bill authorizes a secret FISA court to issue blanket warrants for spying on communications between U.S. and foreign locations, while continuing the requirement that strictly domestic spying on Americans be authorized by FISA-court warrants on a case-by-case basis. If FISA surveillance conducted without a specific warrant inadvertently picks up communications by an American, that information must be expunged or disregarded, although the law lacks transparency by which outsiders could see if corrective action is taken. FISA was enacted in 1976 to govern the domestic collection of foreign intelligence while protecting Americans' civil liberties. The law was expanded in 2001 and 2007 to deal with post-Sept. 11 terrorism threats. The secret FISA court, which issues blanket and specific warrants and monitors government compliance with the law, is composed of sitting federal judges who serve on a rotating basis. A yes vote was to pass the bill. Sen. Richard Durbin: NO; Sen. Mark Kirk: DID NOT VOTE

SPYING ON AMERICANS

Senators refused, 43-52, to require minimal public disclosure of the extent to which the electronic communications of law-abiding U.S. citizens or legal residents are inadvertently spied upon during government surveillance of terrorism suspects' phone calls and Internet communications. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which empowers the government to monitor worldwide communications passing through U.S. switching points, requires that incidentally collected information on Americans be expunged or disregarded. But there is no public accounting of the extent to which incidental collections occur or on what happens to the information. This amendment sought to slightly lift the government's blanket of secrecy on its handling of incidentally collected information on Americans. A yes vote backed the amendment. Sen. Richard Durbin: YES; Sen. Mark Kirk: DID NOT VOTE

FISA COURT RULINGS

Senators defeated, 37-54, an amendment to HR 5949 (above) requiring the most important FISA court opinions to be declassified and made available to the public. These rulings reportedly judge whether government information collections respect Fourth Amendment privacy rights, among other issues. Under the amendment, if the Justice Department were to deem a ruling too sensitive for public consumption, even after redactions, it would have to release an unclassified summary. This amendment barred public disclosure of information that would reveal intelligence sources and methods. A yes vote backed the amendment. Sen. Richard Durbin: YES; Sen. Mark Kirk: DID NOT VOTE

Key votes ahead

There is a possibility, however remote, that the 112th Congress will take up a bill to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff" before it gives way to the 113th Congress on Jan. 3.
Emanuel, area mayors want state ban on assault weapons

Calling the Connecticut school massacre a "tipping point," Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined forces with suburban mayors in the fight for a state ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and criminal background checks before every single gun sale.

"There are moments in time that sear to the public a debate and it's a tipping point in galvanizing forces and bringing people together to find common ground," said Emanuel, likening Newtown, Conn., to the assassination attempt against Ronald Reagan that gave birth to the Brady Bill.

Joining Emanuel at a City Hall news conference were: Gary, Ind., Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson; Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl; Lynwood Mayor Henderson Yarbrough; Winnetka Village President Jessica Tucker and Westchester Village President Sam Pula.

For Winnetka residents, what happened in Newtown was like reliving the nightmare of the 1988 shooting by Laurie Dann, Tucker said.

"We still grieve over 20 years later for little Nick Corwin. He was a second-grader at Hubbard Woods Elementary school, 8 years old, died of gunshot wounds when a babysitter went berserk and shot up the school," Tucker said.

Gov. Quinn says 'ample time' for Illinois pension deal to be struck

Gov. Pat Quinn says lawmakers should have plenty of time to deal with pension reform and other major issues during a shortened lame duck session. Legislators are scheduled to return to Springfield this week. Quinn has said he wants them to approve a fix for the state's estimated $95 billion pension crisis before new lawmakers are sworn in Jan. 9. Other issues that could be on the agenda are a gambling expansion, allowing gay marriage and a bill to let illegal immigrants have driver's licenses.

Quinn said he talked with the leaders last week and believes there will still be "ample time" to get things done.

Legislative leaders in the House and Senate have canceled some of the days lawmakers had been scheduled to meet.

The Senate meets through Friday. Senate officials announced that they've canceled meetings Saturday through Monday. Senate President John Cullerton's spokeswoman said the Senate may return Tuesday, if senators need to respond to any House action.

The House had planned to meet Jan. 3, but a memo from House Speaker Michael Madigan's office said the initial days are cancelled and representatives won't meet until Sunday. They plan to also meet Monday and Tuesday.

ICE data: Audits of businesses for illegal immigrants rising

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement reached its highest number yet of companies audited for illegal immigrants on their payrolls this past fiscal year.

Audits of employer I-9 forms increased from 250 in fiscal year 2007 to more than 3,000 in 2012. From fiscal years 2009 to 2012, the total amount of fines grew to nearly $13 million from $1 million. The number of company managers arrested has increased to 238, according to data provided by ICE.

The investigations of companies have been one of the pillars of President Barack Obama's immigration policy.

When Obama recently spoke about addressing immigration reform in his second term, he said any measure should contain penalties for companies that purposely hire illegal immigrants. It's not a new stand, but one he will likely highlight as his administration launches efforts to revamp the nation's immigration system.

"Our goal is compliance and deterrence," said Brad Bench, special agent in charge at ICE's Seattle office. "The majority of the companies we do audits on end up with no fines at all, but again it's part of the deterrence method. If companies know we're out there, looking across the board, they're more likely to bring themselves into compliance."
Spending for kids

Early January is an excellent time to do right by the state’s most abused and neglected kids.

A court ruling last month finally allows for the closure of four state prisons and juvenile detention centers, freeing up state money that is desperately needed to help these kids. All that’s left is for state legislators to act. When lawmakers return to Springfield today for the lame-duck session, one of their first acts should be to restore $38 million cut from the budget of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. All told, the agency’s budget was cut by $86 million this year. If lawmakers fail to act, 1,957 DCFS workers — two-thirds of the staff — will lose their jobs in March, according to DCFS.

No one will regret spending these dollars. A smartly reorganized DCFS will spend the money on 138 new investigators to knock on doors where abuse and neglect is suspected.

What kind of luck will ’13 bring?

Can anything good come from 2013?

With a year ending in unlucky No. 13, will it go down as one of the worst years in history?

Just think of all the bad things that happened the last time a year ended in 13, just a century ago in 1913.

Richard M. Nixon was born Jan. 9, so that gives you an idea of how the year started.

The 16th Amendment was ratified in 1913. Remember that one? Just look at your paycheck, if you need a reminder. The 16th Amendment gave Congress the power to levy income taxes.

In July of that year, Death Valley recorded a temperature of 134 degrees, the hottest day ever. We may hit that mark somewhere in Greenland in 2013.

Pancho Villa returned to Mexico in 1913 and in czarist Russia the Romanov Dynasty celebrated its 300th anniversary on the throne amidst great monarchist sentiment among the people.

So what could 2013 bring? Will it be just as unlucky? Here’s my take on what will happen in 2013.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the income tax, we will pay more taxes. Despite what the pols say, you can bet taxes will go up in 2013 — definitely for the so-called rich and maybe for everyone.

As former Congressman Dan Rostenkowski told President George Bush in 1989, “The Treasury is empty.” It still is, and that’s unlucky for the rest of us.

Russia hasn’t called back the Czar, but if President Barack Obama is contemplating a third term, as some of the right-wing wackos claim, he might want to watch “Dr. Zhivago.” Public sentiment can change in a hurry. Oh, wait, 2013 may be the year he comes clean as a secret Commie.

Gun owners were buying weapons like mad at the end of 2012 because of all the talk about gun regulation. I suspect that will continue in 2013, as Congress continues to dither on new gun laws.

The sad thing is whatever Congress decides will have no impact whatsoever. Dozens of people, including innocent children, will continue to be murdered on the streets of big cities such as Chicago every month.

In the immediate future, everyone is wondering if the country will go off the fiscal cliff. By now, I think nobody really cares. Since no pundit has been able to tell us what it will mean to the individual, it doesn’t matter. Will there not be action movies on Friday nights, meatloaf on Mondays and happy hours on Thursdays?

If so, then who cares?

Have a happy new year in 2013, and don’t walk under any ladders, step in front of a black cat or step on a crack.
Turning an optimistic eye toward 2013...


Glad to see the last of 2012. But will 2013 be any better?

We approach the new year warily. After all, it has the number 13 in it.

A lot of the old problems still loom for the new year. But we hear hopeful talk of fiscal-cliff deals, new gun laws and a drop in unemployment.

So, a guarded optimism is probably the best way to welcome in the new year.

What choice do we have, really? The river of time flows no matter what we say or do.

And though we all are buffeted by economic, political and cultural forces, they are not places we actually live. We live in our own very specific lives. And successful living requires at least some optimism.

A job, a home, enough to eat, education for our children — these are not accidents that just happen to us. We are not passive observers of our own lives. We get up every day and work hard to see that the needs of our family are met.

What has shadowed us the past few years is a somber streak running through American life that — through no fault of their own — too many of us are unable to fulfill our family's needs.

In 2013, I hope those who have more will have a care for those who have less. We'll need to be good neighbors in 2013, to volunteer, to support groups that help the less fortunate, to generally help out.

But that is not beyond us. We Americans have time and time again shown ourselves to be a generous and compassionate people willing to lend a hand to those in trouble. We have aided former enemies. How much more can we help our fellow Americans, literally the people next door?

But offering a hand up is only part of what awaits us in the new year.

There is life to be lived — the closeness of family and friends, the vacations, the satisfaction of work, the school pageants, the graduations, the weddings, the good dinners, movies, laughs, books, how "Breaking Bad" concludes, music and, yes, even Chicago sports teams.

All these wonderful components of life, and more, are available to us in 2013.

I sincerely hope the new year turns out to be a good one for you.

And I fervently hope the new year turns out to be a good one for us all as a country and as a society.

May 2013 be a happy new year. Please.

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.
At Maine South High School we asked, “Is rock and roll dead?”

“'No. I think it's a matter of style now.'”

“'No. Because there are still some different rock bands and old ones like The Who and AC/DC.'”

“'We're in a non-musical music cycle.'”

“'No, we still have rock and roll bands like Green Day.'”

People Poll

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION**: “How do you clear your snow at home?”

**RESPONSES**

1) Shovel: 56%
2) Thrower: 2%
3) Plow: 1%
4) Pay someone: 14%

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION**: “Should school districts be expected to pay into teachers’ pensions?”

**RESPONSES**

1) Yes, all of it.
2) Yes, within reason.
3) No.
4) Undecided.

To respond to this week's People Poll question, visit niles.suntimes.com.
Sometimes a little hard work goes a long way.

For the next two years juniors and seniors in Maine East High School's Gifted Lyceum Program will partner with the Child Life Program at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. In doing so, the students will work to enrich the lives of children and teens who are spending time in the hospital's pediatrics unit.

"I'm really excited because health care and working with kids is something I'm passionate about," said Alex Plezia, a junior at Maine East and member of the Gifted Lyceum Program. The program involves students who score in the top 5 percent of their class and there are currently about 100 members.

"I'm really excited because health care and working with kids is something I'm passionate about," said Alex Plezia, a junior at Maine East and member of the Gifted Lyceum Program. The program involves students who score in the top 5 percent of their class and there are currently about 100 members.

Members of the gifted program held a Santa's workshop before Christmas so they could help wrap gifts for the children. Plezia added that there is a lot of musical talent in the class so another idea the group had was to hold music days for the patients. Days dedicated to craft projects were also proposed. Lyceum students held their first bake sale and money raised from the sale went towards creating activity boxes filled with crafts for the children and teens in the hospital. All of the activities and programs provided by the Gifted Lyceum are paid for through fundraisers.

"We're really excited that they picked us," said Michelle Stern, certified child life specialist with the Child Life Program at Lutheran General. "I think it is a great partnership."

Stern said the Child Life Program provide emotional support for the kids and tries to make the hospital as normal and routine as possible, alleviating stress and anxiety that could come with a hospital stay. "We do a lot of play-based therapeutic activities," Stern added.

During their first year in the Gifted Lyceum Program, Maine East students learn about subjects such as cultural anthropology and ethical problem-solving. Sophomores learn about current affairs and humanities and junior and senior years are dedicated to sculpting leadership skills for life.

"It's about developing civic awareness and giving back to the community," said Judy Tyler, director of the Gifted Lyceum Program.

During their last two years in the program students participate in 80 service-learning hours, Tyler explained. It is during this time that they have an opportunity to share their talents with the world outside of school and learn the importance of helping others.

Each year, juniors make proposals for projects and two are chosen. They do the research on the organizations they want to assist and work to put their proposals together. The proposals are selected by the superintendent, assistant superintendent, the principal and assistant principals, as well as the students. They use a presentation rubric that contains categories such as goals and objectives, a mission statement, and viability and planning to help decide which proposals become actual projects.

In addition to the Child Life Program, the other proposal that was selected this year is People Matter, a suicide awareness program.

"People Matter is an organization that wants to raise awareness of adolescent depression and help to prevent teen suicide by educating Maine East students and decreasing the stigma of depression," Tyler said.
Niles North Presents
"Reflections," an improv revue

Make a resolution to start the New Year laughing, which is easily done by attending the Niles North production of "Reflections," an improvisation and sketch comedy revue, featuring actors from the Play Production Class. Performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Jan. 7 in the Drama Performance Center at 8900 Lawler, Skokie. Tickets are $5 and may be reserved through the Box Office at (847) 626-2122.


District 219 hosts
Financial Aid Night

Niles Township High School District 219 is holding a Financial Aid Night for high school seniors and their parents on Jan. 7. The event will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Auditorium at Niles High School, 9800 North Lawler, Skokie.

The evening will begin with a general session on financial aid in the auditorium, followed by a general session on financial aid. The district is holding a Financial Aid Fair and a Financial Aid Foundation event. The district is working with the Illinois State Scholarship Foundation to provide grants to students who meet certain criteria. The district is also working with the Illinois State Scholarship Foundation to provide grants to students who meet certain criteria.

The evening will continue with a general session on financial aid in the auditorium, followed by a general session on financial aid. The district is working with the Illinois State Scholarship Foundation to provide grants to students who meet certain criteria. The district is also working with the Illinois State Scholarship Foundation to provide grants to students who meet certain criteria.
highest score possible for an AP test, which placed him in the top 15.5 percent of all students taking the exam. Kim received a perfect score by answering all of the multiple choice questions and the written free response questions correctly.

Around 70,000 to 80,000 students take this exam each year. While a student, Kim was enrolled in the AP Economics class, and had the help of two teachers in preparing for the exam, Niles North teacher Sarah Stucky and Niles West teacher Shaun Waldron.

West Debate earns first TOC bid
Niles West Debate experienced tremendous success at the Ohio Valley Tournament held Dec. 1 through 3 at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. Debaters Jonass Placitis and Theo Noparstak earned their first Tournament of Champions (TOC) bid, a milestone for the West Debate program. The pair need just one more bid this year to automatically qualify for the TOC Tournament at the end of April, the national championship for rapid delivery policy debate. Also, the team of Justina Jude and Soretti Donka earned the championship in the Novice division.

In Varsity Policy Debate, Niles West sent 10 teams. A total of 71 teams across the country competed in this category. Miranda Kang and Vinay Patel were 4-2 in preliminary rounds and were the 23rd seed into the elimination rounds. They lost in the Double Octafinal round. Theo Noparstak and Jonass Placitis went 5-1 in the preliminary rounds and were the seventh seed entering elimination rounds. They advanced without debating in the Double Octafinal round. In the Octafinal round, they won on a 2-1 decision, which earned them their first TOC bid. They lost in the semifinals. Placitis was named 18th best speaker out of 142 debaters.

Other students who competed in Varsity were Liaoston, Sana Khan, Nick Charles, Gershom Chan, Janat Ahmed, Nathan Anderson, Alwin Alex, Tahir Meeks, Michelle Sproat, James McLellan, Ari Hoffman, Walter Lindwall, Kris Trivedi, Lizzie Prete, Breana Brill and Emma Lazar.

Niles West sent four teams to compete in Novice Policy Debate. A total of 31 teams from across the country participated. Justina Jude and Soretti Donka were 4-2 in the prelims and were the 10th seed entering the elimination rounds. They won on a 5-2 decision in the championship round against a team from Alpharetta High School. Alex Brown was the 16th best speaker out of 62 debaters.

Other students who competed in Novice were Mariam Al-Anaswah, Faith Geraghty, Rebecca Harbeck, Anam Farrukh and Joseph Lee.

Niles West Debate is coached by Eric Oddo. He is assisted by Matt Fahrenbacher, Kevin Bancroft, Val McIntosh and Melanie Johnson. Also assisting were Tyler Salathe, Sam Varney and Jackson Chalolinor.
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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 e-mailed to mbottari@pioneerlocal.com.

**ARTS & CRAFTS**

**Creative Crafts**

Crafters will unite to showcase their artistic flare at the Heartland Creative Craft Fair Jan. 18-20 at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Vintage jewelry featuring Chinese and fabric materials will be displayed. Latin flare will be seen in an array of South American crafts. Other handmade gifts include wooden roses, air-brush art and more. Admission is free. Guests are invited to shop the craft fair while supporting local and small businesses.

**COMMUNITY**

**Lights recycling**

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County and its member communities are offering a holiday light recycling program at no cost to residents. All holiday string lighting and extension cords can be dropped off at the various locations. Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program. Local drop-off sites are: Niles Public Services Department, 6849 Touhy Ave, (847) 588-7900, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays up to 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, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, through Jan. 31. See swancc.org.

**HEALTH**

**Digestive health**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Golden Notes**

**PARKS**

**Golf Maine Parks**

Office locations 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.

**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.niles.com to apply and then Senior. Registration required for most programs.
Charlie Brown at the Museum

Go to the Museum of Science & Industry to see the exhibit "Charlie Brown" on Jan. 24 from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Through original cartoons and reproductions, see how Charlie Brown and Peanuts were developed.

Participants will enjoy lunch at the center featuring ribs, baked potato, coleslaw and dessert. Cost is $50, members; $55, nonmembers.

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 four-piece band will entertain and the afternoon will conclude with a champagne toast. Cost is $15, members; $20, nonmembers.

Issues in the News

Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. - This dynamic class is led by Arlene Golub and is filled with seniors from all walks of life, retired or not, who want to keep abreast of a broad spectrum of what is occurring locally and worldwide. Issues for discussion are brought up by class participants, and everyone's opinion is valued.

Holy Trinity Episcopal

18-65

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 are welcome. Childcare services are available during worship. Call (847) 823-6984.

St. Luke's Community Church

St. Luke's Christian Community Church, 9233 Shermer Road, Morton Grove, offers worship services on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and Sunday School for children of all ages from 10:15-11 a.m. Following the service St. Luke's hosts a coffee hour, dedicated to fellowship. The Rev. Isabel Hughes, pastor of St. Luke's, also conducts a Bible Study on Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m.-noon, followed by a luncheon on the first Wednesday of the month. This church community is diverse, open and welcoming to all, accepting and open-minded. The building is completely handicapped accessible. Contact Pastor Hughes (847) 691-0236.

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.
Christmas is over; time for deals on decorations

BY TRACY GRUEN | Contributor

NILES
Norbert Pools and Mil-Green in Niles have been lighting up the village this holiday season by turning their stores into a festive, sparkling winter wonderland.

But now it's time for those after-Christmas deals.

"Every Christmas we get a lot of customers, but this year we went even bigger on Christmas and made the store more of a forest," said Robert Hack, manager at Norbert Pools, 9141 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Each year on Dec. 26 long lines form with customers wanting to take advantage of the store's big half-off sale, Hack said.

"It's almost like a Black Friday sale just for Christmas trees," he noted.

Hack said sales "were great" this year with a steady crowd for much of the day. Usually there is a line starting to form at 8 a.m. the day after Christmas, filled with customers who had been eyeing a certain tree or decoration to take home and display next December.

Hack added that there are some people who celebrate Christmas in January (many Orthodox Christians will celebrate on Jan. 7), so they can get trees and other decor on clearance before the holiday.

Norbert Pools also sells inflatable decorations, indoor and outdoor lights, Disney characters, wire figures, wreaths, LED wire figurines...
and shooting-star tubes.

Though the store is stocked with ping-pong tables, pool tables, poker tables, darts and a wide variety of swimming pools and outdoor furniture outside of the holiday season, it is Christmas decor that is hugely popular.

"It's been a lot bigger on the Christmas side than the billiard side this year," said Hack.

Hack added that he generally doesn't start packing away the Christmas decorations until mid-February when it's time to get ready for pool season.

"We'll keep it out longer if people keep coming," said Hack.

Up the street at Mil-Green, employees have been busy selling pre-lit Christmas trees, lights and something new and unique this year: life-size LED decorations. One such decoration consists of Santa's sleigh and two reindeer made up of 20,000 LED lights.

"They look like molded ice sculptures," explained Steve Arden of Mil-Green, 9650 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Arden said the store featured a 7-foot-tall Santa and a 16-foot-tall Christmas tree, both made with LED lights. Just like at Norbert Pools, the after-Christmas sale at Mil-Green attracts many customers by offering Christmas items at half price.

"It's been a little better than last year," noted Arden about sales leading up to Dec. 25.

In addition to Christmas decorations and trees, Mil-Green also sells fireplaces and gas logs, gas grills and grill parts, outdoor furniture, patio umbrellas, pool filters and chemicals and other outdoor items.

Arden said that he saw a good crowd at the store the day after Christmas.

"It was quite encouraging," he said.
Planning a family vacation that's fun for children and parents can be a challenging task. So for your family's next getaway, why not choose the islands of Sanibel & Captiva, where there's Florida fun for everyone!

Whether it's catching that mega fish on a fishing charter, biking scenic trails though the wildlife refuge, strolling the beaches for that perfect shell or just lounging in the warm sun by the glorious Gulf of Mexico, children and parents have no trouble getting out and having fun together.

Casa Ybel Resort on Sanibel is an ideal stay for families of all ages. With an olympic-size swimming pool, easy bike rentals and access to miles of white-sand beaches, finding fun has never been easier. If you can't decide what to do first, let the resort's Recreation Concierge be your guide!

Bailey's General Store on Sanibel will deliver your groceries before and during your stay on the islands. As the one-stop shop for all your family's needs, Bailey's will be the staple in your Sanibel family vacation. Perfect for feeding the family without the hassle (after all, you are on vacation)...

Looking for an extended island getaway with the family? Spend a month or more in Sanibel Haven, the quintessential family vacation home from Royal Shell Vacations. Comfortable and luxurious, this home has many play areas for children and adults, including an indoor basketball court, private pool and Jacuzzi, clay tennis courts, TVs, WiFi and more! Royal Shell has plenty of vacation rental homes for families. Book yours today!

royalsheelrealestate.com  royalshell.com
For corporate meetings and work functions, it's hard to beat the serene nature of Sanibel and Captiva Islands. Businesses looking to book retreats, conferences or luncheons have their choice from a number of accommodating resorts and luxury restaurants.

'Tween Waters Inn Island Resort provides a great group experience, as the resort is an island getaway in itself, which includes a full-service spa, tennis courts, restaurants, live entertainment, extensive meeting space, marina and an expansive swimming pool complex.

Looking for a nice luncheon spot? Sunshine Seafood is the perfect blend of fine dining and a casual meal. Lunch hour is less formal than dinner and often less crowded, making it the optimal spot for groups to get work done.

Finally, treat your team to some fun on Captiva Cruises, departing from the Yacht Harbour at the beautiful South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island. With food, beverage and entertainment on board, it's a great way to entertain co-workers while enjoying a spectacular Gulf of Mexico sunset. Charter cruises and special expeditions are available.

Captiva Island is the perfect group destination. Special travel packages are available at these Captiva establishments:
- South Seas Island Resort
- 'Tween Waters Inn Island Resort
- Royal Shell Vacations
- American Realty of Captiva
- Jensens' Historic Cottages
- Captiva Island Inn

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

NIKES
7908 N Harlem Ave: Divya Upashay to Kenneth J Gatesman for $147,000 on Nov. 14
8420 North Ave: Leeanne R Bravine Trust to Plotr J Woziwoda for $180,000 on Nov. 15
9701 Dee Road Unit 31: Anna Sonkin to Sharon Goldstein for $54,000 on Nov. 14

DES PLAINES
208: Chicago Trust 000000SBL for $235,500 on Nov. 13
641 Lincoln Ave Unit 203: Emily Deam to Anastasia P Jelassy for $160,000 on Nov. 14
241 Good Ave: Laura Szadyy for $8911 Robin Drive: Devon Bank

ROSEMONT
9614 W Higgins Road Unit 2E: Agnew J Banis to John V Quinn for $143,000 on Nov. 13
8420 North Ave: Leeanne R 508 Glendale Road: RightCELL Trust for $187,000 on Nov. 15

MORTON GROVE
8610 Waukegan Road Unit 208: Chicago Trust 000000SBL for $80,000 on Nov. 15
208: Olga Gonzalez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc for $555,000 on Nov. 14
4141 Lincoln Ave Unit 203: Emily Deam to Anastasia P Jelassy for $160,000 on Nov. 14
7840 Beckwith Road: Barbara Eastman to Blake Eastman for $165,000 on Nov. 15
10369 Dearlove Road Unit 11: Jong Rok Song to Soon Jin Kim for $83,000 on Nov. 14

GLENVIEW
2409 Covert Road: Dean Giannini to Munzir Habibovic for $405,000 on Nov. 14
706 Waukegan Road Unit 308: Edward B Avildsen to Rashed A Khan for $165,000 on Nov. 15
710 Waukegan Road Unit 201: Constance B Black to Lynn Staudacher for $187,000 on Nov. 15
508 Glendale Road: RightResidential Series 1 LLC to Tommy Babella for $143,000 on Nov. 13

PARK RIDGE
610 Esmore St: Nancy B Trust to Lynn Staudacher for $187,000 on Nov. 15
10390 Dearlove Road: Blake Eastman for $187,000 on Nov. 15

ROSEMO NT
9614 W Higgins Road Unit 2E: Joan R Jablonski Trust to Eub Sutkovic for $75,000 on Nov. 13

1720 Linden Ave: John Ronan to Mariusz S Gombarczyk for $390,000 on Nov. 14
304 N Rose Ave: John S Gallagher to Scott Scheuber for $575,000 on Nov. 14

Investment Services LLC to GFM Development LLC for $1,753,000 on Nov. 15
306 N Lincoln Ave: 3FCB I LLC Holdings 8 to Glen W Hassler Trust for $315,000 on Nov. 14

SKOKIE
8646 Harms Road: Roberta Tiran to Heidi R Officer for $165,000 on Nov. 13
5019 Mulford St Unit 103: Evelyn Brownstein Trust to Steven C Brownstein for $80,000 on Nov. 14

Thursda y, January 3, 2013
What's In My Price Range?

GLENVIEW
1821 Monroe Court, $387,000
Townhouse size: 2,000 square feet
Lot size: NA
Year built: 1999
Bedrooms: 3  Bath: 3.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $6,150 (2011)
Agent: Alla Kimbarovsky, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 847-208-7212

NORRIDGE
4637 Oriole Ave., $398,000
House size: 1,978 square feet
Lot size: 5,762 square feet
Year built: 1958
Bedrooms: 3  Bath: 3.5
Garage: Two-car detached
Most recent available tax: $6,174.58 (2011)
Agent: Judel Roberts, Fresh Horizon Realty, 312-450-8350

LAKE ZURICH
873 Broadway Court, $373,900
House size: 2,052 square feet
Lot size: 11,579 square feet
Year built: 1989
Bedrooms: 4  Bath: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $5,226.45 (2011)
Agent: Michelle Wendell, Prudential American Heritage, 847-530-3009

OAK PARK
408 N. Lombard Ave., $399,000
House size: 2,250 square feet
Lot size: 6,327 square feet
Year built: 1909
Bedrooms: 4  Bath: 2.5
Garage: Two-car detached
Most recent available tax: $9,770.75 (2011)
Agent: Laura Talaske, Better Homes & Gardens Gloor Realty, 708-851-2211

LAKE FOREST
836 Everett Road, $365,000
House size: 2,489 square feet
Lot size: 21,981 square feet
Year built: 1955
Bedrooms: 4  Bath: 4
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $7,800 (2011)
Agent: Kiki Clark, Prudential Rubloff Properties, 847-804-0969

What can I get for $350K-$400K?

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

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

CLARENDON HILLS
318 Reserve Circle, $399,500
Townhouse size: 2,000 square feet
Lot size: NA
Year built: 1997
Bedrooms: 3  Bath: 2.5
Garage: Two-car attached
Most recent available tax: $7,241 (2011)
Agent: Tina Porterfield & Anna Fiascone, Prudential Rubloff, 630-325-7500

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What can I get for $350K-$400K?
What can you do with old wrapping paper?

Beth Engelman
Mommy on a Shoestring

The holidays may have “wrapped up,” but that doesn’t mean your fun has to end. Use wrapping paper remnants to make jewelry, picture frames, flowerpots and more.

Wrapping Paper Jewelry

Go eco-chic with bracelets and necklaces made from old wrapping paper.

You need:
20-40 2 x 4-inch wrapping paper rectangles
Hole punch
Ribbon
Tacky glue (optional)

Directions:
Similar to a gum-wrapper chain, a wrapping paper chain is pretty simple to make. All it requires is a series of folds, a few dabs of glue and a little bit of patience.

Lay one wrapping paper rectangle on a flat surface. Fold one side (lengthwise) into the center. Fold the other side lengthwise into the center creating a 4 x 1-inch rectangle.
Fold lengthwise again, making a 4 x \( \frac{1}{2} \) -inch rectangle. Fold the rectangle in half, which will make a 2 x \( \frac{1}{2} \)-inch rectangle.

Fold the ends into the fold and fold again, creating your first chain link (1 x \( \frac{1}{2} \)-inch rectangle).
Repeat steps above to make a second chain link.
Attached chain links by inserting the ends of one link through the folded ends of the other. Continue creating chain links and attaching them until you reach desired length.
Punch a hole at the ends of the chain and insert a ribbon to clasp the bracelet or necklace together.

Tip: If some of the paper links pop open, close them with a small dab of glue before attaching the ribbon.

Wrapping Paper Decoupage

Add color and design to frames, mirrors and more with wrapping paper and Mod Podge.

You need:
Mod Podge
Paint brush
Flowerpot, picture frame and/or mirror

Directions:
Cut or tear paper into small pieces and apply to desired object (flowerpot, picture frame, etc.)
Continue adding paper until entire surface is covered.
Add a final layer or Mod Podge to seal design. Allow 24 hours to dry.

Tip: Make a holiday themed flowerpot or picture frame with old holiday wrapping paper, which can then be put away until next season.

Mat Photos and Kids’ Art

Use wrapping paper to mat photographs and kids’ artwork in frames. Not only does it add color and visual interest, but it can also add meaningful context. For example, mat your favorite holiday photo with cheerful holiday paper or place your preschooler’s artwork on a background of baby ducks. The most important thing is to use paper that has a color scheme and pattern that will complement the art, such as small patterns or neutral colors.

Our Facebook friends weigh in

Check out these inventive wrapping paper ideas from our friends on Facebook.

“Next time you mail a package, use wrapping paper as an eco-friendly and budget-friendly alternative to Styrofoam peanuts.” — Cindy

“Use wrapping paper to make a decorative banner for Valentine’s Day. Simply cut the paper into small triangles and attach with a ribbon or string.” — Jenna

“Make origami inspired Xmas tree ornaments that won’t break when the baby/dog/cat has a run-in with the tree.” — Amy

“Make bows for other gifts. Wrap up your ornaments to put away. Make ornaments with wrapping paper inside.” — Heather

 Become a Facebook friend! Visit www.facebook.com/PioneerPressGo and tell us your favorite use for old wrapping paper.
King Cake crowns feasts of Epiphany

BY VERONICA HINKE | Contributor

The last crumbs of the Bûche de Noël are hardly swept away and it's time for King Cake.

The dessert, a crowning jewel of Epiphany feasts the world over, is not only a Mardi Gras treat. It's a symbol of Epiphany, Jan. 6, a day honoring of the tradition of the three kings' visit to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. In medieval times it was Twelfth Night, the official end of Christmas revels.

Around the first of the year, Luann Gawlick of Evanston will place her annual order for three or four King Cakes at Bennison's Bakery. On a workday close to the Epiphany, she and 20 of her office co-workers in Lincolnwood will get together at work to share the cakes.

Gawlick's cakes have miniature plastic baby Jesus figures baked into the cake and whoever bites into one are tagged to bring food for the annual Fat Tuesday work lunch. "I just think it is funny," Gawlick says, "everybody getting a piece of the cake and seeing who gets the doll."

Last year, though, the laugh was on her. After that experience biting into a doll, she advises others to consume King Cake cautiously. Many cultures use a bean, rather than a toy baby, which mean good luck for the finder.

Bakers at Bennison's in Evanston will start making two styles of King Cake after Jan. 1. One of those is co-owner Jory Downer's. Here in the U.S., Downer estimates, the most popular is New Orleans-style King Cake. "They're just more popular nationwide," he says.

This King Cake, a ring of braided sweet bread, is decorated with symbolic colored sugar. Purple, symbolizing justice, green for faith and gold for power color the sugars sprinkled atop a white sugar glaze.

The European variation, a cream-filled puff pastry known as Galette des Rois, is a more elegant option for Epiphany.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Website</th>
<th>Services</th>
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| CHICAGO          | Edison Park Lutheran Church          | 6626 N. Oliphant Ave, Chicago, IL (Across park from Edison Park Metra) | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Dr. Michael D. Sparby, Sr. Pastor  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  | Morton Grove Community Church        | 6626 N. Oliphant Ave. Chicago, IL (Across park from Edison Park Metra) | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  | St. John Lutheran Church             | 7429 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago, IL | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  | Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)         | 6201 W Peterson Ave. Chicago, IL | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  | Zion Lutheran Church                 | 6600 W Lawrence Avenue Chicago, IL | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
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|                  | Norwood Park Lutheran Church         | 5917 N. Nina Ave. Chicago, IL | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  | St. Alban's Episcopal                | 6240 N. Avondale, near Devon & Harlem | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Sunday Worship 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. 
|                  |                                      |                                |                        |                          | Rev. Michael Lytal, Associate in Ministry  
|                  | Zion Lutheran Church                 | 8600 W Lawrence Avenue Chicago, IL | 773.631.9131, www.edisonparkchurch.com | Saturday Worship 4:30 p.m.  
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<td>Low Miles, Moonroof, Leather Interior, Dual-Zone Climate Control, Luxury Loaded</td>
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<td>Hyundai 2004 Santa Fe GLS</td>
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<td>Wow! Only 32K Mile Great Hurry!</td>
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<td>Dual Moonroof, Heated Mirrors, Huge Savings Off New!</td>
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<td>Toyota 2005 Avalon XL</td>
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<td>Heated Leather, Moonroof, Under 60K Miles!</td>
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Beauty & the Bull
Scottie & Larsa Pippen talk family and philanthropy
LUNCH.
DINNER.
LATE NIGHT.
BRUNCH.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE
TO SLEEP SOMETIME.
need to know

jan. 9-13

Chicago Boat, Sports & RV Show

Escape the winter chill — and daydream of sunny days ahead — at the 2013 Progressive Insurance Chicago Boat, Sports & RV show, where a harbor exhibit, complete with lake fog, a lighthouse, docks and live nautical music, will set the stage for hundreds of boats for sale. Participate in Paddlefest (for paddleboard workout enthusiasts) and peruse a historic wooden boat exhibit, or scout out RVs, kayaks, marine accessories, camping equipment and fishing gear. Hours vary. Adults $12; children under 15 free. McCormick Place (North Building), 2301 S. Lake Shore. For more information, visit Chicagoboatshow.com.

THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK

We were delighted to learn this gorgeous Organic Coir bracelet ($170), which bends and spirals elegantly around the wrist, is made of 100 percent wood. Chicago artist Gustav Reyes uses a modern "cold bend" technique to create wood jewelry that moves easily when you do. GustavReyes.com

Raise a glass at Boarding House, the long-anticipated, three-level restaurant from master sommelier Alpana Singh. Of course, the wine list is spectacular, but we're also excited about dishes like tourtiere ravioli (pictured), northern California-style pizzas and pork tots from chef Christian Gosselin. Boardinghousechicago.com

Erase the signs of another year with Kiehl's new Powerful Wrinkle Reducing Cream, which uses copper to reduce wrinkles and improve elasticity by one-third. $52 for face cream, $42 for eye cream; Kiehls.com

Bar Method, known for intense workouts and body-sculpting results, celebrates five years with a new fifth location at 1 E. Delaware, plus the chance to pick up a five-week new client package for $100, starting Jan. 7.

SHOPPING SPY

The latest intelligence from the retail scene

SHOP FOR WU

Designer Jason Wu, who rose to fame when first lady Michelle Obama wore his gown for the 2009 inauguration, is making a personal appearance at Nordstrom Michigan Avenue (55 E. Grand) to debut a new contemporary line called Miss Wu. Sold exclusively at Nordstrom, the collection of silk blouses, flirty dresses and leather jackets starts at $195. View the collection at Nordstrom.com. Jan 10, 6-8 p.m.

ONE STOP, LOADS OF SALES

There are New Year's deals on every level at the 900 North Michigan Shops, but here are a few of our favorites: Karen Millen (level 3) offers up to 70 percent off everything in the store; Cache (level 4) takes an additional 60 percent off already reduced items until Jan. 10; Jane Weber, Ink! (level 5) offers half off all boxed Christmas cards; Yolanda Lorente (level 4) offers 50 to 70 percent off select items while supplies last; and Charles David

Ifeanyi Chuku

Jason Wu

Made for walking

Chicago-based Ifeanyi Chuku (at left) offers a colorful take on a classic loafer: the Omu ($275). Crafted from suede in Bologna, Italy, the shoes are designed to become softer over time. Both men's and women's styles available at Ifeanyichuku.com

ON THE COVER

Photographer: Anthony Tahlier
Stylist: Eric Himel
Makeup: Sarah Lukasiewicz, Amazing Cosmetics
Hair: Joe Vieyra, Mario Tricoci
On Larsa: Lovers + Friends dress, $264, Sofia (100 E. Walton); Tory Burch earrings, $175 (45 E. Oak)
On Scottie: Daniel Hechter sportcoat, $298; Cutter & Buck shirt, $99.50; Rochester Big & Tall sweater, $135
All clothing Rochester Big & Tall (840 N. Michigan Avenue)
By Thomas Connors

1. Macbeth by Suitcase Shakespeare
   Jan. 2-27: The Bard can be a bear, especially for younger audiences. Sure, there's plenty of blood and guts, scheming and snuggling. But these shows can be long, and plenty of today's teens find a night in the theater tough to take. Enter Suitcase Shakespeare. This itinerant troupe offers condensed adaptations tailored to high school audiences — powerful, streamlined shows that pack a punch. Tickets: adults $20, students $10, seniors/teachers $15. Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport. Call (773) 365-9463 or visit Athenaeumtheatre.org.

2. Shatner's World: We Just Live in It
   Jan. 4: Perhaps no celebrity has had more fun playing with his image — or profiting from our post-modern obsession with irony — than William Shatner (left). Even with his artful turn as Denny Crane on "The Practice," the classically trained actor mined his own persona to create a character that never let viewers forget who was pulling the strings. With an actor's aplomb, the octogenarian recalls his Quebec youth, early days on the stage, his career on screens large and small and the meaning of life as he knows it. Tickets $65 and $85. Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena, Aurora. Call (630) 896-6666 or visit Paramountaurora.com.

3. I Love Being Me, Don't You?
   Jan. 4-5: As an insider who's willing to spill the beans, an outsider unafraid to toss a few stones and a self-proclaimed diva willing to face the mirror, Sandra Bernhard long has been a shrewdly funny showbiz oddity. Whether pondering politics, slamming celebrity culture or singing a song as if she were still the girl from Scottsdale dreaming of stardom, Bernhard never registers as less than the real thing. Tickets: $45-$65. City Winery Chicago, 1200 W. Randolph. Call (312) 733-9463 or visit Citywinery.com.

4. Side Effects May Include ...
   Jan. 4-Feb. 10: When life hands you lemons, you make lemonade, right? Seinfeld writer Marc Jaffe and Emmy-nominated playwright Eric Coble have done just that with this one-man show that tackles the seemingly laugh-proof subject of Parkinson's disease. Based on Jaffe's own experience dealing with his wife's diagnosis, the piece stars Andrew J. Pond as a stand-up comic whose life alters once his spouse starts showing symptoms. Ten percent of the show's proceeds will be donated to Shaking with Laughter, an organization set up by Marc and Karen Jaffe in support of the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Tickets: $20-$25. Greenhouse Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln. Call (773) 404-7336 or visit Greenhousetheater.org.

5. The Second City Guide to the Opera
   Jan. 5: She's received Grammys, an honorary doctorate from Juilliard and has a dessert named after her, but Renée Fleming (right) also has a sense of humor. The wildly admired soprano lets us in on the jokes with the zany mash-up she's orchestrated between Second City members: mezzo soprano J'nai Bridges and tenor Bernard Holcomb. Fleming — who will sing a number or two herself — hosts the show with stage and screen star Patrick Stewart. Tickets start at $40. Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker. Call (312) 332-2244 or visit Lyricopera.org.

6. Passing Through The Opposite of What It Approaches, Chapter 25
   Jan. 6-Feb. 17: Artist R. H. Quaytman has made a practice of creating shows in which every work addresses a visual or conceptual theme. At the Renaissance Society, her subject is the gallery itself and its history as a center for the display of conceptual art under the direction of Susanne Ghez, who's celebrating her 40th year at this trail-blazing institution. Free. 5811 S. Ellis. Call (773) 702-8670 or visit RenaissanceSociety.org.
Dr. Jeffrey Weller
is proud to announce the Grand Opening of his Hinsdale office and Whitening Center.
The American Jewish Committee honored senior advisor and retired Apollo Group Co-CEO Chas Edelstein with dinner, drinks and a lighthearted roast. On Dec. 5 more than 300 guests turned out at the Ritz-Carlton (160 E. Person) for an extra dose of entertainment as Edelstein's celebrity pals Rob Schneider, Jack Hanna and Neil McCoy took the stage to playfully poke fun at the honoree. The evening netted tons of laughs and nearly $500,000 for the AJC.

On Nov. 29 the AIDS Foundation of Chicago satisfied the sweet cravings of more than 1,000 guests at the 11th annual World of Chocolate Gala. Thirty of Chicago's premiere chocolatiers and caterers created cocoa confections ranging from traditional truffles to chocolate-covered mashed potatoes, which were judged by a panel that included RPM chef Doug Psaltis, The Bristol chef Amanda Rockman and WLS-Channel 7's Kathy Brock. Five awards were given to the evening's most creative concoctions, and $100,000 was raised for the non-profit's mission of battling the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event.
not even the Times Square ball drop can hold a candle to these Chicago women who dazzle in sequins and glitter, grabbing attention with every twist and turn. Whether in a bright color or a silvery sheen, pick a dress with a flash of shoulder and a flattering cut. When it comes to accessories, metallic shoes, bags and belts are fair game, but use them sparingly, like the ladies featured here. You're sure to start 2013 with a bright statement and the resolution to always be confident, daring and stylish.
CAUSE & EVENT | parties

FRIENDS OF LA RABIDA

Since 1896 La Rabida Children's Hospital has helped young people fight chronic illnesses, developmental disabilities, abuse and trauma and has grown to serve 9,000 children annually. To help fund the cause, 600 friends of La Rabida turned out for the hospital's 26th anniversary gala on Nov. 16 at the Four Seasons (120 E. Delaware). Complete with a live and silent auction — and moving testimonials from patients and families who've defied the odds with La Rabida's help — the gala raised a record-breaking $750,000. In attendance were WLS-Channel 7's Ravi Baichwal, who served as master of ceremonies, co-chairs Anne Pramaggiore and Richard S. Price, and Sen. Kwame Raoul.

BY KATERINA BIZIOS

The Sun-Times was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times foundation and The Chicago Community Trust will match donations to La Rabida Children's Hospital, up to $15,000, now until Jan. 8, 2012. Donate now at: suntimesfoundation.org/larabida.

PHOTOS BY NEIL GATES AND MARK CAMPBELL

JDRF GALA

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Illinois Chapter had an ambitious multimillion dollar fundraising goal for its 33rd annual Chance of a Lifetime Gala, and reached it when the party pulled in more than $3 million. On Dec. 8 the McCormick Place Lakeside Ballroom Center and Arie Crown Theater (2301 S. Lake Shore) hosted about 2,000 guests for dinner and a live performance by Grammy Award-winning artists Kool & the Gang, who performed their hits (including "Ladies Night," "Jungle Boogie" and "Celebration"). The money raised will help fund research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes.

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

PHOTOS BY MARK WHEATLEY
Nov. 29 the Woman’s Board of the Chicago Horticultural Society hosted about 400 guests for All Aboard, a Russian-themed fundraiser. Guests sampled vodka and caviar during a cocktail reception, and later enjoyed dinner in one of three rooms that were replicas of Russian imperial palaces. Lively entertainment was provided by Russian singing ensemble Golosa. Co-chaired by Gail Miller and Alicia Crawford, the party raised $300,000 to support community gardening programs.

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

PHOTOS BY ROBERT CARL

The Alhambra Palace Restaurant (1240 W. Randolph) was a multiplatform media hub when 600 industry professionals gathered for the 54th annual Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards. The event was emceed by Sun-Times columnist Richard Roeper, who was joined by honorees including WMAQ-Channel 5’s Daniella Guzman and Stefan Holt, WFLD-Channel 32’s Robin Robinson and “Windy City Live” host Ryan Chiaverini. In addition to recognizing local television excellence, organizers invested in the next generation of storytellers by awarding $20,000 in scholarships to journalism students.

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

PHOTOS BY ROBERT J. DOWEY
Sunday in the Life

The Diet Doctor

Bestselling author Dr. Ian Smith shreds the stress and relaxes with family and good food

BY ZAK STEMER

He's a lean, mean, fat-fighting machine and he's gunning for you — but don't worry, you'll thank him for it. Dr. Ian Smith, the Hyde Park-based medical mind behind four bestselling wellness books, just penned his fifth guide to slimming down, Shred: The Revolutionary Diet. Released on Dec. 24, the book details Smith's sure-fire way to drop the extra pounds quickly, safely and without feeling hungry. "The concept is diet confusion. Every day there's variety," says Smith. "The number one comment about the diet is that there's too much food." With four meals a day and three snacks, the Shred diet is a welcome antidote to crazy crash diets and ultra-low calorie plans, making Smith poised to be 2013's most popular diet expert.

Between steady TV stints on shows like "The Dr. Oz Show" (including an episode focused on the Shred diet airing Jan. 2), "Rachael Ray Show," "The Steve Harvey Show" and "Anderson Cooper Live," Smith is developing an entire line of products to complement the healthy lifestyle he embodies. The new line of Shred snacks, bars and drinks will hit store shelves later in the year. "This program is extremely convenient, extremely portable. I built it because not everyone has the time or the energy or the desire to cook," explains Smith.

That attitude infuses every aspect of the diet, from the actual food plan that makes dining out a snap to the exercise program, which can even be done on the go. "I give people exercise recommendations. Sometimes you can slack; if it's a 30-minute workout, maybe you can do 15 minutes," he says. "It's even a workout that only involves a rope and a chair, making it ideal for travel."

Thanks to Smith, dropping pounds might be a resolution we can actually stick to.

Here, he maps out his perfect Sunday.

6:30 A.M.
"I have two small kids, so I'm up early," says Smith. To start his day on the right foot, he heads to L.A. Fitness (1301 E. 47th) for a quick workout.

8 A.M.
Smith exercises his hidden cooking talents by making French toast and pancakes from scratch.

9 A.M.
Sundays are the perfect time for a pick-up game of basketball at a local Hyde Park court.

11 A.M.
Smith heads to the UIC pavilion (525 S. Racine) to hear a sermon by Pastor John Hannah of the New Life Covenant Church.

12:30 P.M.
Lunch is a family favorite: either Frankie's (900 N. Michigan) for pizza or Bandera (535 N. Michigan) for ribs.

3 P.M.
A hands-on dad, Smith gives his five-year-old son a tennis lesson at XS Tennis (1301 E. 47th).

6 P.M.
The family comes together again for another of Smith's home-cooked meals. Dinner is barbecued steak, buttery mashed potatoes and honey-glazed carrots.
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HOME COURT ADVANTAGE: Scottie and Larsa Pippen pose on the newly built basketball court inside their home.

ON LARSA: SAUCE LEGGINGS, $80; SOFIA, 100 E. WALTON; TORY BURCH SHOES, $395; TORY BURCH BRACELET, $295, 45 E. OAK; TOP AND EARRINGS, LARSA'S OWN

ON SCOTTIE: DANIEL HECHTER JACKET, $248; THOMAS DEAN SHIRT, $14; SOCIETY OF ONE JEANS, $99; ALL CLOTHING ROCHESTER BIG & TALL (840 N. MICHIGAN)

STYLIST: ERIC HIMEL;
MAKEUP: SARAH LUKASIEWICZ, AMAZING COSMETICS;
HAIR: JOE VIEYRA, MARIO TRICOCI

Scottie and Larsa Pippen settle into Chicago's North Shore and focus on family, philanthropy and a brand new reality show

STORY BY MOLLY EACH
PHOTOS BY ANTHONY TAHLIER
or much of his career, Scottie Pippen has been one half of a dynamic duo. As a member of the Chicago Bulls from 1987 to 1998, Pippen was the Yin to Michael Jordan's Yang - his defensive prowess, ability to step into almost any on-court role and more reserved personality complementing his teammate's flashy dunks, buzzer-beating shots and hyper-competitive attitude. Together, Pippen and Jordan won six championships and a gold medal and cemented themselves individually and as teammates in the top tier of players and teams to ever grace the court.

It's been eight years since Pippen, 47, retired from the game. Now, he's stepping back into the spotlight as one half of a different dynamic duo: Scottie and Larsa. After living in Florida for several years, the Hall of Famers, his wife of 15 years and their four children - Scottie Jr., Preston, Justin and Sophia - have recently returned to Chicago, and have moved into a home on the North Shore.

"I feel like the people in Chicago are really grounded," says Larsa, who grew up here. "It's better for our family."

Posting up in Chicago means returning to Scottie's roots as a member of the Bulls organization. He recently took a new position as senior advisor to team president and COO Michael Reinsdorf, a role that has him helping out on everything from working with sponsors to advising current players. For Scottie, it's good to be back not only with the team, but with the fans who supported him for so long.

"[The Bulls] have always been able to keep the players close to the fans, with opportunities to meet and greet and do things together," says Scottie. "They've always tried to focus on guys with great character. Not just guys who can do things on the court, but guys that will be good for the city. For the players, it's great to be a part of the community."

Though they've been back just a few months, the Pippens have already entrenched themselves in the local philanthropic scene and they're doing much more than just making donations. In addition to working actively with the Chicago Bulls charities, Scottie recently made his theatrical debut in the Goodman Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" through Make-A-Wish, appearing on stage alongside a young aspiring actress. Larsa has been working with Gilda's Club and Bright Pink, the Chicago-based organization that promotes screening and awareness of breast and ovarian cancers. It's a non-profit that is especially close to Larsa after her battle with breast cancer. "I know what could have happened," she says. "I like that [Bright Pink] is about knowing your body and being proactive."

On Jan. 8, the Pippens' on-court accomplishments will take a backseat to their philanthropic efforts as the duo is honored for their work with the Chicago Bulls charities at a United Center gala. Helmed by Nancy Reinsdorf — with some input from Larsa — the event will feature dinner and cocktails with an ambiance that's more glamorous than previous years, "We wanted something in your left breast. Come back in six months." I was like, 'six months? Are you crazy?' She sought out a specialist and everything turned out to be fine, though the experience was a wake-up call. 'If I wasn't as paranoid and crazy as I am, then who knows what could have happened?' she says. "I like that [Bright Pink] is about knowing your body and being proactive."

While they're taking center stage in Chicago, they're about to put their lives on display nationally with a new reality show for平均夫妻 to be married 15 years is an achievement. But for celebrities, it's practically a lifetime. So what's the secret? "There are times when it's so good, and time when it's [not]," says Larsa. "But you kind of have to make yourself happy first, then you can make the other person happy." For Scottie, making it work in a marriage mirrors his on-court drive: "We're in it all the way. That's what makes it work, two people who are willing to commit themselves."

An Evening with the Chicago Bulls, Jan. 8. Tickets: $400, call (312) 455-4000 or visit Bulls.com/community.

Fans of the "Real Housewives of Miami" know Larsa from season one of the show, and while it was rumored that she was fired for being "boring," according to Larsa, the split was mutual. "The reason I did [the show] was to showcase all of the charities I was involved with. But none of it made the footage! All they kept showing was me complaining about my nannies," she says. And the drama was just too much for the Chicago native. "I didn't know any of the girls on the show [before filming], and when you're put in a situation with a bunch of strange women, you can't act like yourself. I couldn't handle all of the cat fights."

What does Pippen think of this year's Bulls squad? While he cites Jimmy Butler as a young player who is fun to watch, he says that the team has a whole lot more to offer. "People have written this team off in terms of what they're capable of without Derrick [Rose]. But you know, we're still one of the top teams in the league defensively, and that's what it takes to win games. So as long as they maintain that caliber and put in that effort night in and night out, they'll definitely be in the top 8 when it's all said and done."
5
minute fixes

Make a resolution to take advantage of these quickie style solutions

BY AMY TARA KOCH

Busy women have no moments to spare. Believe me, I get it. As a card-carrying member of the supremely stressed syndicate, I know all about time constraints and priorities. Between putting in crazy hours at work and raising a family, the time that used to be spent on ME — namely toning at the gym, grooming at the salon and primping in front of the mirror — has evaporated. But I still manage to carve out the nanoseconds required to pull myself together. The trick? Having an arsenal of quickie style solutions at the ready.

<< Have a go-to uniform

Decisions are draining. With a cache of power basics at the ready, dress stress is easily eliminated from morning mayhem. Have four or five go-to outfits that are flattering and versatile and can be dressed up or down for most life situations. Examples: a black wrap or sheath dress with a flowy asymmetrical cardigan, the perfect tunic and leggings, dark denim and a go-anywhere blazer or a white button down with black trousers. Keep it neutral. Keep it basic. Keep it simple.

Clean your closet

Women always complain that they have “nothing to wear,” a claim often made within spitting distance of a closet teeming with shirts, dresses and skirts. The problem? Overwhelming clutter. Without a pared-down closet, you will always feel overwhelmed and make poor choices. Once you rid yourself of all keepsake clothing — think “Dynasty”-era power blazers, boxy button downs and when-I-lose-weight clothing — getting dressed will be a snap.

Just say no to sweats

It’s easy to pop on sweat pants when you’re picking up the kids from school, but sweats do no one’s figure any favors. Their voluminous cut makes legs look stocky and thighs resemble tree trunks. They make an extra 5 pounds look like 15. They make your butt balloon. Switch out sweats for more stylish bottoms and look instantly more polished.

<< Ann Taylor: Modern sporty twill slim leg pants, $59, 845 N. Michigan, (312) 573-2775; Anntaylor.com

Two Penny Blue: Cambridge blazer in gray, $355; 2pennyblue.com
Stop making excuses
Looking good has everything to do with feeling good. But getting to an actual gym before or after a grueling day is often impossible. Don't let that minor detail hinder your physical activity. Gaiam resistance bands can tone biceps, triceps, shoulders and chest. A mushy playground ball can strengthen thighs and belly with deep plies toning legs and butt, and sit-ups with the ball between the knees strengthen the core.

Gaiam: covered resistance cord kit, $14, Target, 2656 N. Elston; Galam.com

BareMinerals: Multi-tasking face mineral powder, $18, Sephora, 108 N. State; Bareescentuals.com

Wear makeup
Let's face it: Jennifer Lawrence-esque luminescence is a 20-something trait. It's one of those unfair things that keeps the beauty industry funded. Looking polished is not about a bouncy blowout and face full of makeup. It's about evening out your skin tone. Mineral powder foundation takes 30 seconds to apply. With the flick of a brush-wielding wrist, uneven skin is flawless with a weightless powder that delivers a version of you, but airbrushed and more radiant.

Juveel: Advanced Skin Rejuvenation Kit, $155, Mario Tricoci, 900 N. Michigan, (847) 202-1900; Mariotricoci.com

Get rid of sallow skin
You don't need a visit to the spa to revive a dull complexion. Juveel is a breakthrough serum that brightens and tightens skin by infusing it with a highly concentrated, cryogenically frozen form of L-ascorbic acid (vitamin C). Juveel regenerates cells and delivers instant radiance to a not-so-vibrant visage. For maximum results, try the transformative 21-day kit.

Juveel: Advanced Skin Rejuvenation Kit, $155, Mario Tricoci, 900 N. Michigan, (847) 202-1900; Mariotricoci.com

Add a transformative accessory
Statement accessories—a dramatic scarf, a cuff or a "wow" necklace—serve as fashion Botox, punching up an outfit. The three minutes that it takes to pop on some accessories is the difference between a look that is ho-hum to one that's high wattage. To stay stylishly prepared, keep accessories at work or stashed in your car for emergencies.

Topshop: spike stretch bracelet, $30; 830 N. Michigan; Us.topshop.com

Learn to layer
When you add a leather jacket, classic blazer or hot pink cardi-coat to a basic black dress, a look is born and your basics are suddenly cooler. By mixing and matching a basic with layering pieces, a woman can recast a handful of garments into looks that work for almost any situation in her life.

Lower your neckline
An open neckline always receives high marks in the style department. The exposed skin breaks up the line from shoulder to chest, drawing attention to the neck and décolletage and making a woman look taller, longer, leaner and sexier. Bonus? An open neckline also succeeds in making a large chest look smaller.

Topshop: spike stretch bracelet, $30; 830 N. Michigan; Us.topshop.com

Ditch your sneakers
Fact: A woman sporting great shoes is perceived as polished and pulled together while a woman in sneakers looks frumpy. Sure, sneakers are comfortable and easy to pull on in the morning. But there are many footwear options that are as comfortable as sneakers and far more chic, like these London Sole ballet flats.

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London Sole: Simple navy leather quilt with toecap, $165; Londonsole.com
Lululemon’s regional manager Brooke Johnson shares her favorite picks for feeling good and staying in shape.

1. Shred415: drop-in class, $24, 230 W. Division, (312) 291-8722; Shred415.com
   “This might be one of the most intense workouts I’ve experienced. I feel almost zero guilt about what I eat after this calorie-burning class. It’s interval training at its best.”

2. Lululemon Athletica: The Mat, $68, 2104 N. Halsted; Lululemon.com
   “This is the best mat I’ve ever practiced on. It’s got incredible grip and I don’t slide while I move into the poses. My downward dog stays put!”

3. Fresh: Sugar Plum tinted lip treatment SPF 15, $22.50, Sephora, 108 N. State; Sephora.com
   “I’m addicted to lip treatments, and this one combines all my favorite elements. It has SPF 15, smells delightful and gives a great sheer plum tint to the lips.”

   “On those days when I’m dragging and feeling sleep-deprived, Touche Éclat instantly gives me a lift. The dark circles somehow disappear and it makes me seem more awake and vibrant. Fake it till you make it!”

5. Maya Tulum Spa Resort: three-day yoga retreat: starts at $950; Rresorts.com/maya tulum
   “I just came back from a Baron Baptiste yoga retreat at Maya Tulum, a beautiful resort on the Mayan Riviera, where every guest gets their own cabana located on the beach. Daily yoga practice with walks on the beach and delicious, healthy cuisine make for a guiltless getaway.”

6. Kind Healthy Snacks: Kind bar, $1.99, Target, 1154 S. Clark; Target.com
   “I’m not a bar type of person — I’d rather have a good meal. That said, Kind bars work for me. I love that they use simple, natural ingredients I can actually pronounce. Plus, I think their philosophy of being kind to your body and kind to others is just good business.”

7. Protein Bar: Wrigley Peeled smoothie, $4.39-$5.39, 235 S. Franklin; Proteinbarchicago.com
   “A mix of chocolate protein, milk, all-natural peanut butter, banana and organic agave nectar. It’s a winning combination — and a favorite snack of mine. It tastes too good to be healthy, and yet it’s exactly that.”

8. Zoe Oliver: Bezel-set purple chalcedony earrings, $120; Zoeoliver.com
   “I adore Zoe Oliver jewelry, created by the lovely Chicagoan Maggie Rhodes Shapack. Each piece of jewelry has healing gemstones that can attract things such as love, prosperity and balance into one’s life. Receiving good energy while wearing pretty jewelry — yes, please.”

9. A to Z Wineworks: pinot noir, $16.99, Binny’s, 213 W. Grand, (312) 332-0012; Binny’s.com
   “Unwinding with a glass of wine helps me achieve mental wellness. A to Z Pinot Noir is one of my go-to’s after a long day.”

10. Lululemon Athletica: Wunder Under pant, $82, 900 N. Michigan and 930 N. Rush; Lululemon.com
    “These are my favorite pants. They’re my yoga class staple, but I also pair them with boots or flats and transform them into a daily uniform.”
January Wong & Jordan Wishner

January Wong and Jordan Wishner first met at 16 through a mutual friend, but it was charity work that brought them closer after college. While they were both serving on the junior board for Linda's Hope -- a local pancreatic cancer nonprofit -- they built a friendship that turned romantic in 2007 after sharing a cab ride together from an event. Three years later, Wishner, owner of the Health Insurance Shoppe, popped the question with a custom designed Lester Lampert ring. On their wedding day, Wong, who is the Reiss shop manager at Bloomingdale's, wore an Oscar de la Renta gown and sparkling tiara by Erin Cole. The bride chose the Palmer House Hilton hotel's Empire Room as the venue to match her elegant attire. “My grandma used to go there for drinks and dancing and to see famous musicians play, so it brought back memories for her,” says Wong. In order to incorporate both of their religions, Wong and Wishner had a rabbi and pastor present for the ceremony, which opened with Vail, their Boston Terrier, walking down the aisle with their flower girl. At the reception, a live band kept guests dancing until after 1 a.m. — Katerina Bizios

 CHEERS!

Congratulations to hair legend Mario Tricoci, who celebrated the reopening of his newest salon and day spa at Old Orchard Mall on Dec. 11 with complimentary services like mini-facials and massages.

Larry Slivestri, Cheryl Tricoci, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen and Mario Tricoci | Glenn Kaupert-for Splash

We're tipping our hats to chef Jonas Falk — CEO and founder of OrganicLife, an organization providing healthful food options for schools across the Midwest — for being named to Forbes magazine's “30 under 30” list in the food and wine category.

Eleni and George Bousis

Warm wishes go to friend of Splash George Bousis, founder and CEO of Chicago-based company Coupon Trade, for partnering with his parents' grocery store chain Cermak Produce to donate $5,000 to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana.

Send us your cheers at Splash@suntimes.com
The team behind Chicago Cut looks to the neighborhood for their next concept: The Local

BY MOLLY EACH

Steakhouse honcho David Flom has an unexpected back story. For three generations his family has run one of the country's largest pea farms in Cannon Falls, Minn. Today they supply around 90 percent of Green Giant's product, and once a year Flom and his entire extended family head home for a giant harvest party. So it's easy to see why for Flom's newest eatery, he and business partner Matthew Moore veered away from the power lunch/business dinner/white tablecloth vibe of their first restaurant, Chicago Cut Steakhouse, and created a more low-key spot. To Flom, it was just what the Gold Coast needed.

"There were lots of fancy, special-occasion spots in the area," says Flom of the enclave east of Michigan Avenue. "But nowhere you could go with your significant other or a group that's not over the top. We wanted [a place] that soothes the soul on a daily basis." Enter The Local, a restaurant that pays homage to the surrounding clientele — the locals — as well as the fact that many of the ingredients are sourced from around the Chicago area.

Located inside the Hilton Suites Chicago, the restaurant maintains some of the signatures of Chicago Cut — an elegant dining room, an iPad wine list, impeccable service — but boasts homespun touches like stars and stripes décor and a menu of classic Americana cuisine created by chef Travis Strickland, a veteran of the noted Inn at Blackberry Farms restaurant in Tennessee. Even if you're not a neighborhood denizen, it's worth a trip to the Gold Coast for his menu of classic comfort food, including a cobb salad with filet mignon ($25), Dr Pepper barbecue baby back ribs served with fries and slaw ($20) or a bowl of chicken noodle soup ($8).

For the most traditional and nostalgic American comfort food dishes, look to the daily specials menu for Monday's meatloaf, served on a pile of mashed potatoes ($24), Tuesday's chicken potpie ($22) or Sunday's fried chicken and waffles ($22). For libations, The Local offers tap brews such as Bell's and Two Brothers, a full bar and 120 different bottles of wine. Don't leave without ordering up a side of the mac and cheese. In a nod to Flom's family, it's mixed with thick chunks of bacon and peas, which add a bright note to a traditionally heavy — and delicious — dish.

198 E. Delaware, (312) 280-8887, Thelocalchicago.com

Does all this talk of The Local have you craving some traditional American comfort food? GrubHub to the rescue! Here are a handful of our favorite soulful American dishes in Chicago — all available for takeout.

Markethouse Restaurant
611 N. Fairbanks Ct.
It doesn't get a whole lot more American than an egg salad sandwich, and the Swan Creek Egg Salad Sandwich at Markethouse does this favorite justice. Add the Roasted Wild Mushroom Casserole as your side and prepare to feast.

Pork Shoppe
2755 W. Belmont Ave.
Pork Shoppe Barbecue Restaurant in Logan Square offers some of the best southern-style takeout we've had, and we highly recommend the Pork Belly Pastrami Sandwich with sides of Sweet and Spicy Cornbread and Cream Corn. Oh lawd.

The Meatloaf Bakery
2464 N. Clark St.
This pickup-only "bakery" serves up an always-changing menu of inventive meatloaf concoctions, and the Mother Loaf Cupcake has consistently been one of their most popular items on GrubHub.

Market
1113 W. Randolph St.
Market delivers a mean assembly of American classics. A few GrubHub favorites include Markets Stack'd Reuben Sandwich, Mac and Cheese and Truffle Fries.

198 E. Delaware, (312) 280-8887, Thelocalchicago.com
Why buy new? “Besides pristine floors and walls and fresh appliances, the associated costs — from assessments to potential repairs — can be lower because of new state-of-the-art building materials and mechanisms that offer energy efficiencies and sport warranties,” says Coldwell Banker broker Stephanie Englund-Siegel. Unfortunately, new construction residences can be hard to find thanks to the housing market crash in 2008. In fact, last month Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago President John Wozniak noted that new residences have dropped from a high of 36,000 six years ago to less than 3,000 annually.

That makes spanking new places a rarity until housing starts to gain traction, but there are still some intriguing pre-crash options on the market with improved pricing. A 10 percent lower ask is one of the reasons why this condo in Lincoln Square Homes at 4950 N. Western is an exceptional deal. Now $265,000, the one-bedroom (plus den) two-bathroom is the last developer-owned unit in the concrete, steel and brick construction building, which is quieter thanks to those materials. It has high-end finishes, stainless-steel appliances and custom-made Amish cabinets in the kitchens and bathrooms. This unit is also a penthouse and sports an exceptionally large outdoor terrace, notes Englund-Siegel (773-750-6423, Stephanie.englund@cbexchange.com), who is marketing the residence. Indoor heated parking spaces are also still available.

More ‘new’ old stock

The 11 units left in the Columbian (1160 S. Michigan), a 47-story luxury building that went up in 2008, are now “probably the best value on Grant Park because they’ve been reduced to $300-$400 per square foot, compared to $500-$700 at two nearby buildings,” notes the development’s marketing chief, Garry Benson. (Contact Kay Varga, 312-341-0000, Kvarga@garrisonpartners.com.) Prices range from $329,900 for an 850-square-foot, one-bedroom one-bathroom to $1,899,900 for a 3,483-square-foot, two-bedroom 2.5-bathroom.

Also enticing is the Legacy at Millennium Park (60 E. Monroe), where there are about 100 units left, including an 845-square-foot, one-bedroom one-bathroom for $393,000; a 2,400-square-foot, three bedroom 3.5 bathroom; and $6 million half- and full-floor penthouses. Contact the sales center at (312) 252-0060.

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Fighting for control
Jenny's secret for dealing with dominating friends

Dear Jenny,
A very good friend of mine frequently offers unsolicited advice and can never be wrong. I enjoy being around her, but even when I try to make casual conversation I am met with an opposing opinion. Every topic turns into a debate. I am really getting frustrated and am beginning to avoid her phone calls. I don't want to lose her as a friend, but also cannot tolerate being micromanaged and yelled at constantly. Please help! How would you handle this situation?

— Jessica from Pekin, Ill.

Jenny says: I have a friend like that, too! I think everyone does. They’re called “control freaks.” They’re the ones who say black when you say white. They love to fight and they thrive on being “right.” I’ve learned the key is not to react in any way when they claim to be an authority on something. Instead, state your position and let it be. There is no need to justify why or what you are doing. You will never win an argument with a control freak, so save your breath.

Studies have also shown most control freaks are insecure. By maintaining control they keep their insecurities in check. You can help alleviate their domineering and assertive personalities by stroking their egos. A compliment or recognition of hard work will create a more relaxing environment, thus giving them the confidence to be more flexible.

Jessica, keep in mind your friend is not trying to hurt you. Instead, she is trying to protect herself. Remember: Her behavior toward you isn’t personal. However, you should always put yourself first. If your relationship is no longer positive with your friend, it may be time to say goodbye.

Send questions to Askjenny @suntimes.com

JENNY McCARTHY OFFERS UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

Brangelina breakup?

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are breaking up! That is, if you’re to believe one of the many 2013 predictions celebrity psychic Thomas John gave me in an interview. He also predicts many other Hollywood splits, weddings and the sex of Kate Middleton’s baby.

Liz Crokin: What couples will break up next year?
Thomas John: Sharon Stone and Martin Mica will part ways. Kathy Griffin and Randy Bick will split. However, none of these breakups compare to the drama surrounding the split I am seeing around Brad and Angelina. I just do not see this [wedding] happening.

LC: Will Kate Middleton have a boy or a girl? What about twins?
TJ: I’m predicting that Kate Middleton is having a boy. I think the rumors about her health issues being related to twins are actually not true... I just see a boy coming, not two children and not a girl. And Pippa is going to be going off and doing her own thing.

LC: There are a lot of engaged celebrity couples who have not set wedding dates yet — who do you see walking down the aisle and when?
TJ: Britney Spears and Jason Trawick are going to be stronger than ever. I do not see a wedding next year for them, though. Jessica Simpson will have a wedding, but I actually feel it [happening] very soon. Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux will also wed in 2013.

LC: Will troubled Lindsay Lohan get her act together or continue on a downward spiral?
TJ: Lindsay Lohan will start to pull it together. She will get some awards. She will begin to really distance herself from her parents, and that will be the key to her success. A big role in 2014 will bring her back.

LC: Will Tom Cruise get a new girlfriend next year and marry again?
TJ: Tom Cruise will be with a major girlfriend by summer 2013 and be married in 2014 — or at least engaged. It’s going to move quickly. This time, it won’t be a high-profile actress.

LC: Finally, what do you see happening with the Kardashian family?
TJ: Kim and Kanye West won’t last. Bruce and Kris Jenner will be on the rocks. Khloe and Lamar Odom will be on the outs, too. You can expect lots of scandal around those separations. The most stable couple in the Kardashian clan is actually going to be Kourtney and Scott Disick.

Make what you want of these celebrity predictions, but I will add that Thomas gave me a reading, too, and several of his predictions have already come true. Needless to say, I can guarantee that I’ll have lots of drama to write about next year, coming straight to you from Hollywood!
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The all-new 2013 Mazda CX-5 is a design philosophy guided by the principle of oneness between a rider and horse. Mazda transforms its compact crossover SUV into a unified marriage of form, function and fuel economy.

The CX-5 is a replacement for the Mazda Tribute and competes with the Ford Escape and Honda CR-V. Starting at $20,695, the 2013 CX-5 comes in three trim levels: Sport, Touring and Grand Touring.

Completely new from the inside out, the 2013 CX-5 is a charmingly curvy little SUV with strong shoulders and a raked roofline that gives it the crouching profile of a sport wagon. The front grille has an elongated shield shape that is capped by narrow snake-eye headlamps and brauny wheel wells.

Inside, the new CX-5 is spare and sensible — as though a feng shui consultant came in to remove all unnecessary objects and obstacles. Two color schemes are available: black on black or sand on black, with leather available as an option and cloth upholstery standard. Drivers' seats have power adjustments on higher end models, and all three of the 40/20/40 split rear seats can be folded independently completely flat.

We drove Mazda's new CX-5 recently on several roadways as well as at a small performance track, the Dallas Motor Speedway complex. We are fans of Mazda vehicles and the execution of its "zoom-zoom" philosophy in each of its vehicles. It's easy to apply sporty driving characteristics to the two-seater Miata, but a bit more involved with a five-seater SUV whose primary mission is that of a people and cargo carrier, yet Mazda succeeds.

The first thing we noticed is the attractive, modernized new looks of the CX-5. The first impression when getting behind the wheel is a feeling of lightness mixed with concrete substance. A comprehensive array of weight-saving technologies make the CX-5 feel lighter on its feet and despite a more carved exterior, you'll find good elbow room and airiness in the cockpit.

A 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine powers the new 2013 model. Making 155 horsepower and 150 pound-feet of torque, the four-cylinder engine is mated to a standard six-speed manual or an optional six-speed automatic transmission.

All-wheel drive is available, and towing capacity, with an optional towing package, is 2,000 pounds.

You don't have to be a gear head to appreciate the engineering behind this updated model: A redesigned exhaust system and numerous other components in a suite of features called Skyactiv make the heart of the CX-5 10 percent lighter, with more torque, better fuel economy and lower emissions than the previous version. Environmental Protection Agency estimates are 26/35 mpg city/highway for the manual transmission and 26/32 mpg for the automatic.

While the upgrades will bring a smile to driving enthusiasts who appreciate the packaging and handling that this compact SUV offers in a nod to energy efficiency, boosted power is not one of its attributes. While there was ample power on tap for our driving experience, the 2.0-liter engine with 155 horses is not meant to imply "boy racer," but still has a slightly racy sound when the driver motivates the throttle.

We found the CX-5's power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering provides a tight rein on maneuvering and its independent front and rear suspension soak up bumps and uneven pavement. Its brakes are power-assisted ventilated in the front and solid rear discs with an antilock braking system. Of note: Stability and traction control are standard, along with hill launch assist.
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Options with a view

Park Monroe offers luxury living, inside and out

Condominiums in general offer many conveniences within the building and within their particular neighborhood.

Although options for new construction condominiums in downtown Chicago have diminished in recent years, one building in the Millennium Park area enjoys a central location with all of the culture and amenities a buyer could want, plus features amazing views of the city.

The Park Monroe, 65 East Monroe St., includes many impressive finishes and amenities and also boasts of having one of the most desirable locations in downtown Chicago, less than one block from Millennium Park.

Many of the homes at The Park Monroe offer stunning views of the lake and Millennium Park, but residences in the City View Collection offer dramatic views of the city skyline from floor-to-ceiling windows that are 10 feet tall. These homes provide value for buyers looking for one-bedroom and two-bedroom homes.

The residences in the City View Collection include hardwood floors in the living room, dining room, kitchen, foyer and entry hall. The kitchens feature custom Italian cabinetry and Silestone or granite countertops, as well as stainless steel appliances including a 30-inch chimney hood. A marble or stone vanity is standard in the master bath, along with Grohe fixtures. The secondary baths are adorned with a similar luxury finish package.

The residences in the City View Collection are part of "Park Monroe 2.0." This second, and final, phase of condominiums was introduced on Oct. 18 and consists of 48 one-, two- and three-bedroom residences. Park Monroe 2.0 comes on the heels of several years of successful sales at The Park Monroe and takes the best of the first phase and "re-imagines" it with luxurious new floor plans, the latest finish options and state-of-the-art technology. The new residences are expected to be ready in late spring of next year. Less than 10 homes available for immediate occupancy remain in the first phase.

Taking into account the requests and finish selections that buyers made in the first phase, the sales and development team incorporated many of the latest modern finishes that buyers were requesting into phase two. There are also options that buyers can choose if they prefer a traditional or a transitional look.

However, the time for buyers to customize the appearance of their home and make it their own has nearly come to an end. Once construction begins in earnest at the end of this month, the opportunity will no longer be available.

There are so many choices at The Park Monroe. A buyer could purchase a one-bedroom as a place to stay downtown. There are also two-bedroom, three-bedroom and large penthouse homes for buyers seeking more space.

"Sales are really fantastic," said Pat Young, vice president of marketing at The Park Monroe. "The sales records here are generally only seen in a great real estate market but we are still selling in a market that has just started to turn around in a positive direction."

"I think the views at The Park Monroe really steal
Optimism surfaces in views of housing's future

It's time to gaze into the crystal ball and see what is forecast for the housing market in the New Year.

With a residential revival already under way in the Chicago area, housing analysts are looking forward with optimism to 2013.

"The past few months have brought a spate of favorable news on the U.S. housing market with construction up, home sales, and home-value growth turning positive," noted Frank Nothaft, vice president and chief economist for Freddie Mac.

"This has been a big change from a year ago, when some analysts worried that the looming 'shadow inventory' would keep the housing market mired in an economic depression," Nothaft said. "Instead, the housing market is healing, is contributing positively to GDP and is returning to its traditional role of supporting the economic recovery.

Gazing into the future, here is what Freddie Mac's U.S. Economic and Housing Market Outlook is forecasting for the nation's housing market in 2013:

- **Look for long-term mortgage rates to remain near their record current low of 3.33 percent for the first half of 2013. However, rates will rise gradually during the second half of the year, but remaining below 4 percent.**

- **Expect property values to continue to strengthen with most U.S. house price indexes likely rising by 2 percent to 3 percent in 2013.**

- **Household formation should step up further. Look for a net increase to 1.38 million to 1.35 million new household formations in 2013. Housing starts should rise to around a 1 million annualized pace by the fourth quarter.**

- **Vacancy rates for both apartment and the single-family for-sale market could shrink aggregate vacancy rates to levels not seen since 2002 and 2003 as household formation outpaces new construction.**

- **While the refinance boom will continue into early 2013, loan volume will decline compared with 2012. Look for single-family mortgage originations to decline by 16 percent. Conversely, multifamily lending should rise approximately 5 percent.**

It appears a residential revival already is underway in the Chicago area. RE/MAX Northern Illinois and Midwest Real Estate Data reported that November sales of attached and detached homes in the seven-county area totaled 7,600 units, 37 percent more than in November of 2011.

The median sales price was $185,000, up 3.3 percent from the $150,000 median price recorded 12 months earlier. Average market time, which is the average number of days a home sold in November was on the market before a sales contract was signed, fell from 170 days in November of 2011 to 116 days in November of 2012.

Home sales in Chicago climbed 22 percent to 1,770 units, and the city also recorded the biggest rebound in home prices. The median sales price in November was $180,000, 16 percent higher than a year earlier.

The median price of attached homes, including townhomes and condominiums, rose 7 percent in Cook County to $335,151, and jumped 12 percent in Chicago to $205,750.

Don DeBat's weekly real estate column is syndicated by DeBat Media Services. For more home-buying information visit his Website at dondebat.net.

Add color to kitchens, baths with bright sinks

Why is it that some people can do daring things with color in their living rooms or bedrooms, but stick with the strongholds of beige and white in their kitchens and baths?

As bright hues are surfacing in kitchen and bath design trends, existing off-neutral palettes make it easy to introduce bold splashes.

Whether it's with a new faucet finish, a vibrant wall color, a playful backsplash or even a brightly-colored sink — adding color instantly creates a personalized and pleasing look in your kitchen or bath.

Debating the best way to bring new colors into your home? Consider these seven tips straight from two industry professionals.

**Matching it up:** First, find your perfect (color) match. Before you begin mixing and matching paint chips with backsplash tile, identify a color that has long resonated with your own design or fashion aesthetic.

"If a client isn't able to answer this question instantly, all I have to do is show them the closet," said Kohler interior designer Diana Schrage. "Chances are that repeated pop of color worn over the years belongs in his or her home decor as much as in his or her wardrobe."

**SEE SINKS, PAGE 3**
William Ryan Homes brings buyers tomorrow's technology

Imagine being on vacation 1,200 miles from home, yet being able to control your home's temperature or simply turn on and off the lights from your iPad.

How about getting a text alert at work when your daughter gets off the bus and opens the front door. Maybe getting Netflix or Apple TV in every room without cable boxes, wires and Blue Ray players sounds appealing.

With William Ryan's "Connected Home" homebuyers can do that and more.

"We're bringing today's digital technology to our home buyers and 'future-proofing' their homes to accommodate the innovations of tomorrow," said Deborah Beaver, vice president of sales and marketing for William Ryan Homes.

"We've partnered with Digital Innovations, Inc., to include the most essential components during the construction process such as six distinct wire 'pulls' for house-wide phone and data connection, a four-port wireless router, and television and telephone distribution modules to handle virtually any computer or communications device. A state-of-the-art home control processor with structured wiring panel is at the heart of the system. And the best part is that all of these features can be controlled from any web-enabled mobile device."

William Ryan is currently building single-family homes in Bolingbrook, Cary, Elgin, Joliet, Lakemoor, Lake Villa, Lindenhurst, Naperville and Shorewood.

The infrastructure package, a $1,500 value, will be included at no additional charge with buyers able to purchase the modules that best fit their lifestyle. The modules include:

- Entertainment: Control television and movies, digital audio, WiFi, subscription video, music and more from your computer system.

According to Mike Creeden, president of Digital Innovations, the interest in the connected home concept has increased 100-fold in the past two to three years.

"In the past, the connected home was something that was very expensive, making it only available to a small segment of home owners," Creeden said. "With the introduction of the flat-panel televisions, the iPad, on-line content and other advances, the desire to hide wires and cable boxes as well as create a centralized technology hub within the home has increased dramatically in demand. Nobody wants to mount the fancy 50-inch flat-screen over the fireplace and have a cable box, Netflix box, Blue Ray player and all of the wires hanging from it."

"The Connected Home makes that a thing of the past putting the proper infrastructure in the home as its being built and installing the needed components in the basement." Beaver said the homebuyers meet with a Digital Innovations representative during the selection process to determine their "connected home" needs and desires.

"When buyers come in to select flooring, appliances and other accents we are there to help them determine their technological needs," Beaver said. "Currently, entertainment modules are the most popular with buyers. They want all of their television, audio and audio needs streamlined throughout the home and controlled with one device."

"After buyers move in, we come in and show them how to use their new system and make sure they are comfortable with its capabilities. The important thing to remember is technology is ever-changing, but centralizing the technology and having proper infrastructure included means the home is ready to accommodate the industry's next advancement."

Chris Rack, a William Ryan homebuyer at Highland Woods in Elgin, is no novice to store your favorites in your computer system.

"We currently have Control4 technology which offers the most flexibility and functionality and wanted to make sure we had that technology again. You don't have to purchase all the modules immediately you can add on as needed or wanted. Once the infrastructure is in place you're ready to go."

In addition to connected technology, William Ryan Homes also offers a unique program for its homebuyers.

"MyHome 24-7" is an individualized Website for each William Ryan Home homeowner. Buyers use the site to view floor plans, option pricing and have a mortgage calculator, select and visualize kitchen and exterior color schemes; view their specific home building schedule with daily construction updates; and explore home maintenance tips and on-line warranty requests.

For more information on William Ryan Homes, call (847) 995-8700 or visit www.williamryanhomes.com.

SINKS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the kitchen or a lavatory in the powder room, a bright sink is a perfect piece to build upon as you bring new colors into your space," Schrage said.

Harness the power: Try harnessing the power of color. Color can have a big impact on mood and what happens in a space. Restaurants and retail outlets often enlist color psychologists to select colors that will encourage diners to splurge on dessert or draw shoppers into a store. Do the same in your home.

Want your kitchen to be a comfortable space for your family that encourages an appetite in the pickiest of eaters? Incorporate orange. If you long for a peaceful bathroom oasis, bring in calming blues and soothing greens.

"Blue in all of its many shades is the universal beloved color in the whole color world," said Jonathan Adler, whose color hues are featured by Kohler. "A crisp light blue is refreshing, calming and serene."

Make your own rules:

"I feel like the world is often tamer when it comes to color," Adler said. "But embracing color is about embracing life. And to truly make a space your own, you have to make your own rules."

If your powder room feels plain and predictable, its small footprint makes it the perfect space to strengthen your color confidence by experimenting to show off your own design aesthetic. Always had a fondness for chartreuse, for example? Select a sink in your choice of colors, then use a new faucet finish that isn't used elsewhere in the home.

Focus, focus: Focus on a focal point. Incorporating color doesn't require a complete redo. Instead, focus on a smaller project within the space to create a focal point or accent. Color can act as an eye magnet to create a focal point-worthy design statement that draws a room together visually and gives you a solid foundation on which to build out the room's design theme.

"A striking pairing of a faucet and sink can create a focal point," Schrage said. "Throwing color into the mix only strengthens it."

Layer it on: Layer for visual interest. If you want use color like a pro, learn to layer. Adler's go-to layering hue is navy blue, for example.

"It's a great base color to use with other bold colors," he said.

Do your homework: If you're considering a fresh coat of paint, a bright backsplash or bold new sink, experiment with apps and different websites to see how new colors can best be applied to your space. Kohler offers an app that allows you to mix and match sink colors with different faucet finishes, and sites like Houzz.com put more than half a million design photos at your fingertips and allows you to store your favorites in your very own idea book on the site. — AdaContent
**Congratulates the 2012 Award Winners**

**SMC MILLION DOLLAR AWARD WINNERS**

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<td>Chris Naatz</td>
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<td>Karen Currie</td>
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**SAMMY AWARD WINNERS**

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**KEY AWARD WINNERS**

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**Website Links**

- [SearchChicagoSunTimes.com/Homes](http://SearchChicagoSunTimes.com/Homes) | Website of the Year
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TapMan triumphs with feet of valor

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Never underestimate the power of tap dancing.

Case in point is TapMan — a tap-dancing superhero who will fight evil at the Skokie Theatre every Friday night in January in "TapMan: Origin."

"We hate to blow TapMan's cover but the crime fighter's real name is Tristan Bruns. He shared the tale of how a mild-mannered dancer became a superhero."

"Growing up, I was always reading comic books until they became four bucks and I couldn't afford it anymore," Bruns said. That inspired a dream. "I wanted to make a family show that I would have wanted to see when I was a kid."

Bruns began dancing in musical theater when he was 9. He had a life-changing experience when he was in a kids' version of "42nd Street." The cast was required to take a six-week tap dance class to prepare for the opening number. That class changed Bruns' focus.

"I stopped doing musical theater and kept tap dancing," he said. When he was 20, Bruns added tap dancing improvisation to his skill set.

Since he was in his teens, the former comic book addict has been thinking about incorporating TapMan into his dance routines. "I've written scripts for this character," he noted. "One of my life's aspirations was to put on a TapMan show."

The character first emerged onstage six years ago at the Lake Shore Theater. Bruns is taking his superhero alter ego to a new level at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 4-25. $15 (773) 598-4549; www.gotango.com. The show includes vignettes danced by Bruns about his TapMan character. "He starts out as Albert Scientist — A Scientist," Bruns said. He meets a girl at a tap dance class and wants to impress her so he creates a formula to make himself a super tap dancer. Turns out the formula is stronger than he intended. Soon he is a tap dancing crime fighter.

Most often he battles a villain played by dancer Zada Cheeks. "He kidnaps TapMan's girlfriend all the time," Bruns said.

Filling in the show will be members of Julie Cartier's dance company The Cartier Collective.

"Tristan danced with my company for a short time," Cartier said. "He came to me a couple of years ago with this idea of his own show as TapMan. He was looking for an ensemble group to backup and be a vehicle for the story. He thought we would be a perfect fit."

Six of Cartier's dancers will perform in "TapMan: Origin." They will do a couple of numbers from the Cartier Collective repertoire and serve as characters in TapMan segments.

Cartier described the show as "a great way for Tristan to show his skills along with his sense of humor and quirky personality. He's an incredible tap dancer. His skills are amazing. This show allows him to define who he is as an artist."

Also playing a role in the show is singer-songwriter Kyle Greer, who will serve as accompanist. "I'm also going to be singing and providing some original music," he said. "It's going to be a nice mix."

Greer described working with tap dancers as being "almost like playing with a percussionist because they do so much with their feet to keep the rhythm. I have to really, really pay attention to what they're doing but it's fun. It keeps me on my toes."

TapMan takes the stage for the final number. "In true comic book fashion, the show ends on a downer," Bruns revealed.

"But there is something that alludes to the future of TapMan. He's not done yet."
Ender's Game
Orson Scott Card's sci-fi novel looks at the children training for the rumored return of an old enemy. It raises questions on pressure, independence and violence.

Carrie
See where it all started for Stephen King with his first novel about the telekinetic, queen-of-pig's-blood herself. Chloe Grace Moretz is cast in the remake.

The Devil in the White City
Erik Larson's popular historical novel is hard to put down. Chicago World's Fair and killer H.H. Holmes make a fascinating combination.

World War Z
Max Brooks' novel is a country-hopping, serious and entertaining treatment of the post-zombie apocalyptic world. Forget the imitators, this is the real deal.

The Great Gatsby
Read or re-read F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic, with one very unreliable narrator, before Leonardo DiCaprio (above) steps into Robert Redford's shoes as Gatsby.
A guide to ice skating, sledding and winter sports

BY HEATHER LESZCZEWICZ | hleszczewicz@pioneerlocal.com

Snow enthusiasts get ready.

Start lacing up those ice skates, finding all the warm clothing you have and pull your sleds out of storage. Here's a guide to help you find the best hills, outdoor rinks and other winter activities.

All activities are weather permitting. Make sure to check conditions before venturing to any location.

SLEDDING

Buffalo Grove
Willow Stream Park, 600 Farrington Dr.
For more information, call (847) 850-2100 or www.bgparkdistrict.org.

Evanston
James Park, Oakton Street and Dodge Avenue.
Sledding is allowed only on the small and intermediate hills. For more information, call (847) 859-7822, ext. 8 or go to www.cityofevanston.org.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Deer Grove #4 and #5, Quentin Road, north of Dundee Road, Palatine
Deer Grove #5 has lighting and is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Deer Grove #4 is unlit and is open 10 a.m. to sunset. For more information, call (800) 870-3666 or go to www.fpdcc.com.

Glencoe
Watt Park, 300 Randolph St.
For more information, call (847) 835-3030 or go to www.glencoeparkdistrict.com.

Glenview
Flick Park, 3600 Glenview Road

The hill is lit and open until 9 p.m.
Old School Forest Preserve, Saint Mary's Road just south of Route 176, and north of Route 60
The hill is open until sunset.
For conditions, call the Winter Sports Hotline at 847-968-3235 or go to www.lcfpd.org.

Lake Zurich
Paulus Park, 200 S. Rand Road
For more information, go to www.volz.org.

Libertyville
Adler Park, 1500 N. Milwaukee Ave.
For more information, call (847) 918-7275 or go to www.libertyville.com.

Mundelein
Community Park, 1401 N. Midlothian Drive
For more information, call (847) 996-6616 go to www.vhparkdistrict.org.

OUTDOOR ICE SKATING

Barrington
Citizens Park, 511 Lake Zurich Road
For more information, call (847) 381-0687 or go to http://www.barringtonparkdistrict.org.

Buffalo Grove
Willow Stream Park, off of Old Checker Road
Mill Creek Park, 1350 Radcliffe Road
For more information, go to www.bgparkdistrict.org.

Deerfield
Briarwood Park, Greenbriar Drive and Eastwood
Jewett Park, 836 Jewett Park Drive
Jaycee Park, 1026 Wilmot Road
Patti Stryker Park, Corner of Pine Street and Hackberry

Evanston
Ackerman Park, Central Street at McDaniel
The lagoon at Dawes Park, Sheridan Road at Church Street
Baker Park, Forest Avenue at Keeney Street
For more information, call (847) 859-7822, ext. 8 or go to www.cityofevanston.org.

Glencoe
Watts Center 305 Randolph St.
For more information, call (847) 835-3030 or go to www.glencoeparkdistrict.com.

Glenview
Flick Park, 3600 Glenview Road

Parkway and Indianwood Drive
For more information, call (847) 996-6616 go to www.vhparkdistrict.org.
Both rinks are open dawn to 9 p.m. and are lighted. Call (847) 291-2985 for recorded weather/hill conditions message or www.nibparks.org.

Northfield
Northfield Park, 240 Lockwood Ave. For more information, call (847) 446-0080 or go to www.winpark.org. Clarkson Park, 1950 Willow Road For more information, call (847) 446-4428 or go to www.northfieldparkdistrict.org.

Park Ridge
South Park, 833 W. Talcott Road Northwest Park, 1200 N. Dee Road Woodland Park, 1200 N. Western Ave. For more information, go to www.prparks.org.

Vernon Hills
Century Park, near Lakeview Parkway and Indianwood Drive Evergreen Lake and Willow Lake at Deerpath Park, between Phillips Road and Route 45 Grosse Pointe Pond, Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Hunter Court For more information, call (847) 996-6616 or go to www.vhparkdistrict.org.

Wilmette
Gillson Park, corner of Sheridan Road and Michigan Avenue Thornwood Park, Dartmouth and Thornwood avenues Mallinckrodt Park, 1960 Elmwood Ave. For more information, call (847) 256-6100 or go to www.wilmettepark.org. Winnetka
Hubbard Woods, 939 Green Bay Road Indian Hill, 131 Wilson St. For more information, call (847) 446-0080 go to www.winpark.org.

Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing

The Lake County Forest Preserves offers cross-country skiing along any forest preserve hiking trail as long as there is snow on the ground except at Ryerson Conservation Area, where at least four inches of snow is required. For weather conditions, call (847) 968-3235. For a full list of cross-country skiing locations, go to www.lcfpd.org.

For the full winter guide, go to www.pioneerlocal.com and choose your town and look in the Entertainment section.
Chamber music fest warms up winter at NU

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES | Contributor

If it's January, it must be time for the Winter Chamber Music Festival at Northwestern University.

This is the 17th year chamber music fans will gather in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall to enjoy performances by local, national and even internationally acclaimed chamber musicians.

"I started planning for this year right after the 2012 festival ended," said festival director Blair Milton, a Northwestern faculty member and player in the first violin section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 33 years. "I was also on a panel of judges at the Weimar Chamber Music Competition in November and I heard some good ensembles, so I've lined up one and maybe two of them for our 2014 festival."

The 2013 festival follows the established format, but also has several surprises among its seven concerts. Performances will include the Chicago premiere of "Perpetual Chaconne," featuring the Calder Quartet and Chicago Symphony assistant principal clarinetist John Bruce Yeh on Jan. 20. It was written by Yale-based Aaron Jay Kernis, 2012 recipient of Northwestern's Nemmers Prize in Music Competition. Kernis said "I'm very happy that John and the Calders are so enthusiastic to add it to their concert at Northwestern."

Yeh and the Calder Quartet gave the California premiere of the quintet and will give the fourth performance of "Perpetual Chaconne" at the Chamber Festival.

"The first time I heard the piece I thought 'wow,'” Yeh concluded. "It is a delight for me to play."

He is one of the founders of the 17-member group, a conductor-less orchestra with rotating leadership. Its members call themselves Criers and show a strong independent streak.

Many of them are from New England Conservatory, but also several others among its seven concerts. Performances will include the Chicago premiere of "Perpetual Chaconne," featuring the Calder Quartet and Chicago Symphony assistant principal clarinetist John Bruce Yeh on Jan. 20. It was written by Yale-based Aaron Jay Kernis, 2012 recipient of Northwestern's Nemmers Prize in Music Competition.

Kernis said "I'm very happy that John and the Calders were so enthusiastic to add it to their concert at Northwestern."
Mothers and sons can team up

BY MYRNA PETLICKI | Contributor

Boys, ages 4-10, will get a kick out of competing with their moms at Mother/Son Kickball Fun, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18 at the Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley Ave., Park Ridge.

Kickball is similar to baseball, except that you kick the ball rather than using a bat. That makes it easier for young children to play — and for nonathletic grownups, too. Dress in comfortable clothes.

After a vigorous workout, moms and their boys will have a make-it-yourself treat at an ice cream sundae bar. Each boy who is registered will receive a special gift to commemorate the occasion.

The event will be held in both the activity room and the gymnasium. Registration is required.

The cost is $20 per couple for residents, $35 for nonresidents; $10 and $20 for each additional participant.

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

PIRATE LORE — AND MORE

Actors from Lifeline Theatre will read selections from Geoffrey Hayes’ “The Mystery of the Pirate Ghost,” 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5 in the second floor Community Room at Rogers Park Library, 6907 N. Clark St. This free event is for kids of all ages and their parents. Afterwards, everyone is invited to participate in drama games.

For details, call (773) 761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com.

DRIFTING OFF

Three animal friends use an iceberg as a ship when their continent begins moving in “Ice Age: Continental Drift.” That’s the Kid Flick selection at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4. The 88-minute animated film is PG-rated.

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

MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

Young musicians have their chance to shine by performing in the Young Steinway Concert Series at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. Next up, 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, are violinist Genevieve Smelser and pianist Cindy Yang. Bringing your kids to this concert may inspire them to keep practicing!

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or visit www.skokiepubliclibrary.info.

WIMPING OUT

Summer isn’t the fun time a young boy hoped it would be in “Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days.” The 94-minute, PG-rated film is the Kid Flick selection, 3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave.

For details, call (847) 677-5277 or visit www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

Stay Connected to Your Community with Local News, Entertainment, Sports and More!
Crepes form a culinary backbone in Brittany.

But that French region does not have an exclusive claim on these versatile savory and sweet pancakes.

A case in point is Creperie Saint Germain in Evanston, which has elevated this fare to an art form since its opening early in the year. Fans of crepes regularly beat a path to the cozy 40-seat storefront establishment owned by Pascal Berthoumieux. At the casual, affordable Creperie, Executive Chef Rene Lorenzano serves a broad selection of the classics.

First courses include homemade soup, mussels and assorted artisanal cheeses. French onion soup is always available, but also consider the daily soup selections which vary from frothy fresh pea to sweet ginger-carrot.

Three interesting salad selections — beef, fennel and caramelized pear and Lyonnaise (mixed greens, bacon lardon and poached egg) — are available. But keep in mind that main-course crepes are substantial and come plated with a smattering of greens.

Canard Confit, a personal favorite, showcased moist slow-cooked duck, braised cabbage and fines herbes in a port wine sauce — the whole business housed in a deftly folded buckwheat galette. Sensational eating, and, at $12, sensibly priced.

Other main-course possibilities offered something for a broad range of appetites: Crepes paired with diver scallops (Coquilles Saint Jacques), French ham and aged gruyere (Puriste), stewed mixed vegetables (Ratatouille) and grilled salmon.

Skipping dessert could be a cardinal sin, especially with such luxurious options as the Marquis, a bittersweet chocolate crepe packaged with a light chocolate mousse and plated with chocolate sauce and a mix of fresh berries. And there are classic Crepes Suzette.

Or just say "oui" to another inviting choice also endorsed by our attentive server: the Normande, a whole-wheat crepe with caramelized apples, chantilly whipped cream, candied walnuts and caramel sauce. Go over the top, if you like, and have the kitchen add a scoop of premium ice cream to your order.
At Write Club ideas become blood sport

BY LAURA AMANN | Contributor

Two competitors face off. They stand on opposing sides of a theme.

A bell rings.
Each has exactly seven minutes to outwit their competitor.
Boxing? Wrestling? Dueling?
Nope, it's a competition of words where wit and intelligence face off in a battle of ideas.

Welcome to the Write Club where they tout literature as a blood sport. Twice a month writers meet up for a competitive reading series. The structure is such: three bouts of readings with two opposing writers sounding off on two opposing ideas. (Think hot/cold, salty/spicy, fire/ice, with each performer taking one side.) The audience picks a winner and a cut of the proceeds goes toward a charity of the winner's choosing.

Write Club is the brainchild of founder Ian Belknap, an actor, standup comedian, writer-performer and current "host and overlord" of Write Club.

"We wanted to put on a show that's smart, fast and intellectually stimulating," said Belknap. "It's not just a popularity contest here. Everyone is battling on behalf of not only their idea but also for their pet cause."

Since 2010 Write Club has put on shows on the third Tuesday of the month at the Hideout in Chicago. In January, they'll start up a second show monthly at S.P.A.C.E. in Evanston, an 18-and-over club which will allow the college crowd some exposure.

Writers are given the themes and then left to their own devices. Belknap performs hosting duties, adopting a fast and loose, sometimes obnoxious, attitude. Audience members are encouraged to mess with him; but that tone changes as soon as the artist steps on stage. And although the pace of the show follows Belknap's fast and furious guidelines, he doesn't expect performers to adopt his style.

"There are (writers and performers) who are more nuanced and gentle," he says. "My hope is that whatever they choose to do, it's completely unsparing. It's great when they go after the ideas and perform them unapologetically."

Audiences have seen stories, personal essays, poems and songs performed. Sometimes a writer will dress in elaborate costume or incorporate a dance-type routine. Anything goes as long as it relates to the theme and as long as it adheres to a strict seven-minute limit.

"It's literally ruthless," said Belknap speaking about the time limit. "The bell sounds and you MUST stop talking. I've been to too many readings where there's a looser time limit and people go on and on over that limit."

This is definitely a show, not a performance or a reading; it's more theater than fine art.

The performers change frequently — rarely does someone do more than two or three shows a year. The vast density of talent in the area allows for in-depth performances and unique ways of approaching a topic.

Charity is a big part of the event. Attendees vote on the winners but they don't know the artist's chosen charity until after they have been proclaimed the winner. This assures that the performance wins on the basis of artistic and literary merit, not the cause.

Write Now has now expanded into five other cities, including Atlanta, Athens, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Toronto. Each chapter adds local flavor and idioms so while they're similar, every club is unique.

"The thing that constantly astonishes me is that you can give someone a one-word or short assignment and what they can do within that strict time limit is pretty limitless. Some just blow my mind: the complexity with which they treat this simple idea. It's a privilege to witness."
infamous plantation of Calvin Candie (DiCaprio). Much violence ensues.

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE**

* **Rated**
PG for some rude humor

**Stars**
Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei, Tom Everett Scott

It takes a lot of effort to come up with something as contrived and utterly artificial as this painfully unfunny family comedy. Crystal and Midler go into grandparent mode as out-of-touch, old-school elders butting heads with their New Age-influenced, work-obsessed daughter and son-in-law (Marisa Tomei, Tom Everett Scott) and their three children, with plenty of one-liners, pratfalls, potty jokes and schmaltzy sentiment — a little something for everyone from 9 to 90, capisci? The only trouble is that everything about it is strained and phony, and very little of it works.

**LES MISERABLES**

* **Rated**
PG-13 for suggestive and sexual material, violence and thematic elements

**Stars**
Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway

A 19th-century French ex-convict (Jackman) who has broken parole and a relentless officer of the law (Crowe) form a fateful relationship in the film adaptation of the Broadway musical based on Victor Hugo’s classic novel.

**THE GUILT TRIP**

* **Rated**
PG-13 for language and some nudity

**Stars**
Matt Damon, Frances McDormand, Hal Holbrook, John Krasinski

Two corporate salespeople (Damon and McDormand) offering to purchase natural-gas drilling rights in a small farming community are met with unexpected opposition from a respected teacher (Holbrook) and a crusading environmentalist (Krasinski) — but the drama never quite clicks into gear.

Ocean tsunami. Bayona captures the enormity and power and terrifying suddenness of the 100-foot-tall tidal wave, in a brief but breathtaking 10-minute sequence. But the real subject of “The Impossible” is how far the separated and injured mother and father (Watts and McGregor, each delivering emotionally wrenching performances) are willing to go to remain alive, care for their children and maintain varying degrees of hope of being reunited.

**THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG**

* **Rated**
PG-13 for fantasy violence, some intense sequences, brief suggestive material and language

**Stars**
Richard Armitage, Ian McKellen, Orlando Bloom, Martin Freeman

J.R.R. Tolkien's epic fantasy adventure continues with an epic battle against the shadowy forces that threaten Middle Earth. A Determines CIA agent (Chastain) relentlessly follows leads in Pakistan that lead to the death of Osama bin Laden. Kathryn Bigelow (“The Hurt Locker”) directed the drama.

**STILL PLAYING**

**DJANGO UNCHAINED**

* **Rated**
R for strong graphic violence throughout, a vicious fight, and for language

**Stars**
Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio, Samuel L. Jackson

Here’s an interesting bit of holiday counter-programming. Quentin Tarantino wrote and directed this overlong, uneven, yet scandalously entertaining saga, loosely based on the 1960s Spaghetti Western classic “Django.” Waltz is excellent as a dentist-turned-bounty hunter who frees a slave (Foxx) to help him locate a fugitive. He then makes him a partner and agrees to help rescue his long-lost wife on the
'Zero Dark' brings the hunt for bin Laden to light

BY BRUCE INGRAM | Film Critic

'Zero Dark Thirty'

****

Though it's difficult to watch, given its harrowing subject matter, "Zero Dark Thirty" is a film that really should be seen, as much for its dazzling cinematic qualities as its insights into the way the war on terrorism is waged.

It doesn't offer easy answers to the ethical issues it raises or a false sense of security, or more than a brief moment of celebration after Osama bin Laden is finally tracked down and killed. In fact, the film's final moments are given over to exhausted sobs. But it's sure to provoke serious discussion on the way home from the theater.

"Zero Dark Thirty" is certainly a provocative film, but not for the sake of provocation. It has already stirred up considerable controversy, but it seems more likely that it simply intends to recreate reality as close as it can, without judgment.

Created by the same director/screenwriter team (Kathryn Bigelow and Mark Boal) that made the Oscar-winning "The Hurt Locker," "Zero Dark" is every bit as realistic, suspenseful and emotionally intense.

A young intelligence officer (Jessica Chastain) joins a team at a CIA black-site detainee center in Pakistan. On her first day, she observes the "enhanced interrogation" of a terrorist. Maya is obviously disturbed by the questioning, but doesn't leave the room. A few years later, she's quite comfortable having a prisoner beaten during her own interrogations.

Those first sessions she witnesses are significant, however, because they produce the lead that she doggedly pursues, year after year, long after it's been dismissed by her superiors - the name of bin Laden's most trusted courier. If she can find that man, she reasons, she can find the al-Qaeda leader.

Though it's 157 minutes long, "Zero Dark" moves swiftly, despite the fact that the plot frequently turns into blind alleys. Those blind alleys never feel frustrating because the film is made up of rapid cuts and brief scenes conveying a sense of uncertainty mixed with anxiety. The only constant is Maya's almost monomaniacal belief that bin Laden is in Pakistan and that she will find him.

You know he is found and what happens to him, but what you might not be prepared for is how efficient, methodical and essentially dispassionate the SEAL Team Six mission turns out to be — or the way Bigelow films the mission without sensationalism or voyeurism.

On their return trip to base, the soldiers stare at the body bag lying on the floor, but they are silent. Suggesting that the magnitude of what they have just done and of the wrong they have at least partially righted, is beyond words.

Dialogue doesn't get better than that.
Keep up with the latest songs and albums in the Listen section.

Get up and go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond Every Thursday

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

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The theater is currently closed for maintenance.

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Leonardo DiCaprio in "Django Unchained"
A list of regional events for you to go out and enjoy

**STAGE**

**“The Bachelors”**


**Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre**


**“The Whipping Man”**

Presented by Northlight Theatre Jan. 18-Feb. 24 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $25-$72; $25-$54 for previews, Jan. 18-24. Student tickets $15, subject to availability. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northlight.org. Backstage with BJ, a discussion with artistic director BJ Jones, offers behind-the-scenes insight into the production while it is still in rehearsal, will be held at noon Jan. 11. Reservations are required at (847) 679-9501, ext. 3555, or specialevents@northlight.org.

Evanston native Benjamin Lash, cello, Hanbyul Jang, violin, and pianist Matthew Hagle will present a recital of solo and duo music by Handel, Beethoven, Debussy, Mozart, de Falla and Cassadó at 7 p.m. Jan. 8 in the Petty Auditorium at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie. Lash and Jang are students at the Colburn School in Los Angeles. Admission is free. Visit www.skokielibrary.info.

**“A Woman Killed With Kindness”**

Shakespeare Project of Chicago presents a theatrical reading of Thomas Heywood’s drama at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org.

**Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra**

Performing at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. $36-$75, with discounts for seniors and youth. Call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.arsviva.org. Jan. 13, 3 p.m.: Works by Vaughan Williams, Mahler and Beethoven, with soloist Gerard Sundberg, bass-baritone.

**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.

**Evanston Chapter, Lyric Opera of Chicago**

Presents Patrick Casali, professor emeritus of humanities and performing arts at Oakton Community College, discussing “Rivers in Opera,” highlighted with musical excerpts, at 3 p.m. Jan. 13. Cost for social hour and program is $10 members, $15 guests. For location, call (847) 328-0158 or (847) 475-5345.

**Submissions**

You Want In? Here’s How:

Submit GO events one week prior to the date of publication

Entries must be typed. GO listings are free. Include brief descriptions of the event, date, address, price and phone number. Email: Send submissions to gol@pioneerlocal.com Fax: 847-486-7451

**Icon Key**

**Toddler** 0-3

**Kids** 4-12

**Family** FAM

**Teens** 13+

**Adults** 18+

**Seniors** 65+

**What to Do [Page 54]**
Winter Chamber Music Festival

Presented from Jan. 11-31 at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.

All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Call (847) 467-4000 or visit www.pickstaiger.org.

**Jan. 17:** Bienen School faculty and guests perform works by Ravel, Brahms and Mendelssohn. $22; $10 students.

**Jan. 19:** Bienen School faculty and guest perform works by Andrew Norman, Ravel and Bartok. $22; $10 students.

**Jan. 24:** Bienen School faculty and guest perform works by Saint-Saens, Prokofiev and Schumann. $20; $10 students.

**Jan. 29:** Violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra perform works by Mendelssohn, William Bolcom, Villa-Lobos and Strauss. $30; $10 students.

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**What to Do Continued from page 53**

**Winter Chamber Music Festival**

Presented from Jan. 11-31 at Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.


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**String Quartet performs works by Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Beethoven. $22; $10 students.**

**Jan. 18:** The chamber orchestra A Far Cry performs works by Golijov, Arvo Part, Biber and Walton. $24; $10 students.

**Jan. 20:** The Calder Quartet performs works by Andrew Norman, Ravel and Bartok. $22; $10 students.

**Jan. 25:** The Escher String Quartet performs works by Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Beethoven. $22; $10 students.

**Jan. 31:** Violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the New Century Chamber Orchestra perform works by Mendelssohn, William Bolcom, Villa-Lobos and Strauss. $30; $10 students.

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**Pioneer Symphony Orchestra**

Alan Heatherington
Music Director

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**

Overture to The Wasps

**MAHLER**

Kindertotenlieder
Gerard Sundberg, baritone

**BEETHOVEN**

Symphony No. 1

**JANUARY 13TH**

3:00 pm

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie
9501 Skokie Blvd.
Skokie, IL

Ticket prices: $22; $10 students.

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**Arts Viva**

Symphony Orchestra

Alan Heatherington
Music Director

**3:00 pm**

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie
9501 Skokie Blvd.
Skokie, IL

Ticket prices: $22; $10 students.

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**InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel**

**DoubleTree Hotel**

**OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Koehnline Museum of Art, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. (847) 635-2633.

**BOOKS & POETRY**

Author appearance

Lois Leveen, author of The Secrets of Mary Bowser, speaks on "Race, Social Justice, 'Chosenness' and Jewish American Literature" at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16 at Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie. $5 suggested.

**Lincolnwood Public Library**

**18-65**


**North Shore Center for the Performing Arts**


**Perla Cafe**


**Zanies Comedy Club**


**Lincolnwood Public Library**


"A Night with Nicholas Sparks' Safe Haven: Filmmakers, Author and Stars Bring the Book to Life"

Screened at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 at select movie theaters nationwide, including Niles 12, 301 Golf Mill Center, Niles; and Evanston 18, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston. The event, broadcast live from Burbank, Calif., will feature author Nicholas Sparks in a discussion about the cinematic adaptation of his best-selling novel, Safe Haven. Visit www.FathomEvents.com.

**Niles Public Library**

18+ 6960 Oakton St., Niles. www.nileslibrary.org. Jan. 11, 7 p.m.: Shakespeare After Hours film discussion features "Shakespeare in Love," rated R.

**WORKSHOPS & CLASSES**

Niles Public Library

6960 Oakton St., Niles. (847) 663-6405. www.nileslibrary.org. Jan. 17, 7 p.m.: Niles Songwriters group invites area songwriters to bring original songs to share and receive feedback.

**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. Jan. 12, 8 p.m., and Jan. 13, 2 p.m.: Professional Bull Riders 2013 PBR Built Ford Tough Series, featuring the top 35 bull riders in the world. $15, $35, $50, $75 and $125.

Blockbuster or flop?  
The Movie Review section has the scoop.  

Just one more reason to get up & go

Your guide to the weekend and beyond  
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10 Career Resolutions
By Dan Miller, Monster Staff Writer

Like the saying, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life," it's never a bad time to start moving your career in a better direction. Here are 10 New Year's resolutions that can help.

Pay Attention In Class
Treat every workday like a school day. Be sure you learn something and use it to make yourself more productive. It may be as simple as understanding how to work with specific peers or improving your emotional intelligence. Take mental notes. Don’t sleepwalk through the day.

Look for the Next Rung
You need to excel at your job. This is how you gain credibility. But understanding your next step is key to career happiness. Career pathing is critical to remaining engaged on the job. Schedule discussions with your manager to get clarity on the next challenge. If you don’t get it on your team or in your company, it may be time to look elsewhere.

Understand Company Goals
Make sure you understand how your job contributes to your company’s business objectives. Are you in a revenue-generating role? A brand-awareness role? Is your mission to delight the customer? Knowing how your job fits into the big picture will give you inspiration and a sense of accomplishment – and will help you understand your job’s impact.

Be Ethical
Whether you’re running the company or cleaning its restrooms, be honest in all you do. Don’t call in sick just to get a day off – that’s stealing. Put in an honest day’s work. Be accountable. If you’re working remotely, be sure you are. Do what you say you’re going to do. Honesty and reliability mean a lot to your manager.

Stay Fit
OK, this was probably on your last New Year’s resolutions list, but that’s because it’s so important. Try to break a sweat for 20 minutes, three days a week. Go for a walk at lunch. Join a gym. Lift weights. A healthy body makes a healthy mind. Exercising increases blood flow to the brain and gives you ideas. You’ll be more productive at work, and best of all, you’ll feel better.

Stretch Your Role
Occasionally think how you can go above and beyond. Are there projects outside your defined role you could help with? Come up with your own ideas, and work with your manager to implement them. If you’re a hamster, step off the wheel and poke your head out of the cage. Stretch a little. This won’t go unnoticed.

Manage Up
Make sure you and your manager are in firm agreement on what you’re doing. Be proactive and get on his calendar to ensure you’re meeting or exceeding expectations. Don’t assume he’s paying close attention. There are bad managers. If there’s a disconnect between what you’re doing and what your manager wants, you’re partly to blame. Don’t wait until your annual performance review rolls around.

Manage Across
Even if you work primarily alone, be sure to make time to understand your peers’ roles and how they go about their jobs. Show an interest. Don’t just choose a few friends and become part of a clique. High school is over. You never know when you may need people – or be reporting to them.

Communicate
Don’t leave people waiting for answers. If you’re in an email environment, return emails promptly. Let people know what you’re doing. If you’re working on a project, always ask yourself who needs to know about it, then tell them. Talk to people; give them a heads up. And when someone helps you out, be sure to thank him. It’s amazing this item even needs to be on a list, but bad communicators abound. Don’t be one of them.

Make Time for Play
Have fun. Work hard, but smile while you’re doing it. No one likes a grump. Approach each day with a positive spirit and stay loose. Enjoy your family and friends as well. Make time for them – and you. It’s called work-life balance. All work and no play makes life a chore.
Jobs | pioneerlocal.com/monster
Post your résumé, get career advice, find job fairs and more.
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Local companies are seeking people with all levels of experience for Nurse Practitioners.

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Heavy Duty Truck Sales Manager, Heavy Duty Truck Dealer seeks hands on sales manager. Must have experience with class A, B, C, trucks. Top pay and benefits for the right person. Health ins., vacation, day, 40hr.

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"Your Place for Great Take Out Lunch & Dinner"

Now Hiring All Restaurant Positions
To Set up an Interview, Please Contact Frank Soto (815) 444-8500 Monday, Friday, 9am-5pm

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Computer Office Assistant
Immediate opening! Organic food and nutritional supplements manufacturer is seeking a computer office assistant to grow with our company. This is a challenging position with opportunity for advancement and will involve managing our computer work with involvement in administrative responsibilities. The candidate should possess the following attributes: excellent computer and Internet skills. The candidate must have excellent work ethic and responsibility. Two years college education required or equivalent work background.

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NOTICE OF LIEEN
Photocopies are available for a fee of $2.00 per page.

Notice is hereby given that on JUNE 26, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., an Illinois storage auction will be held at:

20303 A Lazy L, Lake Zurich, IL 60040

You are hereby summoned and required to appear in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, at the Court House and Court Chamber of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, 505 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605, on or before the 26th day of June, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., and to answer the Complaint filed by Lottie Kuerner, in the above entitled action.

If you fail to answer the Complaint, judgment by default may be entered against you, and the property described in the Complaint may be disposed of by the Sheriff as provided by law.

Any person desiring to purchase any property in question is invited to attend the sale and bid in open competition.

VILLAEG OF LINCOLNWOOD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., a public hearing will be held by the Village Board of Directors of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, in the Board Room located at the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois, for the purpose of considering the following:

Public Notice No. 2012-01, to be held on Monday, December 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., to consider a special use permit request filed by Bruce A. MacDonald, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois, for a multi-family residential project located at 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois.

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, a special meeting of the Village Board of Directors of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, will be held at 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of conducting regular business.

Any person desiring to purchase any property in question is invited to attend the sale and bid in open competition.

THEREFORE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., before the Planning and Zoning Committee of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois, in the Board Room located at the Lincolnwood Village Hall, 6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois, for the purpose of considering the following:

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Notice of Auction
Life Storage Centers of River North will hold a public auction to
enforce a lien on said property, as described below, pursuant to the Illinois Self Service Storage Facilities Act, Illinois Code 770 ICS 957.1 at 12:00 PM on Friday, January 17th, 2013, at Life Storage Centers of River North, 333 West Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60654. Phone: 312-222-0330. Management reserves the right to withdraw any unit from sale, to reoffer the unit at a subsequent auction, and to extend the auction for one or more days, if necessary.

Notice is hereby given that on January 10, 2013, U-HAUL Storage Centers of Morton Grove will be offering for sale under the Judicial Lease process, 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 cash only. U-Haul Co. of North Shore Chicago reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sales will be at the following locations:

- Morton Grove: 17580 W 75th St., Tinley Park, IL 60477 and will be at or after 2:30pm and continue day by day until all units are sold.
- Chicago, IL: 7644 N Broadway St., Chicago, IL 60641 and will be at or after 1:30pm and continue day by day until all units are sold.
- Northbrook, IL: 3001 N Buffalo Grove Rd, Northbrook, IL 60062 and will be at or after 1:00pm and continue day by day until all units are sold.

Units to be auctioned:

- 75806 Morton Grove: U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2012 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.
- 75807 Forest Park: U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2012 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.
- 75808 Waukegan: U-HAUL STORAGE AUCTION 2012 NOTICE OF SALE UNDER THE SELF STORAGE FACILITY ACT, ILLINOIS REVISE STATUTES, CHAPTER 114, PARAGRAPH 301, ET. SEQ.

Many other locations across Chicagoland are also holding auctions. For a complete list of auction locations and times, visit the website of the contractor managing the auction.

To place a call or ad in the classifieds, call 847-998-3400.
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Heneghan hopes to follow father's footsteps, reach state inductions.

By Dan Shalin | Contributor | @danshalin

Longtime Notre Dame wrestling coach Augie Genovesi's success can be measured in victories, state qualifications and Hall of Fame inductions.

But another sign that Genovesi has been doing something right over the last 35 years at the school — 28 as the head coach — is the fact that several former wrestlers are more than happy to send their sons.

Genovesi received the Lifetime Service to Wrestling award in 2011 from the Illinois Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and said that all three Heneghan sons have been talented wrestlers and team leaders.

"(Kevin and Sean) are chips off the old block," Genovesi said about the younger Heneghan brothers, who grew up in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood.

While in middle school, Sean Heneghan began attending Notre Dame practices with his older brother, which he said gave him an advantage when his high school wrestling career began.

During his freshman and sophomore seasons, Sean Heneghan qualified for the sectional as the regional runner-up. Then a 130-pounder, Heneghan was voted all-conference both those years.

Junior year did not go as smoothly as Heneghan missed almost the entire wrestling campaign because of an ankle injury suffered on the football field.

Heneghan bounced back this past fall on the gridiron, putting together an all-conference season as a linebacker for the Dons, who went 7-5 and advanced to the Class 6A quarterfinals.

The strong performances have carried over to the mat, where Heneghan has won 16 of his first 20 matches this winter and is looking to close out his high school wrestling career in style.

"Any time you do well in one sport, it builds up your confidence (for another)," said Heneghan, who is hoping to study criminology in college, but is unlikely to wrestle.

"My goal is to get downstate (in wrestling) and hopefully place (top six) in state. Those are my top two goals."
Don't Miss

Saturday
Boys diving: Maine East at New Trier Meet, 9 a.m.
Maine East will get a prime opportunity to compete against some of the state's best divers in a loaded meet. The Trevians, who consistently have one of the state's top diving programs, will welcome divers from Glenbrook South, Loyola, Oak Park-River Forest, Lincoln-Way East and Neuqua Valley.

Tuesday
Girls basketball: Maine East at Niles North, 7 p.m.
The most intriguing individual matchup of this game will likely be between Maine East junior post player Shaylee Sloan and Niles North junior Taylor Louis. Louis, a 6-foot-2 center, blocked six shots against Lake Forest on Dec. 27.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

At the midway point of the Maine East girls basketball summer camp, senior guard Amanda Roddy stopped coming to practice because she no longer felt needed.

After seeing her teammates win 10 of their last 11 games of the summer without her, Roddy felt insignificant and was leaning heavily toward not playing this season.

A conversation with Maine East coach Karol Hanusiak changed that.

"I just felt like they didn't need me," Roddy said. "But then I talked to Hanusiak and she really convinced me to come out and play. ... I thought about it and everyone has a role on the team and I guess my role isn't main shooter or point guard. My role is just to be there for them and play as much as I can."

Hanusiak's conversation with Roddy, which took place in Maine East's physical education office near the end of Roddy's volleyball season, allowed the senior guard to be frank with Maine East's coach and for Hanusiak to outline Roddy's importance to the team.

The role Hanusiak laid out — to be a vocal leader in practice, provide on-court intelligence and help build team camaraderie — is more subtle than that of, say, junior playmaking point guard Jazlene Gonzalez, but Hanusiak said it's been important this season.

Embracing that role, along with having a positive attitude, led to Roddy being named a co-captain.

"There's a lot of things you can bring to the table," Hanusiak said. "Sometimes, as high school kids, they don't see that because, if they're not playing, they think, 'Well, why am I even bothering being here. If I'm not scoring 20 a night, I have no purpose on this team.' We talked a lot about roles. She's accepted her role and she's really stepped up. She brings smarts on the floor and her attitude has been so good. One of the things I love is, whether she plays five minutes or a minute, when she comes out and we stand up (and) say, 'Hey, nice minute,' she smiles and says, 'Thanks.' I think, being away from it made her realize how much she enjoys it."
Don't Miss

Although the Niles West girls basketball team lost 11 of its first 13 games, it should be noted that eight of the 13 players are underclassmen. And at least one of them appears to have quite a future ahead of her.

Diminutive sophomore guard Katherine Delara is the spark plug that makes the Wolves offense run, and on the other end of the court she fires up the defensive intensity.

Konsewicz added: "She's not playing scared quarterbacking the whole team. That's not easy having to tell the seniors on the court."

"Katherine is real quick. Always getting her hands on the basketball," said Kleppin, a co-captain.

"We know she's young and will make mistakes, but we have a lot of patience as a team."

Delara's quickness was evident on Dec. 27 in a 56-20 loss to Huntley in the consolation round of the Mundelein Holiday Classic. The loss dropped the Wolves to 2-11 on the season.

She had five steals and forced three other Huntley turnovers while also registering four points and four assists. She even went underneath against Huntley's 6-2 and 6-0 forwards to grab an offensive rebound.

"I try to use my speed to get to the basketball. To deny the wing entry pass," Delara said. "On defense I try to create space to drive to the basket or find my teammates."

Delara is also finding time to do a little mentoring. Backup Wolves point guard Jalynn Estrada is only a freshman.

"I try to walk her through some things (in practice)," Delara said. "I know what it feels like to play on varsity as a freshman. It's so much faster and really high pressure."

"I like watching her play, especially with her speed," said Estrada, who is also 5-3 and quite fast. "She plays with a lot of energy and confidence."

In the Huntley game, Delara's protégé showed she is learning her lessons well, getting two steals and disrupting the Red Raiders offense on several occasions.

"Katherine is going to be doing a lot of mentoring going forward," Konsewicz said. "Something that Jewell Loyd (now a standout freshman at Notre Dame) did for her."
Niles North

Don't Miss
Tuesday
Boys basketball: Niles North at Maine East, 7:30 p.m.
The Vikings return to CSL North play after four games in Wheeling's Wildcat Hardwood Classic. Maine East won its first CSL North game in four years against Maine West on Dec. 7, but has struggled to handle quality backcourts like the one Niles North possesses.

Tuesday
Girls basketball: Maine East at Niles North, 7 p.m.
The Vikings' search for their first CSL North win continues against Maine East. The Blue Demons won only one game in the conference last year, but are improved this season in large part because of the development of 5-foot-11 junior center Shaylee Sloan. The matchup between Sloan and Vikings junior Taylor Louis figures to be one of the game's most intriguing.

WHEELING
Niles North senior guard Lorenzo Dillard took the local basketball scene by storm last winter.

After sitting out most of the season because of a suspension, Dillard returned in early February, scored 45 points against New Trier in just his fourth game and helped lead the Vikings to the sectional final.
The 6-foot-2 Dillard missed the first seven games of this season for disciplinary reasons, according to Niles North coach Glenn Olson.
His latest return has been a little more low-key, but Dillard did score a team-high 21 points in a 71-57 win over Vernon Hills at the Wildcat Hardwood Classic on Dec. 26.
He then had 11 points and five rebounds in a 64-49 win over a talented Loyola squad the following day.
Dillard said he's just trying to establish his role on a Niles North team that, despite the presence of talented seniors Malachi Nix, Billy Voitik and B.J. Beckford, skews a little younger and is less experienced than the 2011-12 squad.
"I'm trying to get with the system, be a better player, be a leader. I'm just trying to better myself every way I can," Dillard said. "We have a lot of young kids and they're learning. But (the veterans) have to be the leaders and teach them. It's a big job and a big role to play."
Though he stole headlines with his scoring outburst last year, Dillard said he is just as happy to set up baskets.
"I'm a pass-first point guard," he said. "I really don't care about points. I can dominate a game without scoring. That's what I love doing, I love passing the ball, I love making other people look better, it looks better on me at the same time."
A one-time recruiting target of Marquette, Dillard said he now is looking at prep schools and junior colleges for next season.
"When you are in a hole (academically), you have to go a different route," Dillard said. "I'm waiting for any school to come to me and pay for my education and help me get prepared for being a professional (basketball player)."
Olson said he has been satisfied with Dillard's progress on and off the court.
"He's doing great in the classroom and doing a real good job for us," Olson said. "We're impressed with where he's at right now."
Though the one-time Evanston student has had some challenges off the court, Dillard said he's committed to making the most of his considerable gifts and setting a good example for youngsters.
"When you have something, there is no point in not using it," he said. "You want to do good things and you want to make yourself look productive, you want to be presentable to little kids."
"Some kids look up to me and I have to represent myself the right way."
Fricano working his way back into shape

By Gary Larsen | Contributor | @GaryLarsen3

Whether he's taking his undersized body into battle against a 250-pound lineman, or taking on wrestlers that weigh roughly 10 pounds more than he does, Niles North senior Danny Fricano embraces the opportunity.

"I'm not that big, but I can hit," Fricano said, "and I love a challenge." Fricano is a football player by trade. He was named the CSL North's defensive player of the year as a senior and he intends to play football in college.

He's also back in Niles North's wrestling room after taking a year off from the sport as a junior in order to focus on his grades and on gaining muscle for football.

But once his senior football season ended, Fricano decided to resume his wrestling career.

"It just hit me one day that I really missed the competition of wrestling," Fricano said. "Besides, just going home after school would have been too boring and it's my senior year, so I figured, why not?"

Niles North wrestling coach Chris Albandia is helping Fricano get back into shape in the practice room. The 6-foot Fricano may feel any stronger, and he's been able to lose five pounds since football.

Through his first eight matches this year, conditioning was no problem as Fricano quickly pinned his way to eight wins. He did so while wrestling at 195 pounds, despite only weighing roughly 185, having naturally shed about five pounds since football.

"Guys at 195 are bigger and obviously have more size, but they don't feel any stronger, and I've been able to move wrestling, you can probably handle anything and I'm still getting my conditioning back." Through his first eight matches this year, conditioning was no problem as Fricano quickly pinned his way to eight wins. He did so while wrestling at 195 pounds, despite only weighing roughly 185, having naturally shed about five pounds since football.

"Guys at 195 are bigger and obviously have more size, but they don't feel any stronger, and I've been able to use my quickness against them," Fricano said. "I'm 11-2 right now and in the matches I've lost, my cardio wasn't there and it hurt me. But I'm getting it back."

Albandia, assistant coach Ryan Lindberg, and 170-pound senior Eric Berkovich are helping Fricano get back into shape in the practice room. The 6-foot Fricano may remain an undersized 195-pounder this year and his ability to handle the challenge hasn't surprised his coach.

"He has very good kinesthetic awareness on the mat and he's phenomenally athletic," Albandia said. "He was warming up... and he was in his stance, simulating wrestling underneath a basketball rim. Then he just jumped up and grabbed the rim. So he has those physical tools and intangibles that you really can't coach.

"He's a really good kid, a hard worker, and even though he's a really quiet guy, he inspires the other guys in the room. I'm glad to have him back."
Louis' return gives North a 'difference maker'

BY ERIC VAN DRIL | Contributor | @EricVanDril

GURNEE

A little more than a month after verbally committing to play volleyball at Marquette, Niles North junior Taylor Louis agreed to a different kind of pledge.

Louis, a junior, sat down with Vikings girls basketball coach Dan Paxson and expressed interest in joining the team two weeks into the current season.

Louis' change of heart came after spending all spring, summer and fall telling people she wasn't going to play basketball in order to focus on volleyball and her school work.

But after Louis ended her recruitment by choosing Marquette, the responsibility to correspond with myriad college coaches also ended.

With the weight of answering, in Louis' words, "30,000 emails (from college coaches) at one time" off her shoulders, she convinced her mother that a return to basketball wouldn't negatively affect her school work and then sat down with Paxson to map out her return.

Paxson spoke with Wildcat Juniors' Club Director Karen Sonders and worked out scheduling conflicts, and then drafted a contract which outlined how Louis would keep her grades up and keep her commitments to both teams.

Louis signed the contract and then told her teammates she was back.

"They were just really happy when I came back," said Louis, who stands 6-foot-2.

So far, one month after Louis' first game of the season against Glenbrook North on Dec. 4, she has managed to balance two sports and her school work while also providing Niles North with a defensive anchor it sorely missed in her absence.

"She's coming off one of the best volleyball seasons in the history of our school; she just has a winning attitude and competitiveness," Paxson said. "She obviously adds a lot of shot blocking. That really allows us to apply more pressure on the perimeter."

Louis blocked six shots in a Dec. 27 game against Lake Forest at Warren's Blue Devil Classic and was an important reason why the Scouts shot 23 percent from the field.

She rushed many of Lake Forest's shots and intimidated the Scouts' guards when they entered the lane, Lake Forest coach Kyle Wilhelm said.

"(Louis) is just a difference maker on everything," said Wilhelm, whose team beat Niles North 26-25. "She crashes the boards really well."

Even though she's not scoring, she gives them a lot of second-chance opportunities. And then, the blocked shots." Louis finished with two points as Niles North dropped to 0-15.
LET US HEAR IT

Which athletes are you expecting to have a breakout campaign in 2013? Tweet your answers to a Pioneer_Press or use the hashtag #PioneerSports. You also can comment on Facebook at fb.com/SportsPioneerPress. We'll publish the best submissions in a column in our Jan. 10 issue.

Michael Smith

BOYS BASKETBALL | FENWICK
FRESHMAN | GUARD

Expectations were high for the freshman guard from Burr Ridge long before he even took his first class at the Oak Park school. Smith attended the prestigious Fab Frosh Camp in June, in Atlanta, and came away ranked among the top 40 freshmen in the country, along with Notre Dame forward Ammar Becar and Simeon forward Ben Coupet. Smith has been a regular contributor for the Friars off the bench this season and had 11 points at Brother Rice. Smith doesn't have to carry a heavy burden this season, but it is likely you'll be hearing more from him in the coming years.

Fresh Faces

GIRLS BASKETBALL | NEW TRIER
FRESHMAN | CENTER

Already a force on the floor in her first season on varsity, the 6-foot-3 Boehm has the potential to blossom into a Division I recruit. Boehm, whose older brothers played for the Trevians, is a classic post player who played well against Illinois-bound Jacqui Grant of Maine South and Evanston senior Alecia Cooley, two of the top posts in the area.
Fiedler's first pass of his varsity career was an incompletion; his second attempt found its mark. The sophomore from La Grange connected with Matt Mrazek for a 7-yard touchdown pass. An emergency starter for one game after Zach Mahoney injured his shoulder in the previous game, Fiedler completed 14 of 25 passes for 285 yards and two TDs. With Mahoney graduating this year, expect Fiedler to be handed control of a team attempting to make its fourth consecutive Class 8A state quarterfinal appearance.

Nicole Sroubek

After splitting time between JV and varsity as a sophomore, Sroubek projects to be a full-time varsity starter this spring. Blessed with fearlessness, speed and field vision, she offered a glimpse of her potential last season when she scored three goals and had six assists in her limited time with the big club.
Gehrig Parker
BASEBALL | MAINE SOUTH
JUNIOR | OUTFIELDER/PITCHER

Named for the famous New York Yankees slugger, the junior is a multi-dimensional player for the Hawks. The southpaw bats leadoff and possesses good speed with the bat and on the bases. Parker is a straight-A student and was selected for the J. Kyle Braid Leadership Foundation.

Maggie Mack
SOFTBALL | LAKE FOREST
SOPHOMORE | FIRST BASEMAN

As a freshman, Mack spent the last quarter of the 2012 season on Lake Forest's varsity team, where she batted .204 with 10 runs, seven RBI and two doubles. Scouts coach Susie Brugioni said that after she inserted Mack into the starting lineup, the rookie hit close to .300 in Lake Forest's final six games. "She probably could have used a year of seasoning at the lower level, but she never complained and wanted to get better," Brugioni said. "She worked on her swing, and the game slowed down for her."

Julia Saunders
VOLLEYBALL | NAZARETH
SOPHOMORE | OUTSIDER HITTER

The Roadrunners can build around their 6-foot-3 standout for the next few seasons. Saunders proved more than capable of leading Nazareth's offense the past season with a team-leading 255 kills. She had 29 blocks as well. A resident of LaGrange Highlands, she was the only underclassman named to the all-East Suburban Catholic team in 2012. Saunders was named to the all-tournament team at the Bradley-Bourbonnais Invitational after recording a season-high 13 kills in a two-set win over Manteno and eventually led Nazareth to the championship.
Maine South junior Gehrig Parker has the baseball tools that would make his namesake proud. | JON LANGHAM-for Sun-Times Media